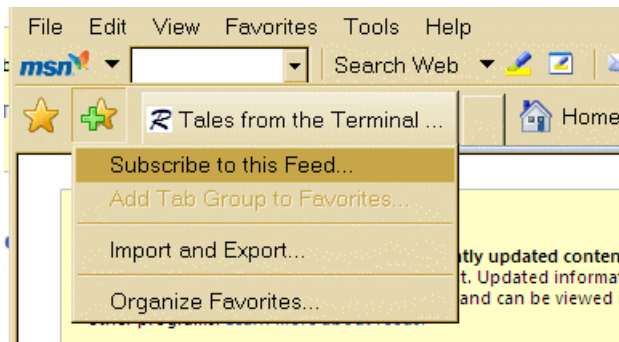


## Using IE 7 to read RSS

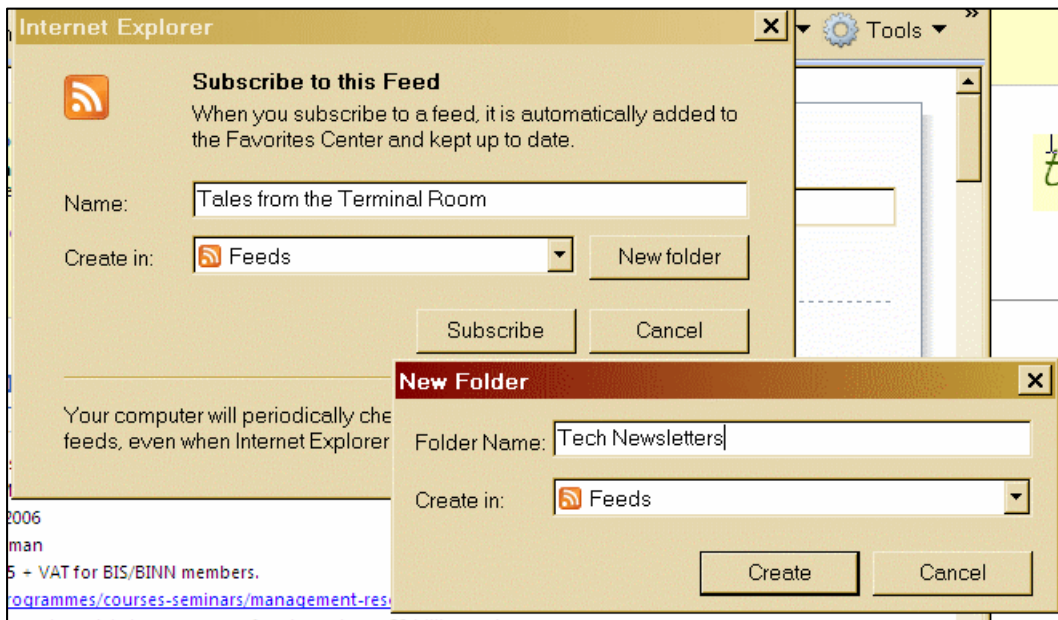
IE 7 is now being rolled out as part of the Windows Update service. It has a built in RSS reader so if you have never tried RSS feeds before, this is your chance to give them a try. It is fairly straightforward to use when you know which buttons to click on but I confess that I had to read the help file before I could work out how to do it. Here are some brief instructions on what to do.

1. When you find a page with a link to an RSS you want to read, click on the link to the feed. The feed will then be displayed but unlike previous versions of IE the text will probably be unreadable in IE 7. If you want to receive updates, though, along with other feeds you will need to add the link to your list of feeds in favorites.
2. With the feed displayed, click on the plus sign/star icon in the upper left hand area of the browser toolbar. From the pull down menu, select **Subscribe to this Feed**.



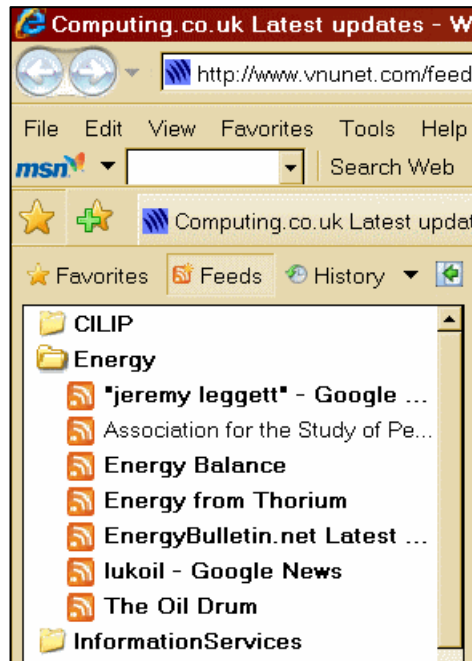
(This menu also gives you an option to Import an existing list of feeds as an OPML file)

3. You can then select the folder in which store the feed or create a new folder.



4. You can set up a default frequency of update for all of your feeds under Tools, Internet Options, Content, Feed Settings.
5. To change the properties of an individual feed, display the feed in your browser and click on 'View feed properties' in the upper right hand area of the screen. You can then change the frequency of update and the number of items to be kept in the archive.

- To view your list of feeds click on the Favorites Center star icon in the upper left hand area of the toolbar and click on Feeds.



### Is it any good?

I give it 5 out of 10, but I think that is being generous. The first issue I have is that you cannot view all of your feeds, or feeds in a selected folder, mixed up together. I view some of my feeds individually, but I like to view some of my folders – for example UK News – all in one go. In IE 7 You have to view each feed separately.

A second failing is that the favicons associated with a feed are not displayed (or perhaps I have missed a setting?). This may seem a minor point, but if you have a large number of feeds the icon next to the feed title makes it much easier to quickly identify individual feeds.

For me, though, the major drawback of IE7 as an RSS reader is that there are no filters or rules that I can apply to all of my feeds so that incoming items are searched for keywords such as people's names, products, companies, places. In Omea, my current PC based reader, I can then specify that the relevant items are highlighted in some way or copied to a folder, and even ask for a desktop alert and/or sound alert. So no cigar for IE 7 on this front.

Finally, I have not been able to find a way of easily selecting individual items from more than one feed for forwarding to a friend or colleague. Again, I may have missed some crucial settings in the set up so please do correct me if I am wrong on this.

There are several other missing features that I have come to regard as essential in an RSS reader, but the four outlined above are more than enough to convince me that Omea (<http://www.jetbrains.com/omea/reader/>) is still the one for me. For those who are new to RSS, though, IE 7 provides an easy introduction to the technology and is adequate for monitoring a handful of feeds. If after trying it out you decide you **do** need a program with more feed management options you can always export your list of feeds as an OPML file and import it into your next reader.