Unlocking Clouds: An Easy Guide to LFCS Certification eBook

10 Best Flowchart and Diagramming Software for Linux

Aaron Kili | Last Updated: October 27, 2023 | Read Time: 5 mins | Top Tools | 4 Comments

Diagrams are a great means for us to connect with information and process its significance; they help in communicating relationships and abstract information and enable us to visualize concepts.

The **flowchart** and **diagramming** tools are used for everything from basic workflow diagrams to complex network diagrams, organization charts, **BPMN (Business Process Model and Notation)**, UML diagrams, and much more.

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Are you looking for free and open-source **flowchart** and **diagramming** software to create different kinds of diagrams, flowcharts, illustrations, maps, web graphics, and more, on a Linux desktop? This article reviews the 10 best flowcharts and diagramming software for Linux.

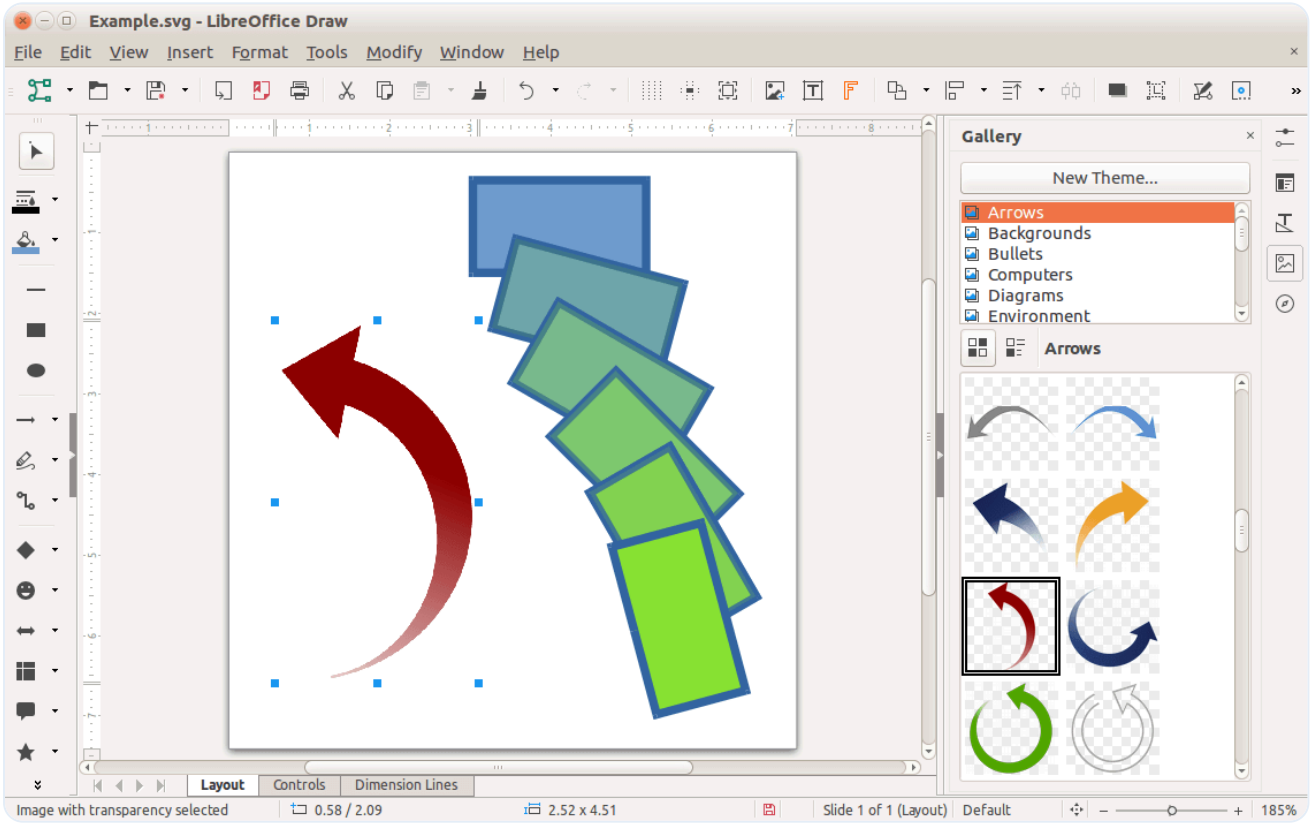
1. LibreOffice Draw

The Draw is a feature-rich, extensible, easy-to-use, and excellent tool for producing powerful and intuitive flowcharts, organization charts, network diagrams, and many other types of graphics. It is also used to manipulate pictures and images in so many ways, and it can produce anything from a quick sketch to complicated figures.

