

# Firefish XML/RSS API for Vacancies

v2.0

## Getting Started with the Firefish XML/RSS API

### Overview

This document introduces Firefish XML/RSS API for Vacancies, provides some key background information on how the API works, and explains how to integrate Vacancies within your application or website.

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## 1 Introduction

The Firefish Application Programming Interface (API) provides access to all the current vacancies in the Firefish System.

It can be used to build applications and websites that display the current live vacancy data held within Firefish, including the job title, description, closing date and other related data.

This document describes the usage of XML/RSS API from a technologist or developer perspective, rather than an end-user perspective and as such assumes prior knowledge of fundamental web development concepts such as XML, HTTP, and Caching.

In the following sections we cover: -

- How to access the API;
- Technical considerations for those implementing a system based on the API and;
- The data returned by the API.

If you have any questions in relation to this document, please address them in the first instance to your Growth or Customer team contact, who may choose to refer you to an appropriate technical team member.

## 2 What is RSS?

The API uses a web-standard called Really Simple Syndication (RSS) to provide structured XML to third-party websites that want to display, or otherwise process, these vacancies

RSS is used primarily as a web feed which allows users and applications to access website updates in a standardized, computer-readable format. Websites usually use RSS feeds to publish frequently updated information, such as blog entries, news headlines, or episodes of audio and video series. RSS is also used to distribute podcasts. An RSS document (called "feed", "web feed", <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RSS> or "channel") includes full or summarized text, and metadata, like publishing date and author's name.

A standard XML file format ensures compatibility with many different machines/programs.

RSS can be used by a developer to receive timely updates from partner data sources or to aggregate data from several sites.

Subscribing to a website RSS feed removes the need for a user to manually check the website for new content.



### 3 Accessing the API

The API is publicly available and can be browsed to directly, allowing access to RSS readers for the general public, but can also be used by developers to enhance the functionality of their site or application.

The XML/RSS feed is accessed using a standard HTTP GET request at the following URL...

<https://<mydomain.com>/rss/latestadverts.aspx>

...where **<mydomain.com>** is replaced by the appropriate domain and/or subdomain of your Firefish installation.

For example, Firefish Software's current list of vacancies can be found at:-

<https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/rss/latestadverts.aspx>

#### 3.1 Security Note

To protect against various forms of script-injection and cross-site scripting attacks, we do not allow cross origin resource sharing (CORS). This means that developers that want to integrate vacancies with a website, need to load the RSS Feed on the server rather than via a client library such as Angular or jQuery.

### 4 Implementation Considerations

This section highlights some key considerations to factor into your design prior to implementing an integration with the Firefish XML/RSS API.

- Our APIs are currently hosted in Windows Azure's West Europe (Amsterdam) region, so you should take this into consideration when optimising the price/performance/customer experience of your application.
- Requests to the API return the same content to all users, so you should use a globally accessible method of accessing the feed data. i.e. you **should not** store API results in session variables as the contextual scope of the data is "per site", not "per end-user".
- The Firefish API caches its results for a period of 5 minutes (to minimise load on the database), therefore if you make requests at an interval in a period shorter than 5 minutes the API will return the same result to you. We therefore recommend that you implement an appropriate caching strategy in order to minimise the effects of limited network latency and bandwidth.



## 5 XML Content and Data Schema

Here is an example response from <https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/rss/latestadverts.aspx>

```
<!--
RSS Feed Generated by www.firefishsoftware.com - Mon, 03 Feb 2020 16:38:12 GMT.
-->
<rss xmlns:ffAdvert="http://www.firefishsoftware.com/" version="2.0">
  <script/>
  <channel>
    <title>Firefish Software - Latest Vacancies</title>
    <link>https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/</link>
    <description>
      All of the latest vacancies from Firefish Software.
    </description>
    <copyright/>
    <language>en-gb</language>
    <pubDate>Mon, 03 Feb 2020 16:38:12 GMT</pubDate>
    <generator>www.firefishsoftware.com</generator>
    <item>
      <title>
        Interested in joining our Product Development Team?
      </title>
      <description>
        If you enjoy R&D prototyping, come swim with the best &excl;
      </description>
      <link>
        https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/job/interested-in-joining-our-
        product-development-team-20.aspx
      </link>
      <guid>
        https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/job/interested-in-joining-our-
        product-development-team-20.aspx
      </guid>
      <pubDate>Tue, 28 Jan 2020 09:30:10 GMT</pubDate>
      <ffAdvert:ReferenceNumber>20</ffAdvert:ReferenceNumber>
      <ffAdvert:Title>
        Interested in joining our Product Development Team?
      </ffAdvert:Title>
      <ffAdvert:CompanyReferenceNumber>93813</ffAdvert:CompanyReferenceNumber>
      <ffAdvert:JobType>Permanent</ffAdvert:JobType>
      <ffAdvert:Discipline>Product</ffAdvert:Discipline>
      <ffAdvert:Role>Application Developer</ffAdvert:Role>
      <ffAdvert:LocationArea>Glasgow</ffAdvert:LocationArea>
      <ffAdvert:Specialisation/>
      <ffAdvert:SubSpecialisation/>
      <ffAdvert:PostedDate>Tue, 28 Jan 2020 09:30:10 GMT</ffAdvert:PostedDate>
      <ffAdvert:ClosingDate>Tue, 11 Feb 2020 09:30:10 GMT</ffAdvert:ClosingDate>
      <ffAdvert:Remuneration/>
      <ffAdvert:PostedBy>Vicki Moir</ffAdvert:PostedBy>
    </item>
  </channel>
</rss>
```



