

eeNewsFeed, massive semiconductor news aggregation

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In a previous post I mentioned Semi Trends as a nice semiconductor news site to catch up on semiconductor industry happenings. It was simple, easy to navigate, and updated more or less on a regular basis. Well, compared to SemiTrends, eeNewsFeed.com feels like a two hundred pound gorilla. Don't expect any personal commentary on this site. The first impression will tell you immediately that this site is all about industry news aggregation, with the home page brimming with article snippets to the point where it feels utterly cluttered and unreadable. But this site's strength is not the home page but what lies beyond it. The main navigation menu is broken down into categories that seasoned designers will easily recognize. One thing that visitors might find handy is the company profiles section, which allows alphabetical and industry based searches for companies of interest. The search returns a brief description of the company as well as any feeds that are directly linked to this company. Alternatively, one can search general news for a subject of interest, and the search will return articles that contain the query as well as the feed from which the article came. As implied by the name, feeds and feed management are what eeNewsFeed is all about. As show on the right, once you sign up for a free account, you can generate watchlists which can be organized as individual folders. These folders can then be assigned feeds of interest, which can either be company related feeds, feeds pertaining to specific articles, or feeds based on search criteria. For example, many companies have feeds for press releases or new product announcements which you can add to your watchlist. eeNewsFeed also features aggregate feeds that combine several feeds for a company into one. These feeds are company specific and will only contain items directly related to that company. On the other hand, feeds from articles that matched your query are generally feeds from a specific new source, such as EETimes.com. Obviously these feeds will contain a variety of articles on topics that may or may not be of interest to the reader. Feeds can also be created based entirely on your search query. Thus any article that matches your query in the future will show up in this feed. Each folder, or watchlist, can be configured individually to send you email alerts either on a regular schedule or when new articles become available. While all of the functionality is relatively simple to setup and quite intuitive, whether it is actually better than feed management that can be found either through browser extensions or other online feeds management sites is questionable. Still, the strength of this site lies in the fact that it is entirely focused on electronics engineering, and thus search results and the related feeds are likely to be far more relevant than what one would obtain by using one of the generic search engines. One area that the site could surely improve on is search speed. While the results are delivered in a reasonable time, the response is significantly slower than regular search engines. Overall though, if you need your daily dose of semiconductor news, and you want to customize it to fit your criteria, eeNewsFeed is hard to beat.