

Tuesday, July 23, 2002

Strike Visited Links bookmarklet

Alex was [lamenting](#) last week about the lack of visual cues for visited links on many sites (including, I admit, most of my own). While I agree that often visited link feedback is helpful, I also agree that in many cases it just adds more visual confusion and makes a site more difficult to make sense of at a glance, hurting its usability.

So why not have the best of both worlds? A clean, simple interface by default, but the capability to see which links have been visited on demand. Enter the Solution To Almost Everything, the *bookmarklet*.

I posted a comment to his entry containing a quickly hacked together bookmarklet that will dynamically change the style of all visited links to something recognizable. It only worked in [Mozilla](#) (or any other browser with proper standards support), and simply changed the color to red. But I played around with it some more after that, and decided that a more universal cue would be to make the visited links strike-through. I also got it working in MSIE by using some Microsoft proprietary extensions. Bleech. Damned Microsoft.

To use the bookmarklet, copy the following code (as a single line) into the Location field of a new bookmark: `javascript: var styleText='text-decoration:line-through !important'; if(document.createStyleSheet) { /*MSIE proprietary:*/ var ss = document.createStyleSheet(); void(ss.addRule(':visited',styleText)); } else { /*W3C Standard:*/ var ss = document.createElement('style'); ss.setAttribute('type','text/css'); ss.appendChild(document.createTextNode(':visited {'+styleText+'}')); void(document.getElementsByTagName('head')[0].appendChild(ss)); }` or simply bookmark the following link: [Strike Visited Links](#). (Try clicking that link for a quick demo.)

Posted by Jason at [11:41:00](#) - [[0 Comments](#)]