

Using GIMP



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GIMP

Great pictures, especially cleverly-captioned, easily-shareable pictures (called “memes”), are among the Internet’s many currencies. A strong photo gallery can create a celebrity on social platforms, and the lack of one can allow an entity to fade into obscurity. While many platforms exist to turn an otherwise innocuous photo into a meme, they are a great way to learn more powerful photo-editing software. These tools go beyond the basics of cropping and adding captions, allowing users to make the subtle changes that turn a good picture into a great one. This presentation contains instructions for GIMP, a free software analogous to Adobe’s popular (and pricey) Photoshop.

By the end of this tutorial, the user will be able to use GIMP to create a "meme." Most importantly, by the end of this tutorial the user will be familiar with a free and powerful software tool.

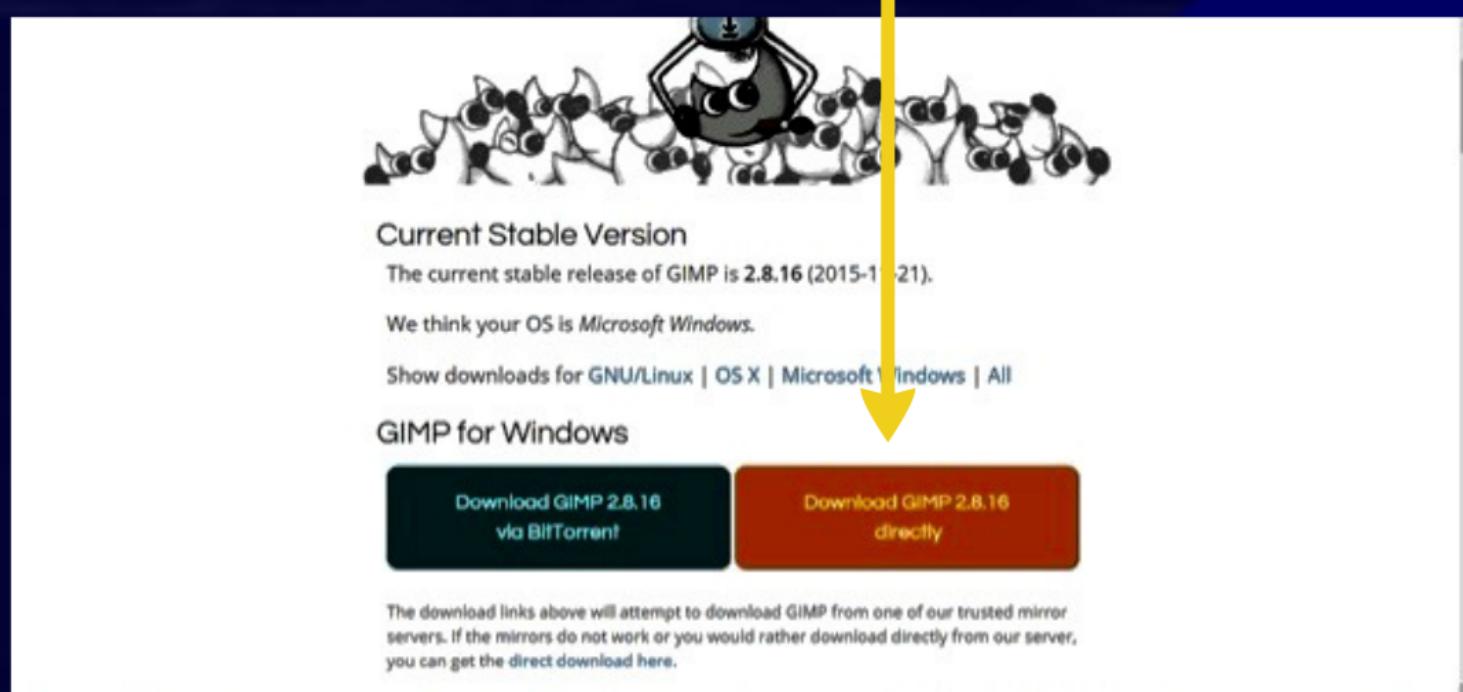
Downloading the software

GIMP, the “GNU Image Manipulation Program,” is freeware that is licensed to be used for any purpose. Its source code is completely open, so that 3rd-party software developers can create plug-ins, which only serve to increase how powerful this tool can be.

