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How to add a browser tab icon (favicon) for a website?

I've been working on a website and I'd like to add a small icon to the browser tab.

How can I do this in HTML and where in the code would I need to place it (e.g. header)? I have a `.png` logo file that I'd like to
convert to an icon.

Related: HTML set image on browser tab.

html   icons   favicon

edited May 23 at 11:54   asked Feb 3 '11 at 15:55

Community ♦   knookie
1   1   **2,081**   3   21   23

check the link for more info. You are on the right track. – reggie Feb 3 '11 at 16:01

Upload the image (favicon.ico) with FTP (read our FTP tutorial) to the root section of your web site. The root
section is the main file area, where you would store the index.html (index.asp, index.php, etc) file for your
main page. davesite.com would be the root davesite.com/webstation would not be the root
davesite.com/webstation/html isn't root either This file, placed properly, will load as the default for your entire
domain. – knookie Feb 3 '11 at 16:58

hit the enter key prematurely there - anyway thanks for the reply. Was just going to say the first part(which i
pasted above) in the link you gave didn't seem to work? However the second part worked perfectly - thank
you – knookie Feb 3 '11 at 17:00

2   Here's the w3.org recommendations with a warning that IE before IE11 doesn't support .png as fav icons. –
     Denys Séguret Dec 29 '13 at 9:29

9 Answers

There are actually two ways to add a favicon to a website.

`<link rel="icon">`

Simply add the following code to the `<head>` element:

```
<link rel="icon" href="http://example.com/favicon.png">
```

PNG favicons are supported by most browsers, except IE <= 10. For backwards compatibility, you can use ICO favicons.

Note that you **don't have to precede** `icon` **in** `rel` **attribute with** `shortcut` anymore. From MDN Link types:

> The `shortcut` link type is often seen before `icon`, but this link type is non-conforming, ignored and **web authors must not use it anymore**.

`favicon.ico` in the root directory

From another SO answer (by @mercator):

> All modern browsers (tested with Chrome 4, Firefox 3.5, IE8, Opera 10 and Safari 4) will always request a `favicon.ico` unless you've specified a shortcut icon via `<link>`.

So all you have to do is to make the `/favicon.ico` request to your website return your favicon. This option unfortunately doesn't allow you to use a PNG icon.

See also:

- favicon.png vs favicon.ico - why should I use PNG instead of ICO?

edited Oct 3 at 2:34	answered Feb 25 '16 at 11:15
Dave Jarvis	Michał Perłakowski
19k 29 119 237	**25.8k** 11 70 98

1. Use a tool to convert your png to a ico file. You can search "favicon generator" and you can find many online tools.

2. Place the ico address in the `head` with a `link` -tag:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="http://sstatic.net/stackoverflow/img/favicon.ico">
```

edited Dec 7 '15 at 14:14   answered Feb 3 '11 at 16:01

Prusprus   **Gustavo Costa De**
3,382   7   26   41   **Oliveira**
                                             6,364   2   15   20

2   thanks! I followed the steps properly and it's working really good on IE and Firefox, but for some reason it's
     not working on Google Chrome, do I have to delete the cache? or what do I have to do from there? –
     PatrickGamboa Jan 17 '13 at 17:17

1   I like using the Photoshop Plugin : telegraphics.com.au/svn/icoformat/trunk/dist/README.html –
     Ben_Coding Jun 28 '13 at 16:29

1   The "shortcut" part can be removed in many circumstances: stackoverflow.com/questions/13211206/…,
     mathiasbynens.be/notes/rel-shortcut-icon – bbc Apr 4 '15 at 9:48

The best one that I found is http://www.favicomatic.com/ I say best because it gave me the
crispest favicon, and required no editing after their transformation. It will generate favicons at
16x16 and 32x32 and to quote them "Every damn size, sir!" Also, their site looks cool and is
easy to use.

They also generate the html that you need to use for the files they generate.