A **draw** is a part of **LibreOffice**, a powerful and free office suite that runs on Linux, macOS, and Windows machines. It uses the Open Document Format for Office Applications (ODF) (.odg graphics extension).

Some of its features include a gallery of shapes and drawings, a spellchecker, hyphenation mode, and color replacing. Importantly, it supports importing, editing, exporting PDFs, importing from several file formats, and exporting to GIF, JPEG, PNG, SVG, WMF, and more.

Also, it supports macro execution with Java, and various extensions, and its filter settings can be configured using XML.

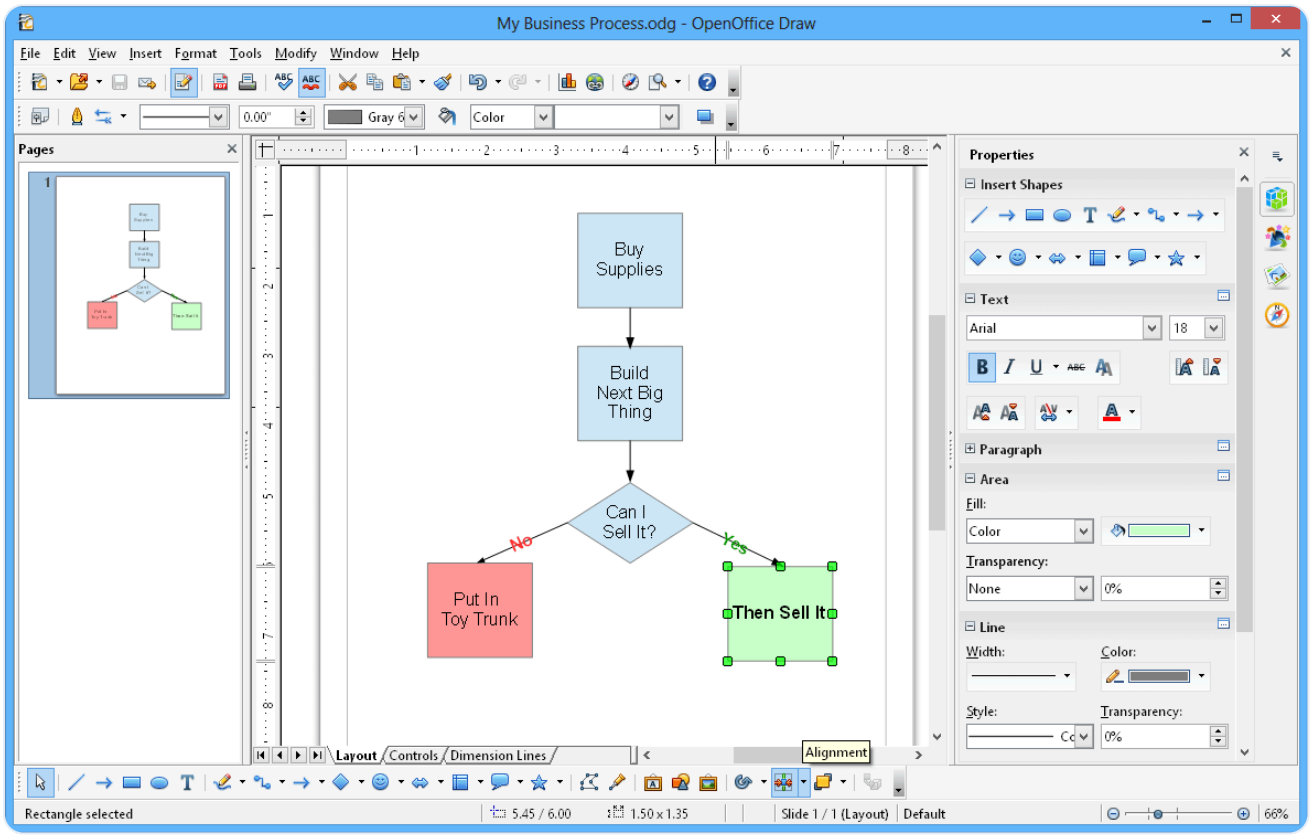


LibreOffice Draw – Vector Graphics Editor

2. Apache OpenOffice Draw

OpenOffice Draw is a free application for drawing business processes and diagrams. It is one of the tools included in the **Apache OpenOffice** office suite. Similar in functionality to **LibreOffice Draw**, it supports different diagram types such as flowcharts, organization charts, network diagrams, etc.