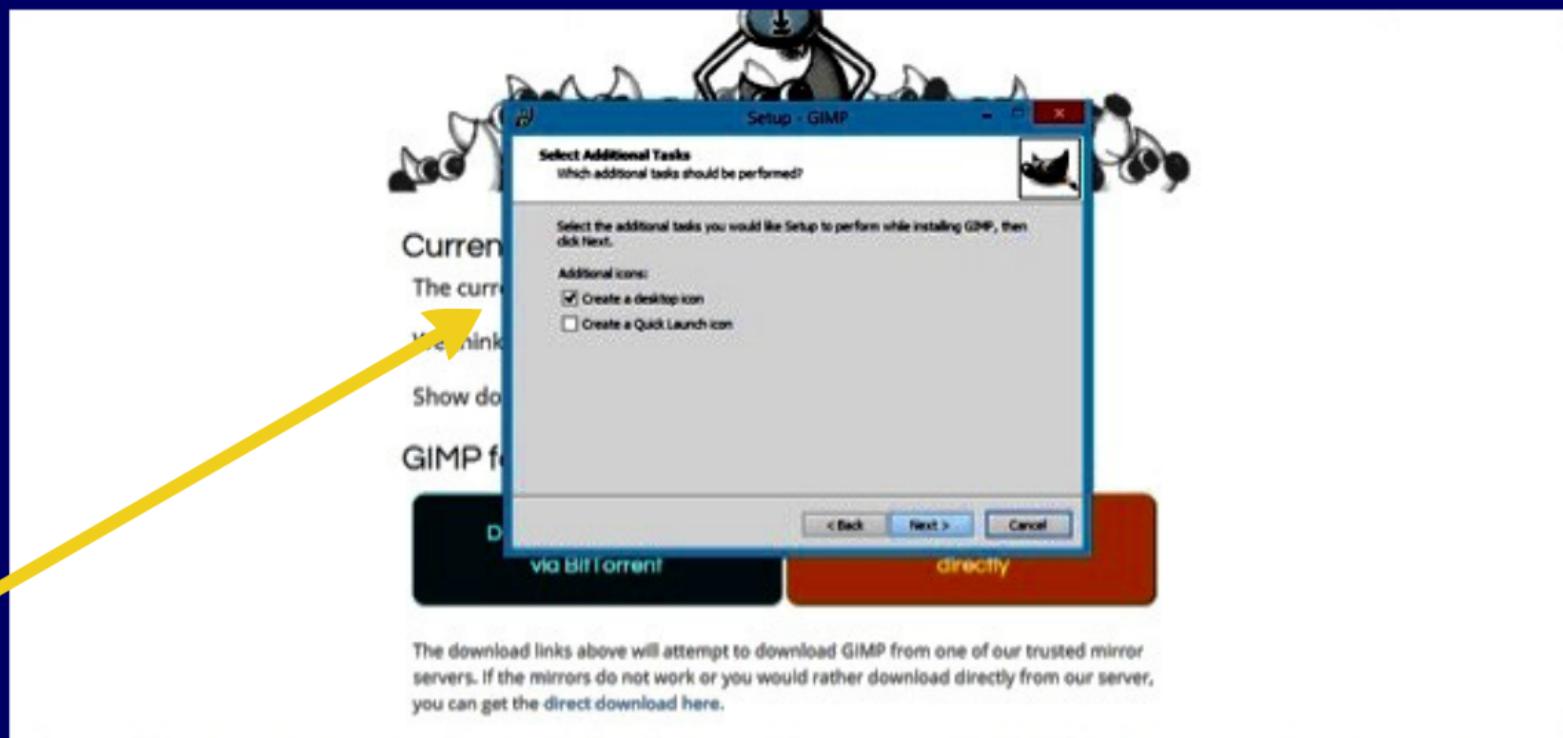
1. Visit gimp.org
2. Click “Download”
3. Click “Download GIMP directly”
4. Open downloaded file
5. Click “Run” or any other “allow to make changes” options
6. Select language
7. Click “Finish”
8. If you do not have Impact, download League Gothic
9. Open software



“Download GIMP directly,” will give you a 92 MB download.



