

What's New at RI.gov

Dan Chapman, Webmakers Group
January 2008

RSS & the Toolbox

What is RSS again?

- Stands for Really Simple Syndication
- A streamlined way to “push” Web site content
- Users can manipulate RSS content in desktop clients, other Web sites, applications, widgets start pages and mobile devices
- Publish once, publish everywhere
- For more information visit: www.ri.gov/rex/

RSS at RI.gov

- RI.gov toolbox
- www.ri.gov/toolbox
- Quickly and easily post news highlights and press releases to:
 - Your Web site
 - An RSS feed
 - RI.gov

Toolbox Quick facts

- In use by over 40 agencies and municipalities
- Over 2,271 press releases posted in 2007
- Over 5,134 press releases posted since launch

Agencies on Board

Governor's Office

Office of the Secretary of State

Department of Business Registration

Department of Corrections

Rt. Care

Office of General Treasurer

Economic Development Corporation

Rhode Island State Police

Division of Motor Vehicles

Office of the Attorney General

DoIT

Lt. Governor's Office

Department of Administration

Emergency Management Agency

City of East Providence

What it means

Publish once, view everywhere.





Webmaker's**Toolbox**
A REX Datasharing initiative



 [Home](#)

 [Highlights](#)

 [Press releases](#)

 [FAQ](#)

 [Notebook](#)

Log in

Username

Password

SUBMIT

[Forgot your password?](#)

To Get Started

- Contact RI.gov for a toolbox account
- Learn more about RSS and REX at www.RI.gov/rex/
- Start posting!

Microformats



What the heck are Microformats?

Microformats are:

- Good clean semantic markup
- Very easy to implement
- A no-brainer

Microformats are not

- Completely open or extensible
- An attempt to reinvent the wheel
- A way to define all our content types

What he said:

“ Designed for humans first and machines second, microformats are a set of simple, open data formats built upon existing and widely adopted standards.

“
Instead of throwing away what works today, microformats intend to solve simpler problems first by adapting to current behaviors and usage patterns (e.g. XHTML, blogging)”

Source: Dan Cedarholm, An Event Apart 2007, <http://microformats.org/about/>

and they play nice with others

- Valid HTML or XHTML
- Styled easily with CSS
- Good clean semantic markup

Think of it this way

“You marked-up something this way,
so I’ll do it that way too”

- **hCard**
For people and organizations
- **hCalendar**
For calendaring information
- **hReview**
For opinions, reviews and such

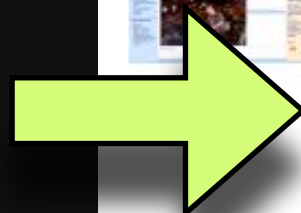
A little nitty gritty

hCard

```
<span class="adr">  
  <span class="street-address">One Capitol Hill</span>,  
  <span class="locality">Providence</span>,  
  <span class="region">RI</span>  
  <span class="postal-code">02908</span>  
</span>
```


How it looks


```
<span class="adr">  
  <span class="street">  
  <span class="locality">  
  <span class="region">  
  <span class="postal">  
</span>
```



Arts, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts (RISCA)

<http://www.arts.ri.gov>

Phone: 401-222-3880

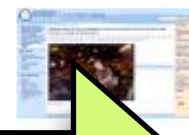
 [Download vCard to your Address Book](#)

[More info](#) +



Assistive Technology Project (ATAP)


<http://www.atap.ri.gov>



Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch (Attorney General)

<http://www.riag.ri.gov>

Phone: 401-274-4400

 [Download vCard to your Address Book](#)

Address: 150 South Main St., Providence, RI 02903

Description: The Attorney General is established under the Rhode Island Constitution as one of the five general officers subject to election by voters. The Office of the Attorney General was first created in Rhode Island in May 1650. Since its creation, the office has been an elected position, except for a brief period from 1740 to 1742 when the charter allowed for the appointment of a King's attorney for each county. The office of the Attorney General was formally adopted under the Rhode Island State Constitution in 1842. The Department of Attorney General is divided into three distinct divisions; Criminal, Civil and Administration; each of which is responsible for several sub-units which together combine to meet the goals and the objectives of the Department. The Department is divided into four budget programs, Criminal, Civil, General, and the Bureau of Criminal Identification.