```html
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="57x57" href="apple-touch-icon-
57x57.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="114x114" href="apple-touch-icon-
114x114.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="72x72" href="apple-touch-icon-
72x72.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="144x144" href="apple-touch-icon-
144x144.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="60x60" href="apple-touch-icon-
60x60.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="120x120" href="apple-touch-icon-
120x120.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="76x76" href="apple-touch-icon-
76x76.png" />
<link rel="apple-touch-icon-precomposed" sizes="152x152" href="apple-touch-icon-
152x152.png" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="favicon-196x196.png" sizes="196x196" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="favicon-96x96.png" sizes="96x96" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="favicon-32x32.png" sizes="32x32" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="favicon-16x16.png" sizes="16x16" />
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="favicon-128.png" sizes="128x128" />
<meta name="application-name" content=" "/>
<meta name="msapplication-TileColor" content="#FFFFFF" />
<meta name="msapplication-TileImage" content="mstile-144x144.png" />
<meta name="msapplication-square70x70logo" content="mstile-70x70.png" />
<meta name="msapplication-square150x150logo" content="mstile-150x150.png" />
<meta name="msapplication-wide310x150logo" content="mstile-310x150.png" />
<meta name="msapplication-square310x310logo" content="mstile-310x310.png" />
```

I looked at the first 20 or so google results, and this was by far the best.

edited Apr 27 '15 at 20:04   answered Jan 19 '15 at 17:14

                                             Jared Menard
                                             1,042   6   15

I've successfully done this for my website.

Only exception is, the SeaMonkey browser requires HTML code inserted in your `<head>` ;
whereas, the other browsers will still display the favicon.ico without any HTML insertion. Also,
any browser other than IE may use other types of images, not just the .ico format. I hope this
helps.

edited Feb 25 '16 at 23:47   answered Sep 8 '12 at 12:38

Emmet Arries   Barbie laptop gamer
344   7   28   109   1   2

There are a number of different icons and even splash screens that you can set for various
devices. This answer goes through how to support them all.

Here are some snippets I have used with relevant links to where I gathered the information.
See my blog for more information and more information about the ASP.NET MVC Boilerplate
project template with all this built in right out of the box (Including sample image files).

Add the following mark-up to your html head. The commented out sections are entirely
optional. While the uncommented sections are recommended to cover all icon usages. Don't
be scared, most if it is comments to help you.

```html
<!-- Icons & Platform Specific Settings - Favicon generator used to generate the
icons below http://realfavicongenerator.net/ -->
<!-- shortcut icon - It is best to add this icon to the root of your site and only
use this link element if you move it somewhere else. This file contains the
following sizes 16x16, 32x32 and 48x48. -->
<!--<link rel="shortcut icon" href="favicon.ico">-->
<!-- favicon-96x96.png - For Google TV. -->
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="/content/images/favicon-96x96.png"
sizes="96x96">
<!-- favicon-16x16.png - The classic favicon, displayed in the tabs. -->
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="/content/images/favicon-16x16.png"
sizes="16x16">
<!-- favicon-32x32.png - For Safari on Mac OS. -->
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="/content/images/favicon-32x32.png"
sizes="32x32">

<!-- Android/Chrome -->
<!-- manifest-json - The location of the browser configuration file. It contains
locations of icon files, name of the application and default device screen
orientation. Note that the name field is mandatory.
    https://developer.chrome.com/multidevice/android/installtohomescreen. -->
<link rel="manifest" href="/content/icons/manifest.json">
<!-- theme-color - The colour of the toolbar in Chrome M39+
    http://updates.html5rocks.com/2014/11/Support-for-theme-color-in-Chrome-39-for-
Android -->
<meta name="theme-color" content="#1E1E1E">
<!-- favicon-192x192.png - For Android Chrome M36 to M38 this HTML is used. M39+
uses the manifest.json file. -->
```

```html
<link rel="icon" type="image/png" href="/content/icons/favicon-192x192.png"
sizes="192x192">
<!-- mobile-web-app-capable - Run Android/Chrome version M31 to M38 in standalone
mode, hiding the browser chrome. -->
<!-- <meta name="mobile-web-app-capable" content="yes"> -->

<!-- Apple Icons - You can move all these icons to the root of the site and remove
these link elements, if you don't mind the clutter.

https://developer.apple.com/library/safari/documentation/AppleApplications/Reference
SW1 -->
<!-- apple-mobile-web-app-title - The name of the application if pinned to the IOS
start screen. -->
<!--<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-title" content="">-->
<!-- apple-mobile-web-app-capable - Hide the browsers user interface on IOS, when
the app is run in 'standalone' mode. Any links to other pages that are clicked
whilst your app is in standalone mode will launch the full Safari browser. -->
<!--<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-capable" content="yes">-->
<!-- apple-mobile-web-app-status-bar-style - default/black/black-translucent Styles
the IOS status bar. Using black-translucent makes it transparent and overlays it on
top of your site, so make sure you have enough margin. -->
<!--<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-status-bar-style" content="black">-->
<!-- apple-touch-icon-57x57.png - Android Stock Browser and non-Retina iPhone and
iPod Touch -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="57x57" href="/content/images/apple-touch-icon-
57x57.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-114x114.png - iPhone (with 2× display) iOS = 6 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="114x114" href="/content/images/apple-touch-
icon-114x114.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-72x72.png - iPad mini and the first- and second-generation
iPad (1× display) on iOS = 6 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="72x72" href="/content/images/apple-touch-icon-
72x72.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-144x144.png - iPad (with 2× display) iOS = 6 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="144x144" href="/content/images/apple-touch-
icon-144x144.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-60x60.png - Same as apple-touch-icon-57x57.png, for non-
retina iPhone with iOS7. -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="60x60" href="/content/images/apple-touch-icon-
60x60.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-120x120.png - iPhone (with 2× and 3 display) iOS = 7 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="120x120" href="/content/images/apple-touch-
icon-120x120.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-76x76.png - iPad mini and the first- and second-generation
iPad (1× display) on iOS = 7 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="76x76" href="/content/images/apple-touch-icon-
76x76.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-152x152.png - iPad 3+ (with 2× display) iOS = 7 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="152x152" href="/content/images/apple-touch-
icon-152x152.png">
<!-- apple-touch-icon-180x180.png - iPad and iPad mini (with 2× display) iOS = 8 --
>
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" sizes="180x180" href="/content/images/apple-touch-
icon-180x180.png">

