



Configuring RSS Feeds

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Configuring Your RSS Feed

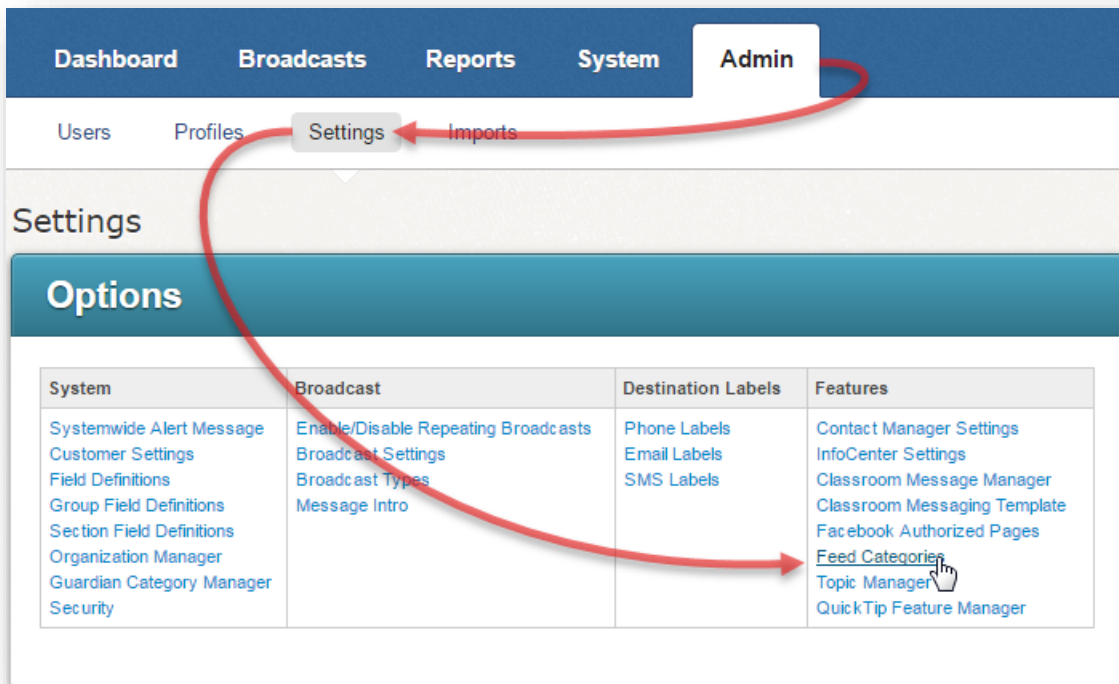
Before users can begin posting RSS feed content using Communicate, the RSS feed feature must be set up. Configuration is very simple to do. You can have an RSS Feed up and running in no time!

Create RSS Content Categories

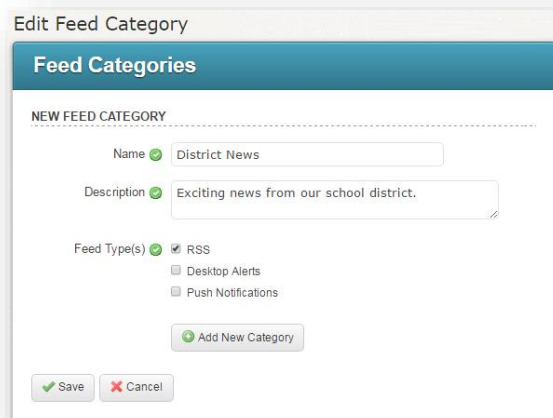
The first step to setting up your RSS feed is to establish **RSS content categories**. These categories will be used to label the type of content a message contains and will be used later to set up one or more content specific RSS feeds.

