

Welcome to another episode of CSU Long Beach (CSULB) Tech Tips. This is episode eleven, "Keeping up to date with technology information."

I'm going to talk about news alerts, podcasts, RSS feeds, social networking websites and radio broadcasts that can keep you up to date about what is happening in the world of technology.

First of all, there are several "news alert" services. My favorite is the "Google News Alert" To get started, go to www.google.com and type "news alert" into the search field and then click on "I'm feeling lucky."

You will then be presented with a dialog box that asks for a topic. I typed "Nikon D200" to collect information once a day from all possible sources that might ever mention the Nikon D200 camera. The dialog box asks for your email address. You also have to decide what type of search should be conducted. The choices here are web, groups, blogs, news, or comprehensive that will search all possible sources.

Google will send email to make sure you really do own the email address provided. After you return a confirmation, Google sends you news as it gets posted.

For example, if the official Nikon website announces a firmware update for the D200, I get notified by email. If Photography magazine posts their comparison of the D200 with Canon's Rebel XT, I get email. If Sally Smith posts a picture of the pet armadillo photographed with her D200, get email.

Podcasts are another interesting way to keep abreast of up to date information. You do not need an iPod to take advantage of literally thousands of podcasts available free of charge.

Typically, a podcast will provide either an audio or video presentation on a regular basis (often weekly) – covering a specific topic. I get up to the minute instruction on how to use the latest version of Adobe's Photoshop software from the podcast called NAPP-TV, a production of the National Association of Photoshop Professionals.

The easiest way to find the podcast you want is by installing and using the iTunes software from Apple. Download a Mac or PC version from www.apple.com/itunes.

Once the software is installed, you can connect to the internet and launch iTunes. Click on "iTunes Store" located in the left hand column. When the iTunes store appears, type a topic into the search field. Almost immediately a long list of available titles appears, all of which are for sale.

However, you can get to the free podcasts by clicking on "podcasts" in the list of categories across the top of the screen.

Now you should see a list of free podcasts to which you can subscribe. Each week, a new episode will automatically be delivered to your computer.

See episode six of this podcast regarding all the different ways to subscribe to a podcast.

RSS feeds are similar to podcasts but don't usually consist exclusively of audio or video. Typically they consist mostly of text, although a growing number mix text with multi-media components.

You can subscribe to RSS feeds using the latest version of either the Internet Explorer or Firefox web browsers.

Here's a list of some of my favorite RSS feeds for technology updates.

The New York Times Tech Talk is at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/podcasts/techtalk.xml>

If you didn't get all that, you can read it in the transcript that I've provided as a text file with today's podcast.

David Pogue has been informing and entertaining with technology articles and books for quite some time. He writes a regular technology column in the "Circuits" section of the Thursday NY Times and regularly appears on television. In your web browser just type www.nytimes.com/circuits/

Or, you can subscribe to David Pogue's RSS feed at:

<http://pogue.blogs.nytimes.com/rss2.xml>

The O'Reilly book publishers have an interesting RSS feed. Their address is included in the text version of this podcast.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/feed/26?format=rss2>

Finally, don't ignore traditional news sources. Nationally, NPR broadcasts Ira Flatow's "Science Friday" and many metropolitan areas

have local technology and science radio and TV shows. Here in Southern California, KNX 1070 AM radio broadcasts Jeff Levy's Computer News every Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon.

I'm Walter Gajewski. Thanks once again for listening to the CSU Long Beach (CSULB) Tech Tips podcast.