Install. On your desktop, look for this icon



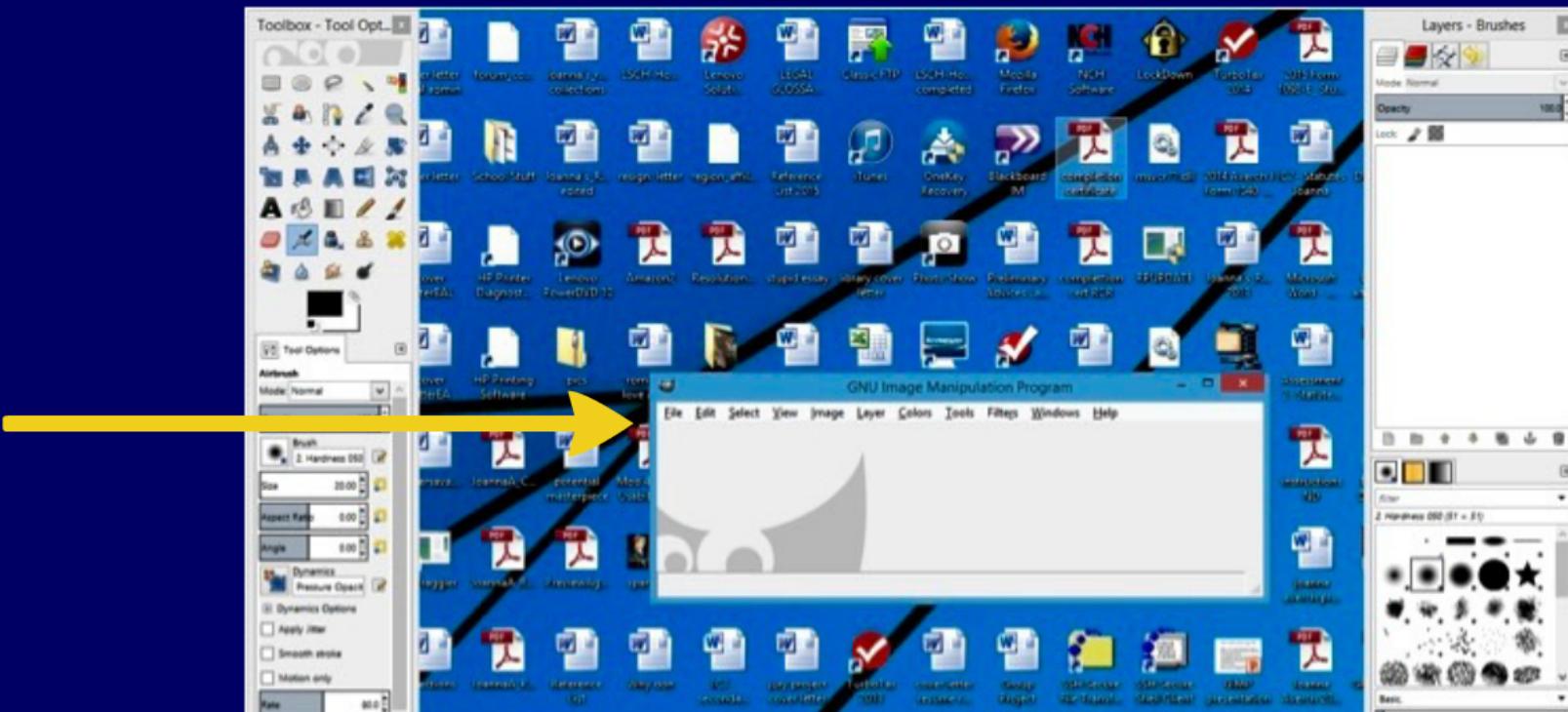
Opening a photo

Unlike simpler, more Microsoft-based editing programs (such as MS Paint), GIMP focuses on giving users powerful tools rather than more familiar ones. This is clear from the beginning, as a GIMP window doesn't even open with a blank image. While you can create one and work from that, it's best to use this as an image manipulator, rather than an image creator. Go to File, Open..., and select your image. You'll want your final image to be around 500-700 pixels wide, so be sure to pick a starting image that is at least that large. Phone-created photos are almost always going to be at least that size. And remember, copyright issues can be problematic, so don't try to sell your final creation!

1. Find an image that's at least 500x500 pixels
2. Go to File, Open...
3. Select your image



Once you have GNU loaded and open, your screen will look like this. Find an image that's at least 500x500 pixels. Go to File, Open, and select your image.



Crop & Color

Crop it up

*Click the Crop Tool. Select the area containing your final image. Use the corner or side bars to fine-tune your selection. Click one of the side or corner bars to finalize.

