

### Yahoo Pipes Tutorial for Feed Mixing

Posted by [Glen Stuebel](#) on June 26, 2008 @ 10:37 am in [Web Logs](#) | [Comments](#)

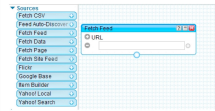
[1] [Yahoo Pipes](#) is a tool that we've covered at [2] [Slaw](#). [3] [Links](#) here on Slaw. And having fielded a few questions myself on its use for RSS feed mixing, I thought it might be nice to demonstrate how simple the process is with a tutorial.

When you've had before is pretty granular in detail, with way too many screen captures. But if you like the XSS prompt (i.e., [Keep It Simple, Stupid](#) for [Slaw](#)), a little hand-holding never hurts, so, go over to [4] [Yahoo Pipes](#), create an account, click on the My Pipes [5] [Create A Pipe](#), and let's get started.

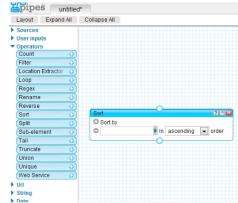
#### Step One - Adding the Components:

The first step is to add three items into your edit window: **Fetch Feed**, **Sort**, & **Truncate**.

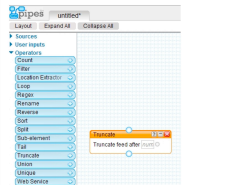
1a) From the **Sources** drop down, drag **Fetch Feed** onto your screen:



1b) From the **Operators** drop down, drag **Sort** onto your screen:



1c) Also from the **Operators** drop down, drag **Truncate** onto your screen:

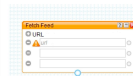


1d) By default the **Pipes Output** component should already be there:

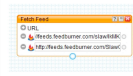


#### Step Two - Configure the Components:

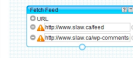
2a) Popping on the **Fetch Feed** component, click on the "+" sign next to the word **URL**, to add the exact number of source feeds you want to add to the mix. Of course, clicking on the "+" sign will get rid of unwanted feeds.



Then copy in the URL for each feed source. In this example, I'm mixing the feed for [Slaw](#) [6] [post entries](#), with the feed for [7] [Slaw comments](#).



2b) Now we'll configure the **Sort** component. For reference purposes, it's the one highlighted in orange below.



Click on the drop down for the list of fields, and **sort** by the term **date** (i.e., **Item.published**). And then switch the **order** drop down from ascending to descending. Like this:



2c) Then change the **Truncate** component to limit the size of the end product. I chose '50', but it could be bigger or smaller.



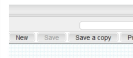
#### Step Three - Connect the Components:

Now the fun part: we need to connect the chain of components, going from **Fetch Feed** to **Sort** to **Truncate** to **Pipes Output**. Simply put your mouse over the bottom of one component and then click & drag the blue pipe to the top of the next component. The end product will look like this:

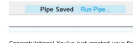


#### Step Four - The Big Finish:

Click "Save" in the top right corner - the greyed out button in this image:



Which should cause a new link to become available: **Run Pipe** should now be in the top-middle part of your screen.



Congratulations! You've just created your first Yahoo Pipe! And now that you've read all this, I'm going to tell you a secret... on the top of the each published Pipe's homepage is a button that says "Copy" - which will allow you to copy the handwork of others, including our sample [8] [Slaw last pipe](#), and not have to create things from scratch!

#### Bonus Advice:

Now that you've got a pipe, what are you going to do with it? In a world where bloggers all had personal RSS readers, you could simply feed into the pipe's RSS feed. But in reality, we tend to do it in a re-published (i.e., either on your firm's intranet, or to the public web). And to do that, you will need two things: 1) the feed and 2) a publishing tool.

To get a Pipe's RSS feed, go to the Pipe's homepage - see [9] [our sample](#) here. Then, click on **More Options**, and select **Get as RSS**. Copy that pipe's URL from the address bar.

To re-publish the feed, there are lots of great tools. See [10] [Feedburner](#) (using their **BuzzBooth** feature to re-publish), [11] [DeliciousPods](#), [12] [Gratz](#), or for a very simple bulletproof list without branding, try [13] [FeedKit](#) and

And that's it!