• [More details on this from the Secretary of State Web site](#)

[x close](#)

[x close](#)

• [More details on this from the Secretary of State Web site](#)

Identification

budget programs: Criminal, Civil, General, and the Bureau of Criminal

and the objectives of the Department. The Department is divided into four

sub-units which together combine to meet the goals

That's nice and all, but what's the point?

Commonly agreed-upon markup doesn't mean much
unless we start doing things with it.

Huh?

Huh?

Think of it this way:

(The Ah hah moment)

If we markup the **same** kinds of data
in the **same** ways:

Users and user agents can **aggregate** and **manipulate**
our content in new and interesting ways.

For Example

Operator Plugin

- A Firefox plugin, designed to look for Microformats (among other things)
- Allows users to quickly add contact information to their address book
- Or, view an address on a map
- <https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4106>

All that work for a lousy plugin?

For now.

Future browsers will have built-in support for Microformats

- Internet Explorer
- Firefox
- Safari? Opera?

Why do all this work now?

Why do all this work now?

- It's incredibly easy
- Takes very little time out of your day
- Makes your Web site future proof
- Adds value to your Web site

The Real Question is

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Why not do it?

Microformats in the Wild

- Twitter www.twitter.com
- White Pages www.whitepages.com
- Golf Digest www.golfdigest.com
- Cork'd www.corkd.com
- Brown University www.brown.edu
- 30 Boxes www.30boxes.com
- Harvard Business School www.hbs.edu/faculty/dspar/

Source: <http://microformats.org/wiki/hcard-examples-in-wild>

Resources

- **Microformats Web site**
www.microformats.org
- **Wiki**
http://microformats.org/wiki/Main_Page
- **Operator Plugin**
<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/4106>
- **Tails Plugin**
<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/2240>
- **Safari Plugin**
<http://zappatic.net/safarimicroformats/>

Calendars

iCal: Calendaring for the Web

iCal: Calendaring for the Web

iCal is:

- A calendar application made by Apple Inc.
- An open data format for calendars
- A way to share calendar information
- Also known as ics or iCalendar

Rhody iCal

Rhody iCal

- Office of Rehabilitation Services
- Waterfire
- Town of Bristol
- Rhode Island Farmers Markets
- URI Rams

Widespread adoption

Facebook

37 Signals Backpack

Lotus Notes

RI.gov

Windows Calendar

Google

Sun Java Server

Yahoo!

Microsoft Outlook 2007

Mozilla Calendar

Sunbird

Microsoft Exchange

Joyent

upcoming.org

Widespread adoption

Facebook

37 Signals Backpack

Windows Calendar

Yahoo!

Mozilla Calendar

Microsoft Exchange

Joyent

Lotus Notes

RI.gov

Sun Java Server

Google

Microsoft Outlook 2007

Sunbird

Upcoming.org

Google Calendar

- Part of Google's suite of Web apps
- Free!
- Can import existing calendar feeds
- Displays multiple calendars simultaneously
- Makes creating an iCal feed quick and easy

Google Calendar

Google Calendar BETA

dannychapman@gmail.com | [What's New](#) | [Settings](#) | [Help](#) | [Sign out](#)

[Gmail](#) [Calendar](#) [Documents](#) [Photos](#) [Groups](#) [Web](#) [more](#) ▼

Search Public Calendars Search My Calendars [Show Search Options](#)

[Create Event](#) [Quick Add](#)

« January 2008 »