Color it up

*Use the various tools available in the Colors and Filters menu. Use Edit, Undo to return to your original image, or keep your changes.



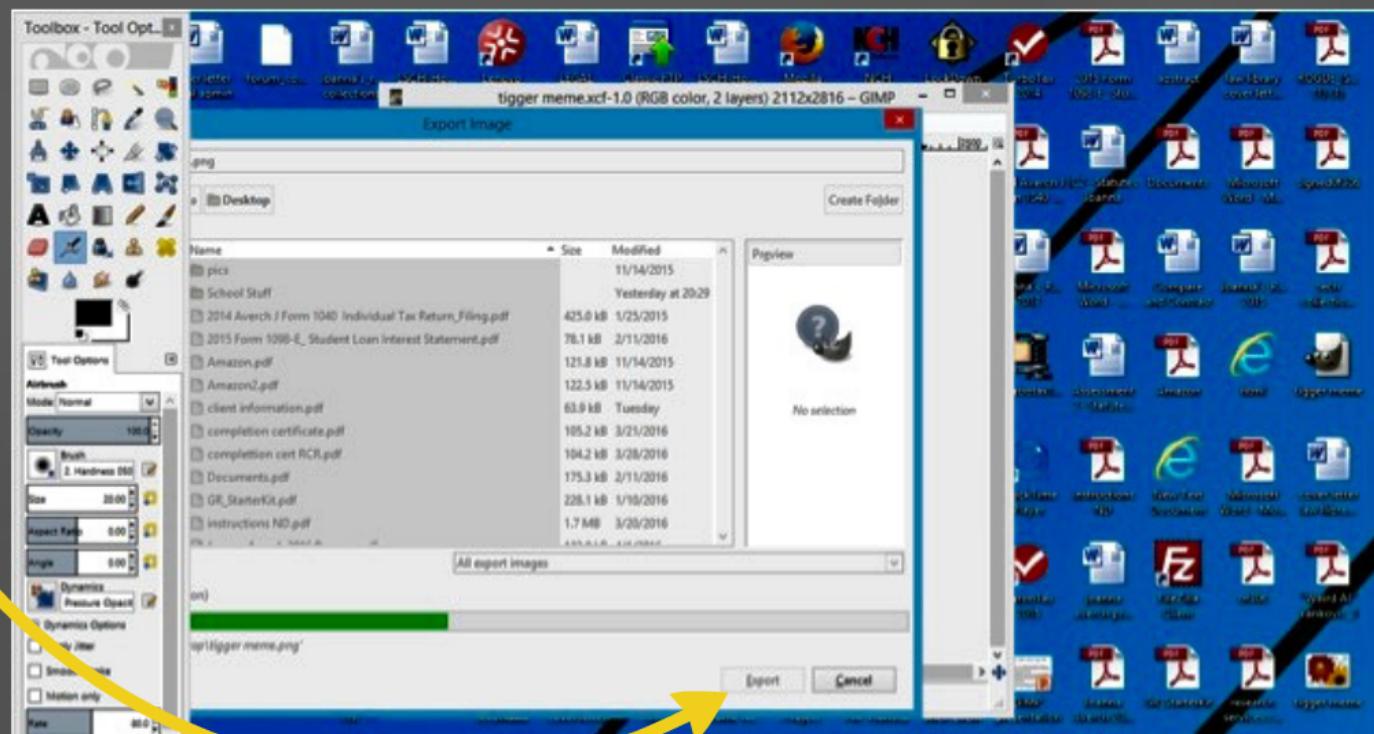
Adding Text

1. Double-click the Text tool
2. Change font to League Gothic or Impact, as well as the Size to 72 (larger or smaller depending on image)
3. Change font color to white
4. Click on image to place first line of text
5. Type text in all caps, with a space at the beginning and end of lines
6. Right-click text, select “Path from Text”
7. Go to Select, From Path (or Shift+V)
8. Go to Select, Grow...
9. Select a border size (I use size 3) and click OK
10. Zoom in with Ctrl+mouse wheel or just +
11. Change foreground color to black and select Bucket Fill tool
12. Fill space between outline and text, and inside of closed letters
13. Move text as needed



Exporting Your Image

1. Go to File, Export...
2. Select your file type (generally JPG or PNG)
3. Rename the file at the top, using the proper extension
4. Hit Export, then Export again
5. Close the file, then close GIMP



Nicely Done!

