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Atom? WTF is Atom?

- **Syndication format**

<http://atompub.org/rfc4287.html>

- **Publishing protocol**

<http://bitworking.org/projects/atom/draft-ietf-atompub-protocol-11.html>

Why another format?

- **Part technical, part political**
- **The myth of RSS compatibility**
<http://diveintomark.org/archives/2004/02/04/incompatible-rss>

Technical Issues

- Markup in <title>?
- 2-digit or 4-digit year?
- How many
<enclosure>'s ?
- Etc., etc., etc.

Political Issues

“The belief that one can retroactively build consensus given the legacy that is called RSS amongst the very people who can not — or will not — adopt a clearly specified standard to me seems like pure folly.”

—Sam Ruby

Enter Atom

- **Atom : RSS ::
Subversion : CVS**
- **Same operational
model**
- **Fix the bugs**

Atom data model

- **Date constructs (RFC3339)**
- **Text constructs**
 - @type="text",**
 - @type="html",**
 - @type="xhtml",**
 - @type="audio/mpeg"**

““Switch to Atom’ is sound advice. I’ve taken it on my own projects and would suggest any client I worked for do the same.”

**—Rogers Cadenhead,
Chair of the RSS
Advisory Board**

Interesting Atom extensions

- **Atom Threading
Extensions (RFC 4685)**
- **Feed Autodiscovery**

GData

- **Google's
Grand Unified API**
- **Used by Google Base,
Google Calendar,
Blogger beta**

Example

**Atom as data store,
APP as query language**

<http://edward.oconnor.cx/>

(my blog)

- **Entries are Atom Entry documents**
- **Comments are Atom Entry Documents + RFC 4685's thr:in-reply-to**

**Crazy idea:
two-tier Rails app**

- **Lower-level: DB-backed ActiveRecord, speaks APP to the world**
- **Upper-level: APP-backed ActiveRecord, web-app on frontend**

```
speakers.each |s|  
  s.switch  
end
```

Generating Atom

Option 1: Roll your own

- **Builder: Ruby module for generating XML**
- **Built into Rails**
- **Templates ending in .rxml**

Example

Option 2: Resource Feeder

- **Plugin for generating RSS and Atom feeds in Edge (soon to be 1.2)**
- **rss_feed_for**
- **atom_feed_for**

Auto discovery

Validate your feed!

<http://feedvalidator.org>

Badge it



<http://feedicons.com>

Parsing Atom (or RSS)

Atom Parser

FeedTools

- **Ruby library for RSS and Atom**
- **Generation, translation, caching**
- **Supports RSS 1.0, 2.0; Atom 0.3, 1.0**

CODE GOES HERE

The End

