

# TOPS 2009 : A News Reader

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## Situation

You are a group of students attending a competition in London. As London is an overall strange place, and you are not Londoners, it is slightly overwhelming to visit. Alas, not all is lost! You decide to create a news aggregator to make sure you know what is happening, hot spots to avoid and if there has been a major event.

## Main Task

Create an application which presents the information contained within the provided RSS feed in an easy to read fashion. You have been provided with an RSS feed<sup>1</sup> from the London section of the BBC news website which you are to use for this challenge. A basic answer would include the following features:

- An intuitive interactive interface. This could be in the form of a simple command prompt.  
[10 Marks]
- A list of articles.  
[10 Marks]
- The ability to view the details of individual articles.  
[10 Marks]

## Example Output

```
-----  
London News 0.1  
-----  
Type 'help' for a list of commands  
> list  
[0] Kinsella killers jailed for life - Fri, 12 Jun 2009 11:02:50 GMT  
[1] Postal workers decide on strike - Fri, 12 Jun 2009 10:18:47 GMT  
etc...  
> read 1  
-----  
Title: Postal workers decide on strike  
Date: Fri, 12 Jun 2009 10:18:47 GMT  
Url: http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/rss/-/1/hi/england/london/8096717.stm  
-----  
Postal workers vote for strike action over claims that 1,600 jobs  
are at risk in London, it is announced.
```

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<sup>1</sup>[http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/newsonline\\_uk\\_edition/england/london/rss.xml](http://newsrss.bbc.co.uk/rss/newsonline_uk_edition/england/london/rss.xml)

```
> quit  
Bye...
```

## Extension Tasks

You aren't expected to complete all of these extension tasks, choose a couple of similar tasks and do them well.

1. Enable users to change the priority of articles, and have the application remember the new priority.  
[10 Marks]
2. Enable the application to learn how to prioritise articles based upon the users' decisions.  
[10 Marks]
3. As it stands, your application is capable of displaying all the news it receives equally. This means that the news about a cat stuck in a tree is equal (in the eyes of your application) to full blown riots in the streets. Create a priority system for the news articles.  
[10 Marks]
  - One way of doing this is to scan the article for relevant words, and assign the priority accordingly.
4. Add functionality to your application that grabs the most recent feed from the BBC website.  
[10 Marks]
5. Add a save function so that your application can still view the most recently read news without the RSS file present.  
[10 Marks]