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## Linux: Scan An Image With HP Scanners

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**Q.** I've HP all in one printer / scanner / fax machine installed and I'd love to scan an image using Linux command line or GUI application. How do I scan an image under Linux?

**A.** SANE (Scanner Access Now Easy) interface API that provides standardized access to any raster image scanner hardware (flatbed scanner, handheld scanner, video- and still-cameras, frame grabbers, etc.). You need to install sane software in order to access device using USB, LPT or network interface. There are various commands for scanning images under Linux:



[1]

a) **scanimage** - It is a command-line interface to control image acquisition devices such as flatbed scanners or cameras.

b) **xscanimage / xsane** - It provides a graphical user-interface to control an image acquisition device such as a flatbed scanner or a camera. It allows previewing and scanning individual images and can be invoked either directly from the command-line or through The GIMP image manipulation program.

c) **3rd party Applications:** GIMP or OpenOffice.Org and many other Linux application can acquire images using scanner if proper driver is installed.

d) **Web interface:** Many modern printers and scanners comes with web base tools to scan an image. All you have to do is fire a web browser > Type printer IP address and select Scan option. All scanned images can be viewed and downloaded from browser itself.

## Install sane software

scanimage and xscanimage can be installed by typing following command:

```
$ sudo apt-get install sane sane-utils
```

Where,

- **sane-utils:** API library for scanners -- utilities
- **sane:** scanner graphical frontends including GIMP plugin

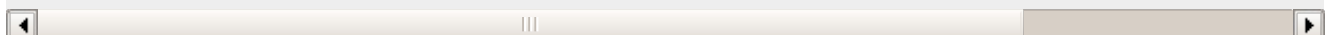
## How do I find out if my scanner detected and driver is installed?

Simply type the following command at a shell prompt to get a list of devices:

```
$ scanimage -L
```

Sample Output:

```
device `hpaio:/net/Photosmart_C5100_series?ip=192.168.0.4' is a Hewlett-Packard Photosmart
device `v4l:/dev/video0' is a Noname Pinnacle PCTV 40i/50i/110i (saa virtual device
```



## How do I scan an image from a shell prompt?

To scan with default settings to the file scan-file.pnm, enter:

```
$ scanimage >scan-file.pnm
```

Note: You may need to add sudo command to get privileges to scan an image.

To scan 100x100 mm to the file image.tiff (-x and -y may not be available with all devices):

```
$ scanimage -x 100 -y 100 --format=tiff >old-photo.tiff
```

To scan with ADF (Auto Document Feeder), you must use "batch mode":

```
$ scanimage -b --batch-scan=yes > scanned-file.pnm
```

## xsane: Graphical User Interface

Type xsane at a shell prompt:

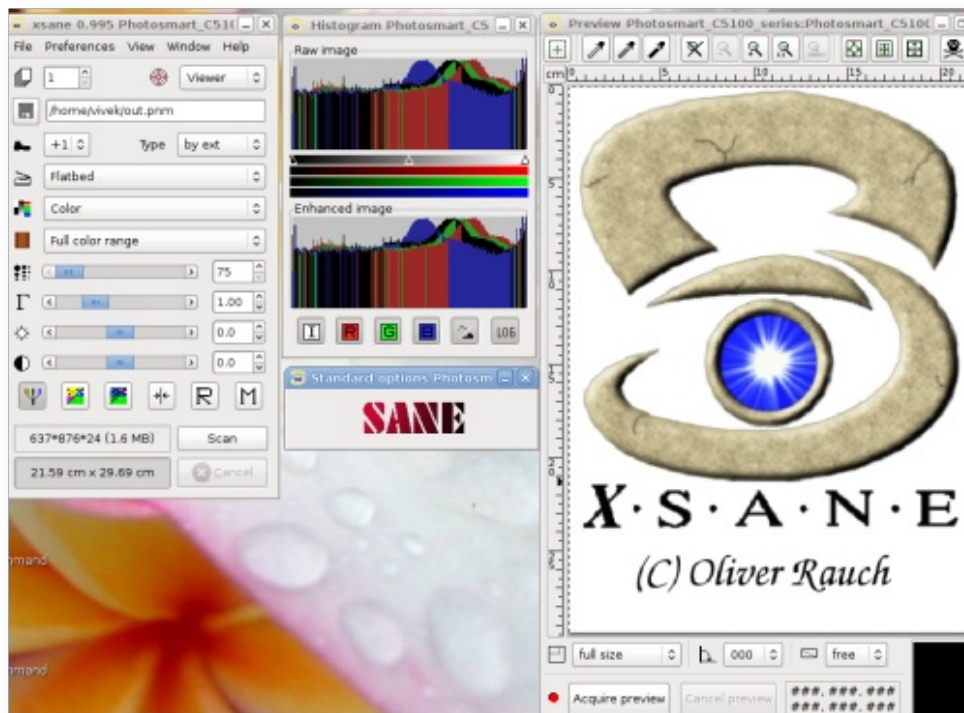
```
$ xsane
```



[2]

