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Information technology — Icon symbols and functions for World Wide Web browser toolbars

Technologies de l'information — Symboles et fonctions d'icônes pour les barres d'outils des «World Wide Web browsers»

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 18036 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 35, *User interfaces*.

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Introduction

Web browser toolbar icons enable users to invoke functions that act upon pre-selected or default objects. Functions initiated by these icons may also be available via text commands on menus. Web browser toolbar icons provide direct access to functions by graphically representing those text commands.

The icon functions and graphics included in ISO/IEC 18036 have been selected on the basis of their common use across contemporary software platforms and applications.

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Information technology — Icon symbols and functions for World Wide Web browser toolbars

1 Scope

ISO/IEC 18036 applies to icons that are shown on a computer screen, that users can manipulate and interact with, and that represent data or computer system functions. ISO/IEC 18036 describes user interaction with and the appearance of World Wide Web toolbar icons on the screen. Other forms of icons are covered in ISO/IEC 11581 (all parts).

This International Standard defines a consistent set of icons and related functions that are presented by World Wide Web browser applications on a computer screen and that users interact with to control such applications. These toolbar icons typically represent actions by association with objects in the real world and conventional controls on hardware, and that prompt the user to recall the intended actions.

This International Standard provides a consistent set of controls for such functions as: Back, Forward, Refresh, Home, Search, Print and Stop.

2 Conformance

A World Wide Web browser conforms to ISO/IEC 18036 if the applicable browser toolbar icons available to the user in the application conform to subclause 5.1 of this International Standard and Clause 5 and subclause 6.1 of ISO/IEC 11581-1:2000.

An application is not required to implement all of the actions in ISO/IEC 18036 to be conformant. However, if it implements an action as specified in this International Standard, the relevant icon and its meaning should be conformant as specified here. An application may choose to implement additional icons and remain conformant, providing that they are for actions not addressed in this International Standard and that those icons do not conflict with the icons specified in this International Standard.

3 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 11581-1:2000, *Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions — Part 1: Icons — General*

ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000, *Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions — Part 2: Object icons*

ISO/IEC 11581-6:1999, *Information technology — User system interfaces and symbols — Icon symbols and functions — Part 6: Action icons*

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4 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

4.1
application
collection of functions with which a user can perform a task

4.2
icon
graphic displayed on the screen of a visual display that represents a function of the computer system

4.3
page
information displayed at the same time on the screen of a display device

4.4
toolbar
frame or special area that contains a set of controls, each control typically represented in graphic form

4.5
World Wide Web browser
client program that initiates requests to a World Wide Web server and displays the information that the server returns

5 Requirements and recommendations

5.1 Requirements

5.1.1 Graphic and function

If a World Wide Web browser uses a toolbar icon that has the appearance of the icon graphic specified in Clause 6 of this International Standard, within the specific variation given, and within the global variations specified in ISO/IEC 11581-1, it shall serve the primary function specified in Clause 6 of this International Standard.

5.1.2 Arrangement

Related World Wide Web browser toolbar icons shall be grouped together. The elements of these groups shall be arranged together in rows, columns or boxes.

5.1.3 Selection

Selection of an action icon shall be made by indicating with the pointer and activating the associated input device (e.g. clicking a mouse button).

5.1.4 Visual feedback

There shall be a clear visual discriminability between World Wide Web browser toolbar icons that represent available and unavailable functions.

There shall be visual feedback when a function has been invoked via a World Wide Web browser toolbar icon. There shall also be visual feedback that indicates the status of the action.

The visual feedback to the user from activated action icons shall be consistent and logical.

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5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Function and graphic

If a World Wide Web browser uses a toolbar icon that serves the primary function specified in Clause 6 of this International Standard, it is highly recommended that it have the appearance of the action icon graphic specified in Clause 6, within the specific variations given and within the global variations specified in 6.3 of ISO/IEC 11581-1:2000.

5.2.2 Metaphor

A consistent highlighting or presentation style should be considered which renders the graphic of the symbols sufficiently prominent in comparison with other information on the screen.

5.2.3 Arrangement

It is not recommended that a specific sequence for these icons be followed. However, where a default sequence is provided, it is recommended that the user be provided with a facility to arrange them to their own preference.

5.2.4 Colour

World Wide Web browser toolbar icons may be coloured.

5.2.5 Appearance

All icons of a similar selection status should be of a similar visual strength.

5.2.6 Text/typeface

The use of text inside multimedia control icons should be avoided. However, if text is included to improve the comprehensibility of the graphic, plain typefaces should be used. If text is used, it should be used in a manner that supports adaptation for cultural, linguistic, and comprehensibility purposes.

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6 Icon specifications

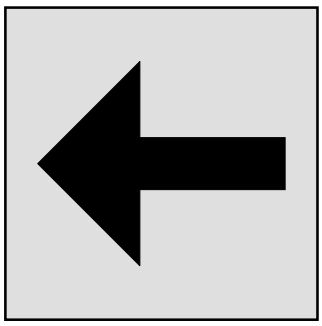
6.1 Back

Primary function. To enable the user to return to the page viewed immediately before the current one.

Specific instance. A leftward directing arrow.

Components. A solid (filled) triangle, with a horizontal shaft on the right side, pointing to the left.