Setting Up RSS Content Categories

1. Navigate to the **Admin** tab, then to the **Settings** sub-tab, and click the **Feed Categories** link.



2. You will now be in the **Edit Feed Category** section. Here, you will find templates for creating categories.



The screenshot shows the "Edit Feed Category" form with the following fields and options:

- Name:** District News
- Description:** Exciting news from our school district.
- Feed Type(s):**
 - RSS
 - Desktop Alerts
 - Push Notifications
- Buttons:** Add New Category, Save, Cancel


3. In one of the blank category spaces, first enter a category **name** and **description**. For example, “Sports” or “Sports News for the High School”.

NEW FEED CATEGORY

Name

Description

4. Next, choose **RSS** from the **Feed Type(s)** section.

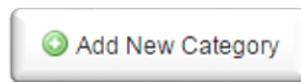
 **Note:** You may see other options for different features, but the only item required for your RSS content category for RSS feeds is the RSS checkbox.

Feed Type(s) RSS

Desktop Alerts

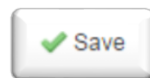
Push Notifications

5. Click the **Add New Category** button to create any additional categories that you may need. You can add as many as you need.



When clicked, it will open a blank category at the bottom of the list for you to modify.

6. Click **Save** when finished creating categories.



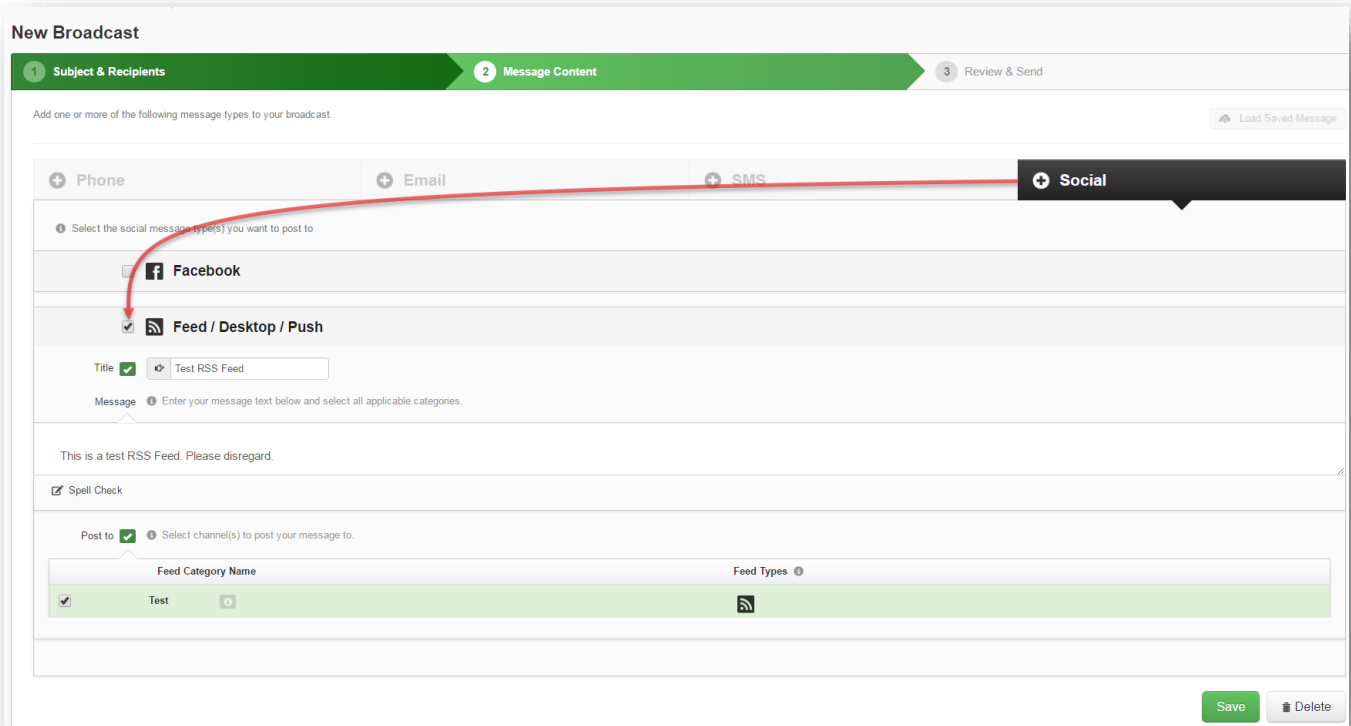
Create an Initial RSS Post for Troubleshooting (Optional)

After creating the RSS content categories, you are now ready to ‘broadcast’ to an RSS feed. However, at this point, the feed is not visible anywhere and must be set up.