Fig.01: xsane - Select Device

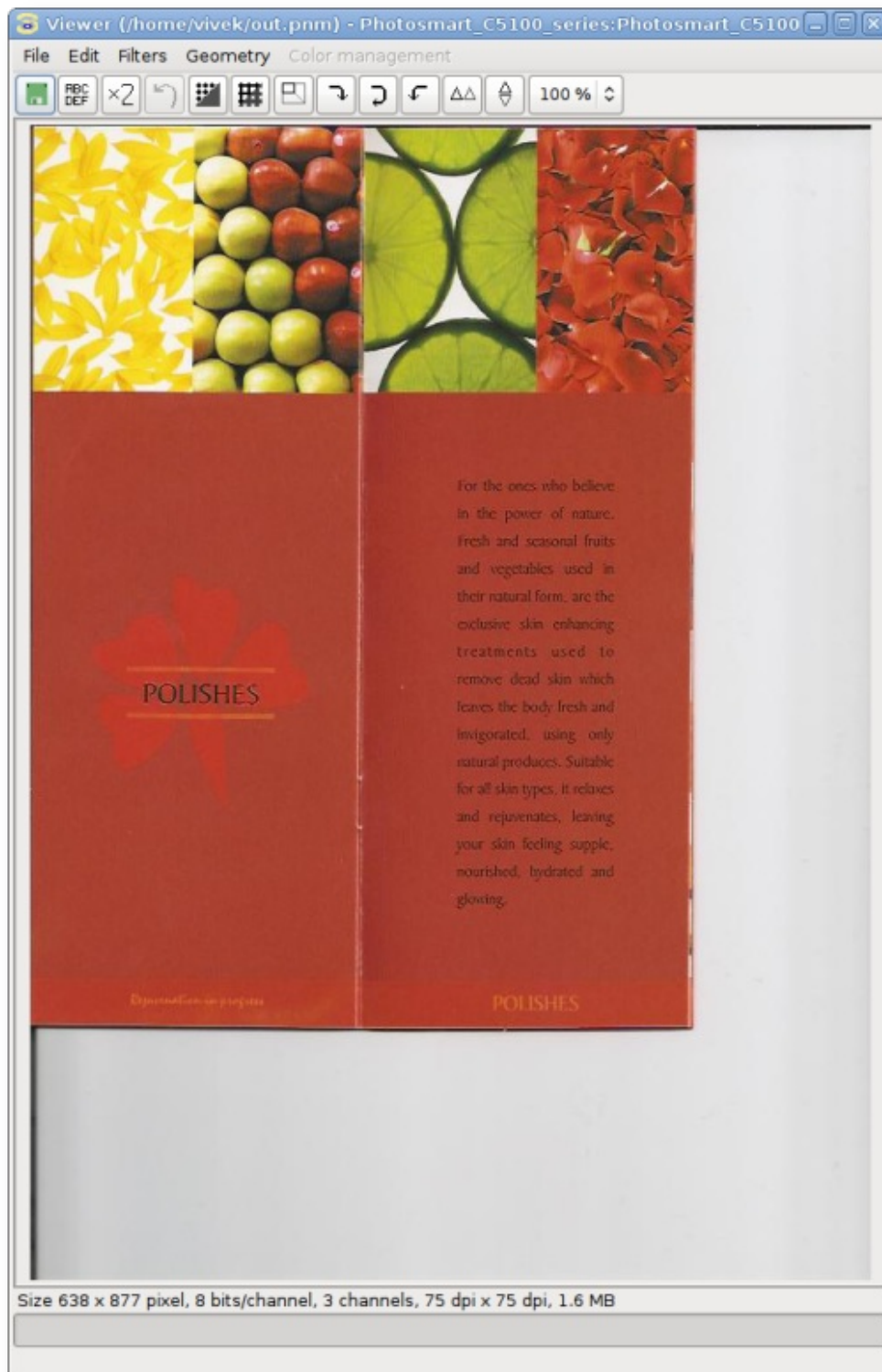
Select your scanner and you will see main screen with tons of options:



[3]

Fig.02: XSane on My Ubuntu Linux Desktop

Set options such as DPI, brightness etc and click on Scan button:



[4]

Fig.03: Sample image scanned with my HP scanner hardware

Other software such as GIMP and OpenOffice.org provides an option to scan and import images directly for editing purpose.

Under GIMP visit **File** > **Acquire** > **XSane** > **Device Name** to scan images.

Under OpenOffice.org wordprocessor visit **Insert** > **Picture** > **Scan** > **Request...** to scan images.

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