## 5.1 Standard RSS Data Fields

The data contains the following standard RSS data fields.

| Field Name                     | Field Type | Description  |
|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| <b>title</b>                   | string     | The name of the channel/feed   |
| <b>link</b>                    | string     | The base hyperlink for the feed – in this case <a href="https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/">https://jobs.firefishsoftware.com/</a> |
| <b>description</b>             | string     | A description of the feed  |
| <b>copyright</b>               | string     | A copyright notice for the feed  |
| <b>language</b>                | string     | The ISO 639-1 language identifier and ISO 3166-2 locale identifier separated by a dash. e.g. “en-gb” or “es-pt”                    |
| <b>pubDate</b>                 | dateTime   | The publication date of the feed.  |
| <b>generator</b>               | String     | The source generator of the feed (used if your feed is syndicated)   |
| <b>Item (*see table below)</b> | Array[]    | 1 or more RSS “Items” that in this case provide details of an individual vacancy.  |

For each item within a channel.

| Field Name         | Field Type | Description                         |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>title</b>       | string     | The title of the vacancy            |
| <b>description</b> | string     | A description of the vacancy        |
| <b>link</b>        | string     | A link to the full advert           |
| <b>guid</b>        | string     | A unique identifier for the vacancy |
| <b>pubDate</b>     | string     | The publication date of the vacancy |

## 5.2 RSS Extension Fields

Some RSS Readers support RSS Extensions and developers can use this structure to analyse data that would otherwise remain unstructured within standard RSS.

Firefish provide the following extensions to individual items under the XML namespace – **ffAdvert** (fully qualified as <http://www.firefishsoftware.com/>)

| Field Name                             | Field Type | Description  |
|--|------------|--|
| <b>ffAdvert:ReferenceNumber</b>        | string     | The display reference number of the vacancy  |
| <b>ffAdvert:Title</b>                  | string     | The title of the vacancy   |
| <b>ffAdvert:CompanyReferenceNumber</b> | number     | The company specific reference number of the vacancy (note this is not the same number used for display) |



|  |          |  |
|--|----------|--|
| <b>ffAdvert:JobType</b>                    | string   | The type of job i.e. contract or permanent                           |
| <b>ffAdvert:Discipline *1</b>              | string   | The roles discipline or job family.                                  |
| <b>ffAdvert:Role *1</b>                    | string   | The name of the role   |
| <b>ffAdvert:LocationArea *1</b>            | string   | The primary location region of the role                              |
| <b>ffAdvert:Location *1</b>                | string   | The specific location of the role                                    |
| <b>ffAdvert:Specialisation*1</b>           | string   | The main role specialisation   |
| <b>ffAdvert:SubSpecialisation</b>          | string   | The roles sub specialisation   |
| <b>ffAdvert:PostedDate</b>                 | dateTime | The date the vacancy was posted                                      |
| <b>ffAdvert:ClosingDate</b>                | dateTime | The deadline for applications for the vacancy.                       |
| <b>ffAdvert:Remuneration</b>               | string   | The remuneration for the vacancy.                                    |
| <b>ffAdvert:PostedBy</b>                   | string   | The person who posted the vacancy                                    |
| <b>ffAdvert:RecruiterEmail *2</b>          | string   | The contact email address of the recruiter who posted the vacancy    |
| <b>ffAdvert:RecruiterDirectDial *2</b>     | string   | The direct dial phone number of the recruiter who posted the vacancy |
| <b>ffAdvert:RecruiterProfilePicture *2</b> | string   | A picture of the recruiter who posted the vacancy                    |
| <b>ffAdvert:PaymentMinimum</b>             | string   | The minimum payment entered on the advert                            |
| <b>ffAdvert:PaymentMaximum</b>             | string   | The Maximum Payment entered on the advert                            |
| <b>ffAdvert:PaymentRate</b>                | string   | The rate of pay selected on the advert                               |
| <b>ffAdvert:Currency</b>                   | string   | The currency selected through the system                             |
| <b>ffAdvert:Country</b>                    | string   | The country of the company associated to the advert                  |



|                               |        |   |
|-------------------------------|--------|---|
| <b>ffAdvert:Postcode *2</b>   | string | The postcode of the company associated to the advert  |
| <b>ffAdvert:StreetName *2</b> | string | The combined street name (address line 1, 2, and 3) of the company associated to the advert |

NOTE:

\*1 These fields are configurable by the Super User and can be found under Settings > System Configuration > Preferences within Firefish.

\*2 Super Users also have the ability to enable these additional fields to show in the RSS feed. These settings can be found under Website > Jobs Plugin within Firefish.

## 6 For Further information

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