

Favicons

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favicon>

A **favicon** (short for **favorites icon**), also known as a **shortcut icon**, **website icon**, **URL icon**, or **bookmark icon** is a 16×16 pixel square [icon](#) associated with a particular [website](#) or [webpage](#).^[1] A web designer can create such an icon and install it into a website (or webpage) by several means, and most graphical [web browsers](#) will then make use of it. Browsers that provide favicon support typically display a page's favicon in the browser's [address bar](#) and next to the page's name in a list of [bookmarks](#). Browsers that support a [tabbed document interface](#) typically show a page's favicon next to the page's title on the tab. Some programs allow the user to select an icon of their own from the hard drive and associate it with a website.

The following format is cross-browser compatible and is supported by Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and Opera.^[3]

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="http://www.example.com/myicon.ico" />
```

Or, if the type is specified (though is not supported by Internet Explorer):

```
<link rel="icon" type="image/vnd.microsoft.icon"
href="http://example.com/image.ico" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="http://example.com/image.png" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/gif" href="http://example.com/image.gif" />
```

Most web browsers do not require any HTML to retrieve a favicon that conforms to the *de facto* file name and type (`favicon.ico`) located in the web site's root. If no favicon link is detected upon HTML page load completion and no previous site visits are recorded in the browser's history, a `favicon.ico` is requested automatically.^[8]

Additionally, such icon files can be either 16×16 or 32×32 [pixels](#) in size, and either 8-bit, 24-bit, or 32-bit in [color depth](#)^[9] (note that GIF files have a limited, 256 color palette entries).

Most web browsers have since added support for the new W3C HTML recommendation.^[10]

Notes from the book we had last year for use with XHTML

```
<link rel="icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon" />
```

For IE use

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon" />
```