Although this is completely optional, before creating an RSS Feed URL or RSS Feed Display Widget, it may be beneficial to post an RSS message so that when it is set up, you can see the post to verify whether or not it is working according to your setup.

Essentially, you will begin a new broadcast, and on Step 2: Message Content, choose Social, then check the box for Feed/Desktop/Push. Enter the text of the RSS Feed message choose an applicable RSS content category, and save the message, then send the broadcast.

You will have to send at least one other type of message, so it is recommended that you choose yourself only for the recipients, and create a basic email or phone call as the other message. See the *Posting RSS* help documentation for advanced instructions.



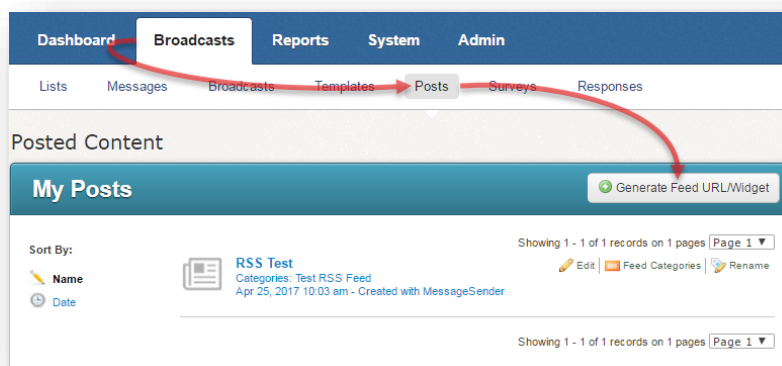
Creating an RSS Feed URL & RSS Feed Display Widget

Now that the RSS content categories are set up, you are ready to generate your RSS Feed URL or your RSS Feed Display Widget.

Generating a URL

The URL for your RSS feed will allow people to subscribe to the feed with their choice of RSS reader software.

1. Go to the **Broadcasts** tab, then to the **Posts** sub-tab. Click the **Generate Feed URL/Widget** button. (If you had chosen to create an RSS feed post to test, you'll see it in the My Posts section below.)



2. Select which **RSS content categories** that this feed should include, and configure the display options.

The **Items to Display** value allows you to configure the maximum number of RSS feed posts display in this feed at any given time.

The **Max Age (days)** value allows you to configure the maximum number of days that the oldest RSS feed posts will display in the RSS feed. *(For example, if you set the Max Age to “30”, and you have 5 posts that are 30 days old and 5 posts that are 10 days old as of today, then the 5 posts that are 30 days old will disappear after today, and the 5 posts that are 10 days old will disappear after 20 days.)*

Feed URL Generator

Feed Options

Guide

Progress

- ▶ Feed Options
- Feed URL
- Feed Widget
- Finish

FEED SETTINGS

Feed categories	Select: All None	
	Feed Category Name	Feed Types
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test RSS Feed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Items to display	<input type="text" value="20"/>	
Max age (days)	<input type="text" value="30"/>	

✖ Cancel
➔ Next

3. Click the **Next** button, and you will be presented with the **URL for your RSS feed**. This URL can be copied and distributed to potential subscribers as needed. You can stop here by clicking cancel after copying the URL, or you can continue to the next set of steps to generate a Display Widget for your website if desired.

Feed URL Generator

Feed URL

Guide

Progress

- ✔ Feed Options
- ▶ Feed URL
- Feed Widget
- Finish

FEED URL

URL This URL should be used to subscribe to your new RSS feed. Copy the URL and distribute it to your potential subscribers.