<!-- Apple Startup Images - These are shown when the page is loading if the site is
pinned https://gist.github.com/tfausak/2222823 -->
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-1536x2008.png - iOS 6 & 7 iPad (retina, portrait) --
>
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
     href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-1536x2008.png"
     media="(device-width: 768px) and (device-height: 1024px) and (orientation:
portrait) and (-webkit-device-pixel-ratio: 2)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-1496x2048.png - iOS 6 & 7 iPad (retina, landscape) -
->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
```

```
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-1496x2048.png"
        media="(device-width: 768px) and (device-height: 1024px) and (orientation:
landscape) and (-webkit-device-pixel-ratio: 2)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-768x1004.png - iOS 6 iPad (portrait) -->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-768x1004.png"
        media="(device-width: 768px) and (device-height: 1024px) and (orientation:
portrait) and (-webkit-device-pixel-ratio: 1)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-748x1024.png - iOS 6 iPad (landscape) -->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-748x1024.png"
        media="(device-width: 768px) and (device-height: 1024px) and (orientation:
landscape) and (-webkit-device-pixel-ratio: 1)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-640x1096.png - iOS 6 & 7 iPhone 5 -->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-640x1096.png"
        media="(device-width: 320px) and (device-height: 568px) and (-webkit-device-
pixel-ratio: 2)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-640x920.png - iOS 6 & 7 iPhone (retina) -->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-640x920.png"
        media="(device-width: 320px) and (device-height: 480px) and (-webkit-device-
pixel-ratio: 2)">
<!-- apple-touch-startup-image-320x460.png - iOS 6 iPhone -->
<link rel="apple-touch-startup-image"
        href="/content/images/apple-touch-startup-image-320x460.png"
        media="(device-width: 320px) and (device-height: 480px) and (-webkit-device-
pixel-ratio: 1)">

<!-- Windows 8 Icons - If you add an RSS feed, revisit this page and regenerate the
browserconfig.xml file. You will then have a cool live tile!
    browserconfig.xml - Windows 8.1 - Has been added to the root of the site. This
points to the tile images and tile background colour. It contains the following
images:
    mstile-70x70.png - For Windows 8.1 / IE11.
    mstile-144x144.png - For Windows 8 / IE10.
    mstile-150x150.png - For Windows 8.1 / IE11.
    mstile-310x310.png - For Windows 8.1 / IE11.
    mstile-310x150.png - For Windows 8.1 / IE11.
    See http://www.buildmypinnedsite.com/en and http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-
gb/library/ie/dn255024%28v=vs.85%29.aspx. -->
<!-- application-name - Windows 8+ - The name of the application if pinned to the
start screen. -->
<!--<meta name="application-name" content="">-->
<!-- msapplication-TileColor - Windows 8 - The tile colour which shows around your
tile image (msapplication-TileImage). -->
<meta name="msapplication-TileColor" content="#5cb95c">
<!-- msapplication-TileImage - Windows 8 - The tile image. -->
<meta name="msapplication-TileImage" content="/content/images/mstile-144x144.png">
```

My browserconfig.xml file. Full explanation above.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<browserconfig>
  <msapplication>
    <tile>
      <square70x70logo src="/Content/Images/mstile-70x70.png"/>
      <square150x150logo src="/Content/Images/mstile-150x150.png"/>
      <square310x310logo src="/Content/Images/mstile-310x310.png"/>
      <wide310x150logo src="/Content/Images/mstile-310x150.png"/>
      <TileColor>#5cb95c</TileColor>
    </tile>
  </msapplication>
</browserconfig>
```

