

BB

Balanced Breakfast

When it comes to media and news,
it's good to be a picky eater.

RSS, Hacker News, arXiv -- all in one unified timeline
Extend with custom sources via Rhai plugins -- no recompilation
Your data stays local -- no accounts, no cloud, no tracking
Native performance -- built with Rust and Tauri, not Electron
Free with no limits -- no feed caps, no premium tiers
macOS, Windows, and Linux

Alpha Release -- March 2026

Source-available -- PolyForm Noncommercial 1.0.0

Core Features

FEEDS Feed Aggregation

- Subscribe to any RSS or Atom feed URL
- Follow Hacker News stories: Top, New, Best, Ask HN, Show HN, Jobs
- Track arXiv papers by category (cs.AI, cs.LG, cs.CL, cs.CV, stat.ML)
- Unified timeline across all sources with per-source emoji indicators
- Auto-fetch in background every 15 minutes (configurable per plugin)
- Manual refresh with Cmd+R for immediate fetch

READING Reading & Browsing

- Three-panel layout: sources sidebar, items list, detail panel
- Item metadata: title, author, body preview, score, published date
- HTML content converted to readable text
- Open original URLs in your browser with o or Enter
- Keyboard-driven: j/k navigate, s star, r read/unread, / search

ORGANIZE Organization

- Mark items as read/unread, star/favorite for later
- Filter views: All items, Unread only, Starred only
- Per-source filtering with unread counts in sidebar
- Sort: Newest first, By score, Unread first, Starred first
- Client-side text search across title, body, and author
- Paginated loading (50 items at a time)

MANAGE Feed Management

- Add new feeds from any loaded plugin without restarting
- Delete individual feeds or all feeds from a source
- OPML import (Cmd+I) to migrate from other feed readers
- OPML export (Cmd+E) for backup or migration
- Automatic duplicate feed detection on import
- Toast notifications on fetch errors

Plugin System

Balanced Breakfast uses a Rhai scripting engine for feed source plugins. Drop a .rhai file into the plugins directory and it loads on next launch -- no compilation, no app restart required.

PLUGINS How It Works

- Three built-in plugins: RSS/Atom, Hacker News, arXiv
- Each plugin defines its own config schema (text, URL, number, toggle, select)
- Plugin capabilities: pagination, search, date filtering, custom fetch intervals
- Host functions for HTTP requests, feed parsing, string utilities, date/time
- 100,000 max operations per execution (security sandbox)
- Config validation ensures correct inputs before fetching

EXTEND Write Your Own

- Four required functions: `id()`, `name()`, `config_schema()`, `fetch()`
- Optional `capabilities()` to declare what your plugin supports
- Use `http_get()` and `parse_feed()` for RSS sources
- Use `http_get_json()` for JSON API sources
- Full documentation and minimal examples included

Keyboard Shortcuts

- `j / k` -- Navigate items (vim-style)
- `s` -- Star / unstar item
- `r` -- Toggle read / unread
- `/` -- Focus search
- `o` or `Enter` -- Open original URL in browser
- `Escape` -- Close detail panel
- `Cmd+R` -- Refresh all feeds
- `Cmd+N` -- Add new feed
- `Cmd+I` -- Import OPML
- `Cmd+E` -- Export OPML
- `Cmd+1/2/3` -- View all / unread / starred

Why Balanced Breakfast?

Most feed readers are cloud-only, subscription-based, and limited to RSS. Balanced Breakfast is a native desktop app that aggregates RSS, Hacker News, arXiv, and any source you can script -- all offline, all local, all yours.

How it compares:

	BB	Feedly	NNW	Reeder	Miniflux	Newsboat
Free (no limits)	Yes	100	Yes	10	Self	Yes
Native desktop	Yes	No	Mac	Mac	No	Term
Plugin system	Yes	No	No	No	No	Macros
HN first-class	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
arXiv first-class	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Cross-platform	Yes	Web	Apple	Apple	Web	Unix
Local-only data	Yes	No	Opt	Opt	Self	Yes
No account	Yes	No	Opt	Opt	Self	Yes
OPML support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Keyboard-driven	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Pricing

Balanced Breakfast is free during the alpha period with no feed limits and no feature gating. No accounts, no subscriptions, no data collection.

Built With

Rust backend (Tauri 2) -- native performance, small binary, low memory

SQLite database -- content-addressable item storage, no duplicates

Rhai scripting engine -- extensible plugin system, no recompilation

Vanilla JavaScript frontend -- no framework bloat

142+ automated tests across the workspace

Get Balanced Breakfast

macOS

The macOS app will be shared with you directly as a .dmg file. Open the DMG and drag Balanced Breakfast to your Applications folder.

Note: Since the app is not yet on the Mac App Store, macOS may show a security warning on first launch. Right-click the app and choose "Open" to bypass this, or go to System Settings > Privacy & Security and click "Open Anyway".

Windows & Linux

Balanced Breakfast is built with Tauri 2 and supports Windows and Linux. Binaries for these platforms will be available soon.

Quick Start

1. Launch the app

Open Balanced Breakfast. The three-panel layout appears: sources on the left, items in the center, detail on the right.

2. Add your first feed

Press Cmd+N or click Add Feed. Choose a plugin (RSS, Hacker News, or arXiv), enter the configuration, and click Add.

3. Browse your feeds

Items appear in the center panel. Use j/k to navigate, Enter to read, s to star, r to mark read/unread.

4. Import existing feeds

Coming from another reader? Press Cmd+I to import an OPML file. All your RSS subscriptions transfer instantly.

5. Add custom sources

Drop a .rhai plugin file into the plugins directory to add any source you can script -- news APIs, forums, journals, anything.

Sending Feedback

Your feedback is invaluable during this alpha period. You can:

- Take a screenshot in the app and share it with any notes
- Message me directly -- bug reports, feature ideas, plugin requests
- Export your OPML and share it if you hit import/export issues

Thank you for trying Balanced Breakfast!