**QL WEBSITE (AND PROUD OF IT)**                                    **Dilwyn Jones**
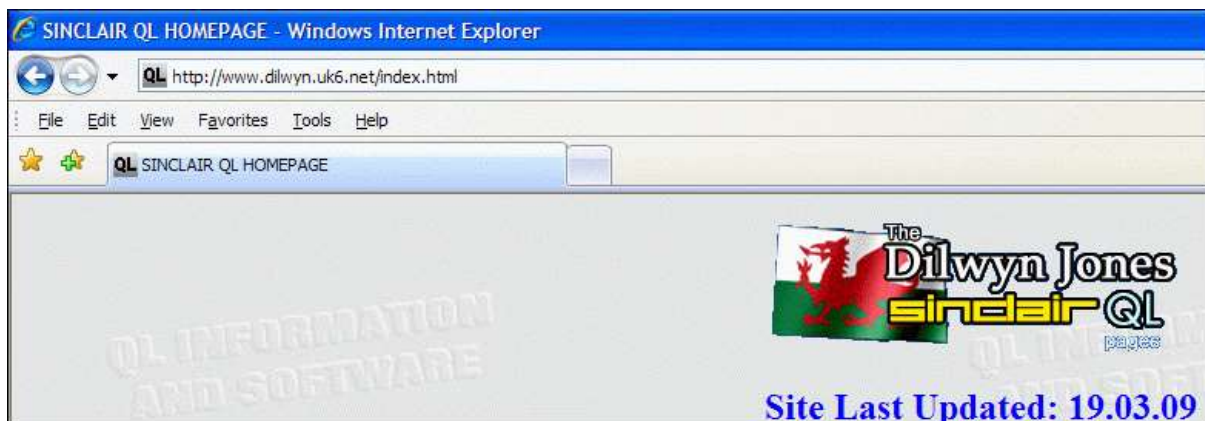
What better for a QL-related website than to say to the world, "I'm a QL site and proud of it".

You may have noticed that some sites like Marcel Kilgus's site display a little icon in the address bar of the browser when you visit the page. It can also be displayed in Favourites ists and on the tabs in recent browsers which allow tabbed browsing. As an example, Marcel's site displays his QPC2 logo (a little QL monitor screen display with QPC II displayed. It can also appear next to the title of a tab in the browser and in the Favourites (bookmarks) list in some browsers.



*Marcel's home page, showing the QPC II icon.*

For my site, I designed this little black and silver "QL" logo:



*My home page, with the "QL" icon.*

The system is usually referred to as just "favicon.ico", the filename normally given to the little icon.

My awareness of all this started during an email conversation with Tony Firshman (thanks Tony). A quick spell reading up about it via the internet search engines explained how to do this, and I thought it'd be nice to write it all up so that other QL webmasters can proclaim that their QL website is "QL" too.

The first thing you need is a small icon, in Windows .ico format. This should be a minimum of 16x16 pixels, up to a maximum of 32x32 pixels. This is placed in the root directory of your website (you can actually place it anywhere as long as you link to it appropriately). Call it favicon.ico. There are a number of free Windoze icon editors and utilities out there – I made mine using Windows Paint to create a 16x16 picture, then copied it to Irfan View to convert it to a .ico icon file. Some browsers will let you use a 16x16 .gif or .png file too, although the system was originally intended for use with Windows icon and support varies depending on the version of the browser. Don't expect Lynx to display the icon, or very early Internet Explorers or early Netscapes to work properly. Tony Firshman suggested a program called Fx Icon 32: http://www.jhepple.com/iconmkr.htm



*The favicon.ico icon*

Then, you need to add one link tag to the header part of the HTML page, usually the index.html (homepage) of your website:

<LINK REL="shortcut icon" HREF="http://dilwyn.me.uk/favicon.ico"
   TYPE="image/x-icon">

The words LINK, REL, HREF and TYPE can be in lower case if you wish.

For some reason, we had problems trying to use relative URLs… we struggled to get it to work with HREF="/favicon.ico" or HREF="favicon.ico" even though it was in the same directory.

The other issue we had was with the browsing cache. If I had already visited the site, it didn't always pick up the new icon. The solution was simple: just clear the browsing history in your browser, e.g. in Internet Exploder go to Tools menu, Internet Options, then the General tab and the Browsing History section to clear out the history. On earlier browsers such as Internet Explorer 5 and 6 the icon is only used if the page has been added to the Favourites bookmark lists.

Modern browsers will usually find the file called favicon.ico in the root directory of a website and display it for the site pages without necessarily needing the above line of html in the header of your pages, although the link is particularly useful if different pages need different icons.

So there it is – a simple little addition to a QL website that shouts out QL to the world!

I've put the icon and this article on my website so that anyone can use the QL icon for their website (as long as it's a QL-related website of course!). Just go to my HTML Utilities page at www.dilwyn.uk6.net/htmlutil/index.html and download the favicon.zip which includes the icon itself which you can use as you see fit!