

FAVICON

What is it: Short for “Favorites Icon” It is a small custom icon that displays in the Browser’s address bar next to the website’s address and in the Favorites/Bookmark list. You create a Windows Icon (.ico) file called favicon.ico and upload it to the main directory of your website.

Create it:

The image must be 16 x 16 pixels in size.

Design the icon in Photoshop by creating an image 64 x 64. This makes it easier to work with. Then resize the image down to 16 x 16 when you’re done. Be sure to choose "Bicubic Sharper" in the image resize dialog box. This is the best setting for making sure that an image doesn't blur as it's being resized.

Export it:

To export the file in Photoshop as a .ico file you’ll need a plug-in. You can get it free from Telegraphics <http://www.telegraphics.com.au/sw/> The plug-in will show up after you restart Photoshop.

Upload it:

Connect to your server and upload your Favicon.ico file to your website. You must place it into the same directory as your home (index) page, and leave it loose, making sure not to put it in an images directory or other folder.

Code it into your pages:

Some browsers will look for a direct link in the HTML source code to your site's favicon.ico file. Add this code in your webpage after the head tag `<link rel="Shortcut Icon" href="/favicon.ico">`

Test it:

If your new Favicon does not show up right away, try refreshing the page — or put a '?' at the end of the url, which will trick a browser into thinking the page is new and not cached.

Browser Issues: Microsoft IE 6 for Windows will not display the favicon until the URL has been added to the favorites, and Safari for the MAC will not display an updated favicon until the browser cache has been cleared. But choosing ‘empty cache’ from the menu won’t help because Safari stores favicons in a separate cache. You must empty the icon cache yourself. Look for it in User>Library>Safari>Icons.