If this is all you need, feel free to click Cancel now. If you would like to generate an RSS feed widget for your web page, click Next to continue.

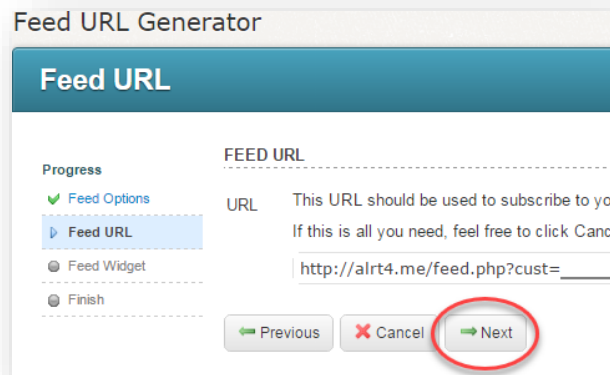
http://alrt4.me/feed.php?cust=_____&cat=55&items=20&age=30

← Previous
✖ Cancel
➔ Next

Generating a Display Widget for Your Website

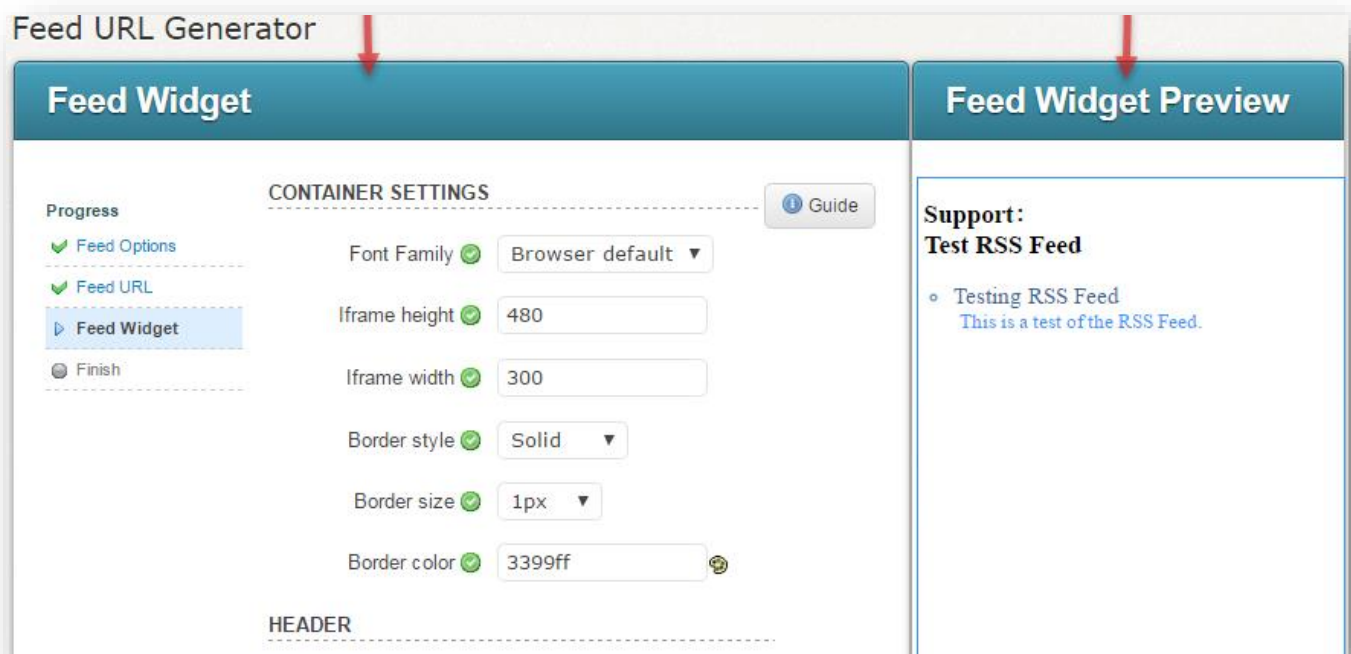
The RSS Feed display widget is a small JavaScript snippet that can be copied and pasted into your website, where it will display feed content as you post to your RSS feed.