Graphic.



Specific variations. The arrow shaft may be omitted, if necessary.

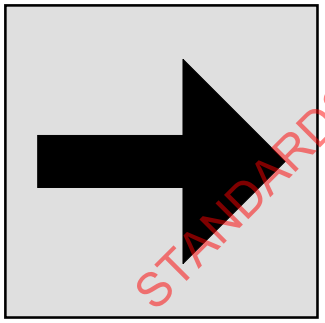
6.2 Forward

Primary function. To enable the user to return to the page viewed immediately before the “Back” icon was used.

Specific instance. A forward directing arrow.

Components. A solid (filled) triangle, with a horizontal shaft on the left side, pointing to the right.

Graphic.



Specific variations. The arrow shaft may be omitted, if necessary.

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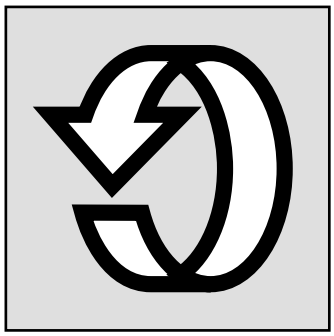
6.3 Reload/Refresh

Primary function. To enable the user to “refresh” the currently viewed page.

Specific instance. A cyclic motion.

Components. A single arrow, with a long shaft, looping to the right and rear in an anticlockwise manner, and returning to its starting position.

Graphic.



6.4 Home

Primary function. To enable the user to return to the main/default page as selected and recorded in their web browser settings page.

Specific instance. A small house.

Components.

- A pentagon, with its base horizontal, and two sides vertical, incorporating:
  - a rectangle (to represent a doorway),
  - superimposed with diagonal lines (to represent a roof) and
  - a rectangle on the right side (to represent a chimney).

Graphic.

Specific variations. Further rectangles may be added to represent windows.

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6.5 Search

Primary function. To enable the user to locate an object or alternative web site.

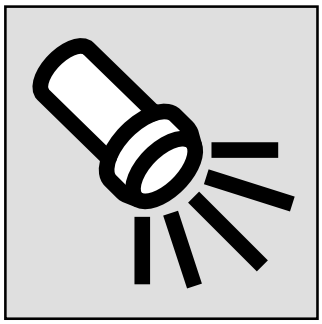
NOTE If a proprietary “search engine” is used, the icon presented should be the one provided by that application. However, if a proprietary “search engine” is not provided or available, then the following should apply.

Specific instance. A hand held torch or flashlight.

Components.

- Torch/flashlight. Two diagonal cylinders, connected together and orientated from the upper left to the centre of the button top/cell. The larger cylinder is in the centre of the cell.
- Light beams/rays. A series of lines emanating from the larger cylinder in the general direction of the lower right corner of the cell.

Graphic.



Specific variations.

- The torch/flashlight may be orientated in any direction.
- The number of light beams may be reduced in quantity.
- The light beam may be illustrated by some other means, e.g. by a highlighted area, to show illumination.

NOTE See also ISO/IEC 11581-6:1999, 7.1.2 (Find).

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6.6 Print

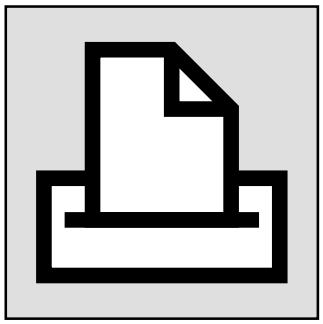
Primary function. To print the current page to the predefined settings within the system or application.

Specific instance. An electromechanical printer with a document emerging.

Components.

Printer, see ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000, 7.1.5.

Graphic.



NOTE See also ISO/IEC 11581-6:1999, 7.3.2.

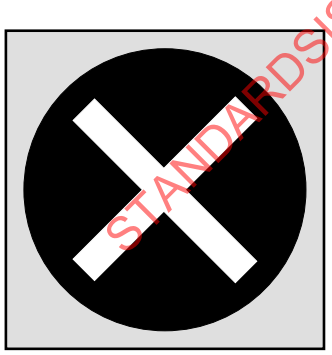
6.7 Stop

Primary function. To stop the previous command without completing.

Specific instance. A white “X” on a dark circle.

Components.

- Body. A solid (dark filled) circle.
- Graphic. A white “X” superimposed upon the circle.



Specific variations. Where colour is available, the filled area of the circle should be coloured red.

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6.8 Bookmarks/Favourites

Primary function. To enable the user to save, for later retrieval, specific web page addresses.

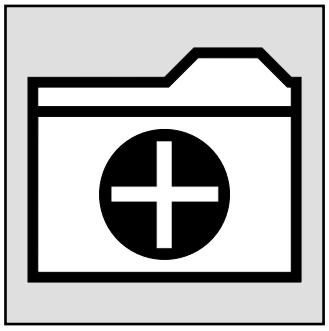
Specific instance. A file folder with a mathematical “addition” symbol.

Components.

- Folder. A file folder (see ISO/IEC 11581-2:2000, 7.1.2).
- Addition symbol: a white “+” superimposed upon a filled circle.

Specific variations. Where colour is available, the filled area of the circle should be coloured green.

Graphic.



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