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# How to create a favicon.ico with GIMP

## Your problem

You want to create an icon for your website (which is displayed in the browser's location bar). You already know, that you have to place a file called `favicon.ico` in your web server's document root directory. But how can you create one?

## The solution

You need an image file that GIMP can open (PNG, GIF, etc.). And you need the command line tool `ppmtowinicon` from the `netpbm-tools` (on SuSE you have to have installed the package `netpbm`). Now perform the following actions:

- Open your image with GIMP.
- If your image is not a square then resize the canvas with GIMP.
- Scale the image to 16x16 pixel (Image, Scale image).
- Choose *File, save as..* and save as `favicon.pnm` or `favicon.ppm` with *raw* encoding.
- Close GIMP
- Convert `favicon.pnm` resp. `favicon.ppm` using the command line utility `ppmtowinicon`:

```
> ppmtowinicon -output favicon.ico favicon.pnm
```

resp.

```
> ppmtowinicon -output favicon.ico favicon.ppm
```

That's all. Now copy your `favicon.ico` to the document root of Apache, for example to `/srv/www/htdocs/favicon.ico`, if you are using SuSE Linux `>= 8.1`.

Keywords: [favicon](#) [ico](#) [windows](#) [icon](#) [homepage](#) [netpbm](#) [ppmtowinicon](#) [winicon](#) Author: **[Mathias Kettner](#)**

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