Title: Notifications and RSS: Spread the Word
Subtitle: XOOPS and ImpressCMS
Second Subtitle: #0 Keeping Everyone Up-To-Date
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Summary: Groups are always challenged with keeping everyone informed
events and notifying them of new events that have been added. Using fea
ImpressCMS, your task just got a lot simpler.

One of every organization's challenges is keeping everyone up-to-date o
and ministries are no different. In fact, they may have a greater challeng
dispersed for the majority of the week, only coming together for meetings
businesses gather daily for work. In the past, and still today, churches a
a variety of techniques for getting the word out - personal visits, newsle
calls and, more recently, emails. All these can vary in effectiveness if th
up-to-date.

Having a web site that is built around a feature-rich content management
things dramatically. Using the RSS (Really Simple Syndication) and
email functions provided by the core CMS, you can publish changes on yo
can be updated in a matter of minutes. And, since the distribution list is
location, there is only one version and it is easily updated, too.

User Notifications

Every module you can add to XOOPS or ImpressCMS will have notification
for any change within the module, or specific options for changes to a pa
Have a meeting that changed times or locations? Update the page that wa
time and place and everyone who subscribed to notifications for that pag
about the change. If they set their notification method to email, even bet
the email address in their profile and they will be updated without even h

Really Simple Syndication (RSS)

People are getting more savvy about some of the features available on th
something more and more are using. Again, you're in luck if you are usin
supported modules for XOOPS and ImpressCMS because most provide RS
they contain. When someone subscribes to a RSS feed, their RSS reader
provided and gives them a overview of new content, with a link to read th
If you have a module you would like to add RSS to because it does not p
are modules that will help you do this. RSSFusion is one of them. It comes with several plugin
(adapters, really) that will adds RSS feeds for several of the most popula
doesn't exist for your module, a sample plugin is provided and someone
skills and a knowledge of the module can create a new plugin.

Getting the Word Out

Now that you know about these features, how do you get the word out to
Well, you will need to rely on the old methods, initially - add a small blu
even start a WWW feature to regularly highlight your web activities), put

talk about it with people and be sure to use it yourself!

  Update the email being sent out to new users after they have successfu
them to use these features (register a new user and see the message you
in a while).
  Create an area of your site that gives people information about the fea
tutorials for obtaining and using RSS, or at least link to tutorials elsewh
  Send emails to current users using the Mail Users feature found in the
System Admin - Mail Users.
  Provide demonstrations during staff meetings and committee meetings

Read on for more details of each of these features...