

## ARTICLE SUMMARY

How to add a Favorites icon to my site.

---

## SYMPTOMS

How to add a favorites icon to my site.

---

## RESOLUTION

### Step 1 - creating the image

1. Using your favorite graphics software, create a 16x16 pixel image depicting your icon
  - Most web sites use a smaller version of their logo or similar
2. The main consideration is to keep your icon simple and clear at such a small size
3. It is also often important to use as few colors as possible
  - Most browser interfaces (the top tool bar containing the browser buttons) can display 256 colors, but it's best to use the Windows 16 colors
4. Save this image as favicon.bmp
  - It is important to save as .bmp format as some icon editors won't open .gif format graphics

### Step 2 - creating the icon

1. **Open up your icon editor** and **browse** for your saved .bmp
  - We recommend using IconForge from CursorArts ( [http://www.cursorarts.com/ca\\_if.html](http://www.cursorarts.com/ca_if.html) )
2. When you open your .bmp to create an icon from it, make sure that you are using no more than 256 colors (IconForge gives you the option to choose how many colors) and **preferably the Windows 16 colors**
3. If necessary, **edit the image**
4. **Save the image** as an **icon**

- Make sure it is called **favicon.ico** and now has the **file extension .ico**

## Step 3 - including the icon in your web pages

### 1. **Publish the icon** into the **root directory** of your web site

- This is where Internet Explorer will automatically look for it when a visitor bookmarks your site

### 2. **Help the browser find your icon** by including in the html, somewhere between the and tags, the following:

- Preferably nearer the closing tag, because more important information, such as your [meta tags](#), should come earlier

### 3. **Save** your web page and **publish** it

- If you want to **create different icons for different pages**, simply call them something other than favicon.ico, but still retaining the **.ico suffix**
- Link to them in your pages in the same way as above, just **changing the href location** for the different icons

## Step 4 - testing your icon

### 1. **Open Internet Explorer** (version 5 or above) and **bookmark your page**

### 2. Determine if your i **con stands out from other bookmarked web sites** with favorites icons

### 3. If necessary, **re-edit** your icon and **publish** it again

- However, you will need to **remove the bookmark** (Favorites > Organize Favorites, select your bookmark and click "Delete") and **delete your temporary Internet files and page history** (Tools > Internet Options, tab "General" and click "Delete Files" under "Temporary Internet Files" and click "Clear History" under "History").

- This may take a few minutes if you haven't done this recently

4. **Close your browser** and re-open it , **bookmark your page again** to check the new version of your icon
5. **Repeat** until you're satisfied your icon is suitably eye-catching

How Helpful was this Article?

Not Helpful  Slightly Helpful  Somewhat Helpful  Very Helpful  Indispensable

**Category:** Tips & Tricks

**Keywords:** favorites Favorites favorite Favorite icon Icon

**Entry Date:** Fri Apr 02 2004 15:52:37

## User Contributed Comments ( [add comment](#) )

**user at domain dot com**

Tue Jan 04 2005 07:10:02

In your example, you are using <http://www.your-web-site-name.com/favicon.ico> to give an example of link to icon.

And guess what's happened ? [www.your-web-site-name.com](http://www.your-web-site-name.com) is a real domain name so you are displaying for this page the red logo of this company ...

**user at domain dot com**

Sun Jan 30 2005 10:10:13

Is the critical bit of information missing from this page?

"Help the browser find your icon by including in the html, somewhere between the and tags, the following:"

Including WHAT in the HTML?

**brian at privetnet dot com**

Fri Mar 11 2005 19:10:18

I believe the missing part is:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="Favicon file URL">
```

**bh at insecurity dot org**

Thu Mar 24 2005 11:03:29

The following is what I use:

```
<link rel="shortcut icon" href="/favicon.ico" type="image/x-icon">  
<SCRIPT language="JavaScript">  
    da_image = new Image();  
    da_image.src="/favicon.ico";  
</SCRIPT>
```

Cheers!

-Sx-

Cerberus Helpdesk is a trademark of **WebGroup Media, LLC.**(TM)