1. Follow the steps above in the **Creating an RSS Feed URL & RSS Feed Display Widget** section.
2. On the last step, instead of canceling, click the **Next** button to advance to the next screen.

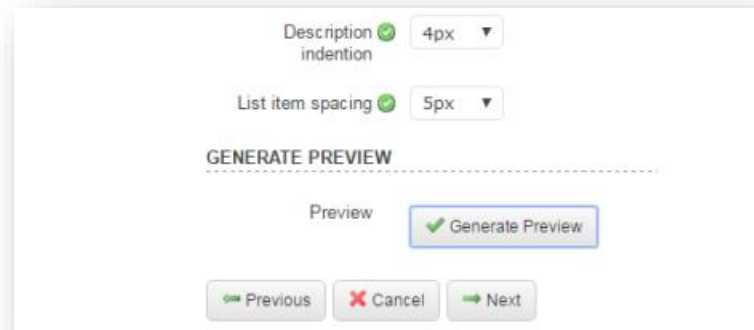


3. You will be in the Feed Widget screen. On the **left side** of the screen, you will see various **style settings** for the **Container**, **Header**, and **Item** (which is the RSS post text itself) portions of the RSS post that will show via the widget. For the color values, click the **palette icon** next to the field for a color selection table. Otherwise, you can type the or select the values from a drop-down menu.

To the right, you will see a **Feed Widget preview pane**. If you made a test RSS post earlier, you will see it in the preview pane (assuming it was made to one of the selected categories).



- Click the **Generate Preview** button at the bottom of the screen to update the preview pane with your changes. It is recommended that you do this after every change to make sure that the posts will look as desired before generating the widget.



- Click the **Next** button to generate the JavaScript widget code for your website, as shown below. You will see the URL and the JavaScript snippet to paste into your web page. This information is *not* saved anywhere in Communicate, so make sure you copy and paste it into another document for future reference if needed.

Otherwise, you can come back and regenerate the URL and code at any time, as many times as you like.

Feed URL Generator

Finish

Progress

- ✓ Feed Options
- ✓ Feed URL
- ✓ Feed Widget
- ▶ Finish

Your feed selections are complete!

Feed URL

The URL should be used to subscribe to the RSS feed using an RSS reader application. It should be distributed to potential subscribers.

http://alrt4.me/feed.php?cust=_____&cat=55&items=20&age=30

Widget

The generated widget is a javascript snippet which can be pasted into your web page. It will automatically display the content of this RSS feed. Simply copy and paste it into your web page at the location where the feed should be displayed.

```
<!-- BEGIN - SchoolMessenger Feed Widget -->
<script type="text/javascript">
  var smwidgethead = "display:block;color:#000000;font-size:18px;padding-left:4px;";
  var smwidgetlist = "list-style:circle outside;padding-left:25px;color:#346799;font-size:16px;";
  var smwidgetbox = "border:1px solid #3399ff;height:478px;overflow:auto;";
  var smwidgetdesc = "color:#3399ff;font-size:14px;padding-left:4px;padding-bottom:5px;";
  var smwidgetaudio = "font-size:14px;padding-left:4px;cursor:pointer;color:blue;text-decoration:underline;";
  var smfeedurl = "//alrt4.me/feed.php?cust=techsupport&cat=55&items=20&age=30";
  document.write('<iframe height=480 width=300 frameborder=0 marginwidth=0 marginheight=0 src="//alrt4.me/feedwidget.htm
</script>
<!-- END - SchoolMessenger Feed Widget -->
```

NOTE: The URL and widget are not saved after you leave this page. Please copy and paste them or regenerate them when they are needed.

← Done

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact support.

SchoolMessenger Solutions Support

800-920-3897

support@schoolmessenger.com