Bug 988959 - [UX] Breakdown: Favicons for all about pages
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Problem

Firefox contains a collection of Easter eggs, diagnostic information and configuration settings which can be accessed through a number of hidden about: pages.

Most of these pages, however, do not have an associated favicon, which leaves the tab the page is open in looking a little empty. And since these are important administrative pages for the browser, the favicon make them look a bit more “official”.

In addition to the lack of favicons, there is also no consistency regarding whether about: pages have a title, and there should be an additional indicator to the user that the about: page is part of the browser.
List of About: Pages

Items in yellow have existing favicons:

- about:
- about:about
- about:accounts
- about:addons
- about:app-manager
- about:buildconfig
- about:cache
- about:config
- about:crashes
- about:credits
- about:customizing
- about:downloads
- about:healthreport
- about:home
- about:license
- about:logo
- about:memory
- about:mozilla
- about:networking
- about:newtab
- about:permissions
- about:plugins
- about:preferences
- about:privatebrowsing
- about:rights
- about:robots
- about:sessionrestore
- about:smoothness
- about:sync-log
- about:sync-progress
- about:sync-tabs
- about:telemetry
- about:webrtc
- about:welcomeback
Rule #1: All about: pages must have a favicon

For all about: pages that do not already have an existing favicon, it is recommended we use the browser logo as a favicon. The following about: pages require a generic favicon:

about:about
about:buildconfig
about:cache
about:config
about:crashes
about:license
about:memory
about:mozilla
about:networking
about:permissions
about:rights
about:telemetry
about:webrtc

Note: about:newtab is the only about: page that does not require a favicon as this represents the purpose of the newtab page being a fresh, clean jumping off point for users to begin a browsing session.
Rule #2: If a page has an existing icon, that should be the favicon

Some about: pages already have associated icons in the UI. In these cases a custom matching favicon should be used instead of the generic browser logo. The following pages require custom favicons.

- about:accounts » Custom Favicon: Sync icon
- about:app-manager » Custom Favicon: Rocket ship
- about:downloads » Custom Favicon: Download arrow
- about:plugins » Custom Favicon: Lego piece
Rule #3: All about: pages must have a page title

The following about: pages do not have page titles. Suggested titles are included.

about: ➞ About Firefox*
about:buildconfig ➞ Build Config
about:config ➞ Configuration
about:license ➞ Licenses
about:memory ➞ Memory
about:plugins ➞ Plugins
about:privatebrowsing ➞ Start Private Browsing
about:rights ➞ About Your Rights
about:sync-log ➞ Sync Log
about:webrtc ➞ WebRTC

* or Aurora, or Nightly.
Rule #4: All about: pages must use an identity block

Some of the about: pages use an identity block to show the user that the page they are on is a trusted part of the browser. The following about: pages do not use an identity block (but should!):


Before:

After:
Rule #5: All favicons should look like they’re from the same family

Currently there is a mishmash of styles used for the favicon on the about: pages, and some of the pages require updated icons to conform the pages to the same style. The following list of pages require updated icons.

about:addons  
(The puzzle piece is backwards, compared to other uses of it in the browser.)

about:preferences  
(The gear does not match the gears used elsewhere in the browser.)

about:sync-log  
(Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)

about:sync-progress  
(Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)

about:sync-tabs  
(Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)
Additional Notes

• about:logo appears to just be an image (which is used as the favicon). As such it does not require a title or custom favicon. However, since it is an official about: page, it should still have an identity block.

• Many of the about: pages could do with a visual update to conform them to a standard look and feel (Project Chameleon), and in comes cases special attention needs to be paid to making pages more user-friendly and readable (e.g. about:networking, about:plugins, about:support).
Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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