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Other Calendars

- ☒ Danny Work
- ☐ Joe
- ☒ Mike
- ☒ ORS Calendar of Events
- ☐ Renee
- ☒ Rhode Island Farmer's Markets
- ☒ Ri State Holidays
- ☒ Town of Bristol
- ☐ Waterfires Providence

[Manage calendars](#)

Today Jan 6 – 12 2008

[Print](#) [Day](#) [Week](#) [Month](#) [Next 4 Days](#) [Agenda](#)

	Sun 1/6	Mon 1/7	Tue 1/8	Wed 1/9	Thu 1/10	Fri 1/11	Sat 1/12
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am						9:00am ^{at} Goddard State Park in Warwick	9:00am ^{at} Broad Street in Providence
10am		10:00am ^{at} Staff Meeting	10:00am Orientation Provider (in)		10:00am Orientation - Pawtucket	11:00am Orientation -	9:30am Hope High School in Providence
11am							
12pm							
1pm		1:00pm SSI/SSDI Informational Session		1:00pm Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Project Information			
2pm		2:00pm Staff Meeting	2:00pm Orientation - Woonsocket				
3pm							
4pm							
5pm							

Google Calendar

Calendar

[XML](#) [ICAL](#) [HTML](#) (Calendar ID: dannychapman@gmail.com)

Address:

This is the address for your calendar. No one can use this link unless you have made your calendar public.

[Learn more](#)

[Change](#)

[sharing](#)

[settings](#)

Where we are right now

“The Bucket”

A way to aggregate and translate data feeds



For Example

SOS Open Meetings feeds

SOS RSS Feeds

```
graph TD; A[SOS RSS Feeds] --> B[Bucket]; B --> C[RI.gov Calendar, RSS, iCal];
```

Bucket

RI.gov Calendar, RSS, iCal

Warm Fuzzies

Google

+

RI.gov

=

Good Things

Public dissemination of state events and meetings
makes for more open government.

Calendars at RI.gov

The screenshot shows the RI.gov website with a blue header and a search bar. The main content area is titled "Calendars & Events" and features two columns of events. The left column, "Events & Things to do", lists basketball games. The right column, "State & Municipal Meetings", lists various government meetings. A sidebar on the right contains links to media resources and press releases.

RI.gov
Rhode Island Government Online

Search Rhode Island Government

Recursos en Español | Find a Person | AskRI Live

Text Only Wireless High Contrast Text: A⁻ A⁺

Mostly Cloudy 47°

Home > **Calendars & Events**

Calendars & Events
Rhode Island's statewide government calendar

Events & Things to do

- Wed, 1/9/2008, 11:00 AM
Rhode Island at Dayton
URI Men's Basketball
- Wed, 1/9/2008, 11:00 AM
Rhode Island at Virginia
URI Women's Basketball
- Wed, 1/9/2008, 11:30 AM
Rutgers at Providence
Providence College Men's Basketball
- Sat, 1/12/2008, 5:00 AM
DePaul at Providence
Providence College Women's Basketball
- Sat, 1/12/2008, 6:00 AM
Rhode Island at Massachusetts
URI Women's Basketball

State & Municipal Meetings

- Tue, 1/8/2008, 11:00 PM
Barrington Cemetery Commission - January 09, 2008 at 01:00 AM
Town Hall, 283 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806 Filed on: January 04, 2008 at 03:29 PM
- Wed, 1/9/2008, 2:00 AM
Education, Department of - January 09, 2008 at 04:00 AM
Shepard Building - 5th Floor, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 Filed on: January 07, 2008 at 03:40 PM
- Wed, 1/9/2008, 5:30 AM
Turnpike and Bridge Authority, Rhode Island - January 09, 2008 at 07:30 AM
Jamestown Police Department, 250 Conanicus Avenue, Jamestown, RI 02835 Filed on: January 04, 2008 at 01:12 PM
- Wed, 1/9/2008, 5:30 AM
Johnston, Town of - January 09, 2008 at 07:30 AM
1126 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919 Filed on: January 08, 2008 at 10:16 AM

