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RECOMMENDED APPLICATION: INSTAPAPER

by J. Eddie Smith, IV

Lack of information is not a 21st-century problem. Figuring out how to digest it all very much is. Throughout our day, we get pelted with a steady rain of links from newsletters like this one, e-mails, news sites, social networks, and a number of other 24/7 e-torrents.

Reading and staying informed is critical to the success of a 21st-century actuary, but if you're like me, you rarely have time to read Web articles when you encounter them. Traditional browser bookmarking helps a little, but that can quickly turn into a mess.

Fortunately, there's a tool that lets you easily store articles for later reading and allows you to archive them when you're done. It's called Instapaper, a free Web-based service that corrals any Web page you send to it. Instapaper has other benefits as well:

- It removes ads and other distractions from pages making them easier to read.

- You can access it on any computer with an Internet connection by going to Instapaper.com.

- There are excellent Instapaper mobile apps for the iPhone and iPad (free and paid) for reading on the go. Note: the free version has a limit of 10 articles, and is ad-supported. The paid version ($4.99) removes these restrictions, and has additional functionality).

Getting articles into Instapaper is easy, too. You can find a full list of

QUICK LINKS

tools at the __Instapaper Extras page__ with instructions on how to use each. Here are a few:

- The Instapaper browser bookmarklet instantly saves the current page when pressed.

- You can e-mail links to a unique e-mail address associated with your Instapaper account.

- Many iPhone apps now offer a "send to Instapaper" option.

If you often find yourself losing track of Web-based articles because you don't have time to read them right away, I highly recommend giving Instapaper a try.

If you're using mobile apps in your actuarial workflow, please contact me at j.eddie.smith.iv@gmail.com. I'm currently working with other Technology Section council members and the SOA to identify apps that would be useful to actuaries on the job. Thanks!

Actuaries
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