My manifest.json file. Full explanation above.

```json
{
    "name": "ASP.NET MVC Boilerplate (Required! Update This)",
    "icons": [
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-36x36.png",
            "sizes": "36x36",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "0.75"
        },
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-48x48.png",
            "sizes": "48x48",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "1.0"
        },
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-72x72.png",
            "sizes": "72x72",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "1.5"
        },
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-96x96.png",
            "sizes": "96x96",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "2.0"
        },
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-144x144.png",
            "sizes": "144x144",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "3.0"
        },
        {
            "src": "\/Content\/icons\/android-chrome-192x192.png",
            "sizes": "192x192",
            "type": "image\/png",
            "density": "4.0"
        }
    ]
}
```

A list of the files in the project (Note that the names of these files are important if you decide to put some of them at the root of your project to avoid using the above meta tags):

```
favicon.ico
browserconfig.xml
Content/Images/
    android-chrome-144x144.png
    android-chrome-192x192.png
    android-chrome-36x36.png
    android-chrome-48x48.png
    android-chrome-72x72.png
    android-chrome-96x96.png
    apple-touch-icon.png
    apple-touch-icon-57x57.png
    apple-touch-icon-60x60.png
    apple-touch-icon-72x72.png
    apple-touch-icon-76x76.png
    apple-touch-icon-114x114.png
    apple-touch-icon-120x120.png
    apple-touch-icon-144x144.png
    apple-touch-icon-152x152.png
```

```
apple-touch-icon-180x180.png
apple-touch-icon-precomposed.png (180x180)
favicon-16x16.png
favicon-32x32.png
favicon-96x96.png
favicon-192x192.png
manifest.json
mstile-70x70.png
mstile-144x144.png
mstile-150x150.png
mstile-310x150.png
mstile-310x310.png
apple-touch-startup-image-1536x2008.png
apple-touch-startup-image-1496x2048.png
apple-touch-startup-image-768x1004.png
apple-touch-startup-image-748x1024.png
apple-touch-startup-image-640x1096.png
apple-touch-startup-image-640x920.png
apple-touch-startup-image-320x460.png
```

Total Overhead

If you take out the comments that's 3KB of extra HTML, if you don't support splash screens that's 1.5KB. If you are using GZIP compression on your HTML content, which everyone should be doing these days, that leaves you with about 634 Bytes of overhead per request to support all platforms or 446 Bytes without splash screens. I personally think its worth it to support IOS, Android and Windows devices but its your choice, I'm just giving the options!

Side Note About The Current Web Icon/Splash Screen/Settings Situation

This situation with vendor specific icons, splash screens and special tags to control the web browser or pinned icons is ridiculous. In a perfect world we would all use a favicon.svg file which could look good at any size and could be placed at the root of the page. Only FireFox supports this at the time of writing (See CanIUse.com).

However, icons are not the only setting these days, there are several other vendor specific settings (shown above) but a favicon.svg file would cover most use cases.

Update

Updated to include the new Android/Chrome version M39+ favicon/theming options. Interestingly, they have gone with a similar approach to Microsoft but are using a JSON file instead of XML.

edited Mar 16 '15 at 16:36   answered Feb 17 '15 at 10:34

Muhammad Rehan Saeed

7,952   6   77   147

There are a lot of complicated solutions above. For me? I used GIMP to save a copy of the original PNG file after changing the image size to 32 x 32 pixels.
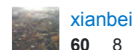
Just be sure to save it as a *.ico file and use the

```html
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="http://sstatic.net/stackoverflow/img/favicon.ico">
```

listed above

answered Jul 21 '15 at 19:12

xianbei
60   8

For Chrome to display the page icon (favicon), you need to check your website from a hosting server or you can use local host while developing and testing your website on your PC.

answered Apr 20 '13 at 0:03

Miloud Eloumri
159   1   2   11

I'd recommend you to try http://faviconer.com to convert your .PNG or .GIF to a .ICO file.
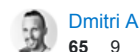
You can create both `16x16` and `32x32` (for new retina display) in one .ICO file.

No issues with IE and Firefox

edited Feb 26 '16 at 0:46   answered Dec 13 '13 at 4:42

Alfred Huang   Dmitri A
6,292   13   54   112   **65**   9
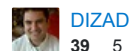
```
<link rel="shortcut icon"
href="http://someWebsiteLocation/images/imageName.ico">
```

If i may add more clarity for those of you that are still confused. The .ico file tends to provide more transparency than the .png, which is why i recommend converting your image here as mentioned above: http://www.favicomatic.com/done also, inside the href is just the location of the image, it can be any server location, remember to add the http:// in front, otherwise it won't work.

answered Aug 14 at 22:02

DIZAD
39   5

protected by Community ♦ Jul 20 '13 at 20:24

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 reputation on this site (the association bonus does not count).

Would you like to answer one of these unanswered questions instead?