If your blog software solution doesn't include an RSS solution already, you may be in the unenviable position of having to create your own. As a general rule, any blogging software that uses templates allows you to generate an RSS feed, and while creating the feed is not incredibly difficult, you definitely need someone with some technical skills to help you write the feed. Some good online resources walk you through the process of writing an RSS feed. I find these sites useful and easy to understand:

- ✔ **Lockergnome's RSS Resource:** `rss.lockergnome.com/resources`
- ✔ **O'Reilly's RSS DevCenter:** `www.oreillynet.com/topics/rss/rss`

Newsreader sites and software

The following list covers some of the most well-known offline newsreaders, as well as several online options.

RSS feeds online

BlockTracker (`www.dansanderson.com/blogtracker`): A browser-based service that works with several versions of Internet Explorer and Netscape on PCs and Macs. Free.

BlogExpress (`www.blogexpress.com`): Handles all versions of RSS, runs on Windows 98 and better. Free.

NewsGator (`www.newsgator.com`): Use News Gator to track RSS feeds from blogs and news sites. Pricing begins at $5.95 a month or try the free version. NewsGator Outlook Edition is available, which integrates with your Outlook software. Windows 98 and later. (Both online and offline options are available.)

Pluck (`www.pluck.com`): Pluck is an Internet Explorer-based newsreader that can be accessed from any computer. Use it to subscribe to RSS feeds and searches, and keep a centralized bookmark file. Free.

Newsreader software to run on your computer

AmphetaDesk (`www.disobey.com/amphetadesk`): Slightly dated but runs on multiple platforms; displays feeds locally in your browser. For Macintosh, Windows, and Linux. Free.

Feedreader (`www.feedreader.com`): Feed reader supports RSS and Atom for Windows 95 and later. It's completely free.

Liferea (`liferea.sourceforge.net`): This newsreader handles RSS and Atom and runs on Linux. Free.

NetNewsWire (`ranchero.com/netnewswire`): A newsreader for Macintosh OS X 10.2 and greater. Start with a 30-day trial and then pay $39.95. The Lite version is free.

SharpReader (`www.sharpreader.net`): Handles all RSS versions and Atom. Usable on Windows 98 and later. Free.

Shrook (`www.fondantfancies.com/shrook/`): Mac software that synchronizes to a main server; handy if you use multiple machines. Updates much sooner than a regular newsreader because of the server integration. OS X, $24.95.

WebGrabit (`www.webgrabit.com`): A Windows 95 and later Web site and newsreader. Test it for 30 days and then pay $24.95.