Media Central

- [Blogs](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [eDemocracy](#)
- [E-mail Newsletters](#)
- [Newsroom](#)
- [Podcasts](#)
- [Press releases](#)
- [RSS feeds](#)

Highlights

12/03/2007
[Get a Flu Shot](#)
[More...](#)

Press Releases

- 01/08/2008
[RIDOC Receives Donations of Toys and Rockers Through URI College of Nursing and Two Area Churches](#)
- 01/07/2008
[MOLLIS ANOUNCES SIX MORE CANDIDATES HAVE MADE RI'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY BALLOT](#)

www.RI.gov/calendar/

What this means

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2. These feeds can then in turn be used on your Web site using the REX parser
3. Visitors can then subscribe to either the iCal or RSS feeds provided on your site

Where we hope to go

Where we hope to be this year

Your iCal Feed



RI.gov toolbox



Calendar cut & paste for your site

Findability

Findability

- Site content disseminated by different means can make your content more **findable**

Findability

- Site content disseminated by different means can make your content more **findable**
- By search, browser, desktop aggregator or calendar

Findability

- Site content disseminated by different means can make your content more **findable**
- By search, browser, desktop aggregator or calendar
- **Content is moved beyond the home page** or portal, using open standards for the user's benefit

Browser as information broker



This is a conceptual mockup for Gran Paradiso. Please note that the final implementation may look entirely different, or the idea may not be implemented at all.



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http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/mozilla_does_microformats_firefox3.php

Changing Roles

The role of the Webmaker is changing:

- Web site information streams will become more important than the static Web page
- As a result, the ways we publish information have to change

Help

Dan Chapman

Director of Creative Services
(401) 831 8099 x240
dchapman@nicusa.com

Tom Viall

General Manager
(401) 831 8099 x220
tomv@nicusa.com

Joe Alba

Director of Development
(401) 831 8099 x250
jalba@nicusa.com



The screenshot shows the 'Webmaker's Resource' website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Home, Code, Clipart, Online Resources, Design tools, RSS, and Standards. Below this is a 'Welcome!' section with a paragraph about the resource for Rhode Island State Government and municipality webmakers. To the left is a section titled 'Need help with your agency's Web site?' which includes a list of three steps: 1. Download a creative workbook, 2. Meet with RI.gov to discuss needs, and 3. Become trained on site. To the right is a 'News' section with updates from 3/7/07, including a 'New AJAX code snippet!' and a 'Webmaker's Web 2.0 Presentation'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'New Agency Web site Guidebook online'.

Webmaker's Resource

[Home](#) [Code](#) [Clipart](#) [Online Resources](#) [Design tools](#) [RSS](#) [Standards](#)

Welcome!

Welcome to the Webmaker's resource — the online resource for all Rhode Island State Government and municipality Webmakers. We hope you find this resource both informative and useful. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Need help with your agency's Web site?

Get a new Web site for your agency

It's as easy as 1 2 3!

1. Download our creative workbook to prepare for your agency's new Web site
[Download](#)
2. Meet with RI.gov to discuss your Web site needs and have a template designed at no cost
3. Become trained on site on how to update your new Web site using Macromedia Dreamweaver. Use the Webmaker's Guidebook for easy reference.
[Download](#)

Enjoy using your new standards-based Web site!

Agencies using the RI.gov Web site template:

News

Updated: 3/7/07

New AJAX code snippet!

Find out how to add a dynamic "more info" expanding link to your Web site.

▪ [More](#)

Webmaker's Web 2.0 Presentation

View a presentation shared by Daniel Chapman, Director of Creative Services - RI.gov, at the most recent Webmaker's meeting.

▪ [Web 2.0](#)

New Agency Web site Guidebook online

Guidebook for Agency Webmaker's using the RI.gov template. Learn how to get the most from your Web site.

www.RI.gov/resource

Questions?

Thank you.