It also supports various styles and formatting, and allows you to import and export graphics from and to all common formats (including BMP, GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF, and WMF). Support for creating flash (.swf) versions of your work is also available.

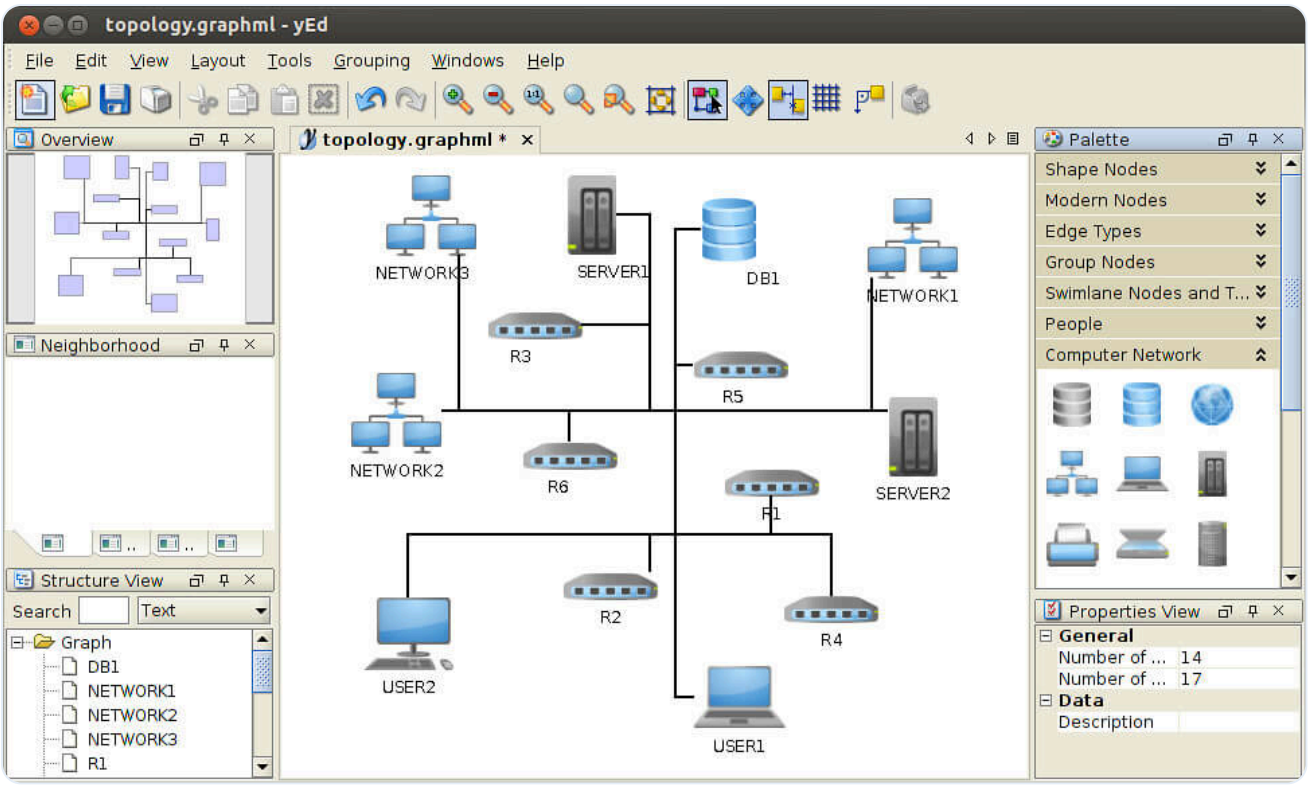


OpenOffice Draw

3. yED Graph Editor

yEd Graph Editor is a free, powerful, and cross-platform desktop application used for quickly and effectively creating diagrams. It runs on all major platforms such as Unix/Linux, Windows, and Mac OS X. yEd supports a wide variety of diagram types allowing you to create diagrams manually or import external data for manipulation or analysis.

It supports diagrams such as illustrated types, organization charts, mind maps, swimlane diagrams, ERDs, and many more. Its key features include an intuitive user interface, support for importing external data from an Excel spreadsheet (.xls) or XML, automatic arrangement of diagram elements, and exporting of bitmap and vector graphics such as PNG, JPG, SVG, PDF, and SWF.

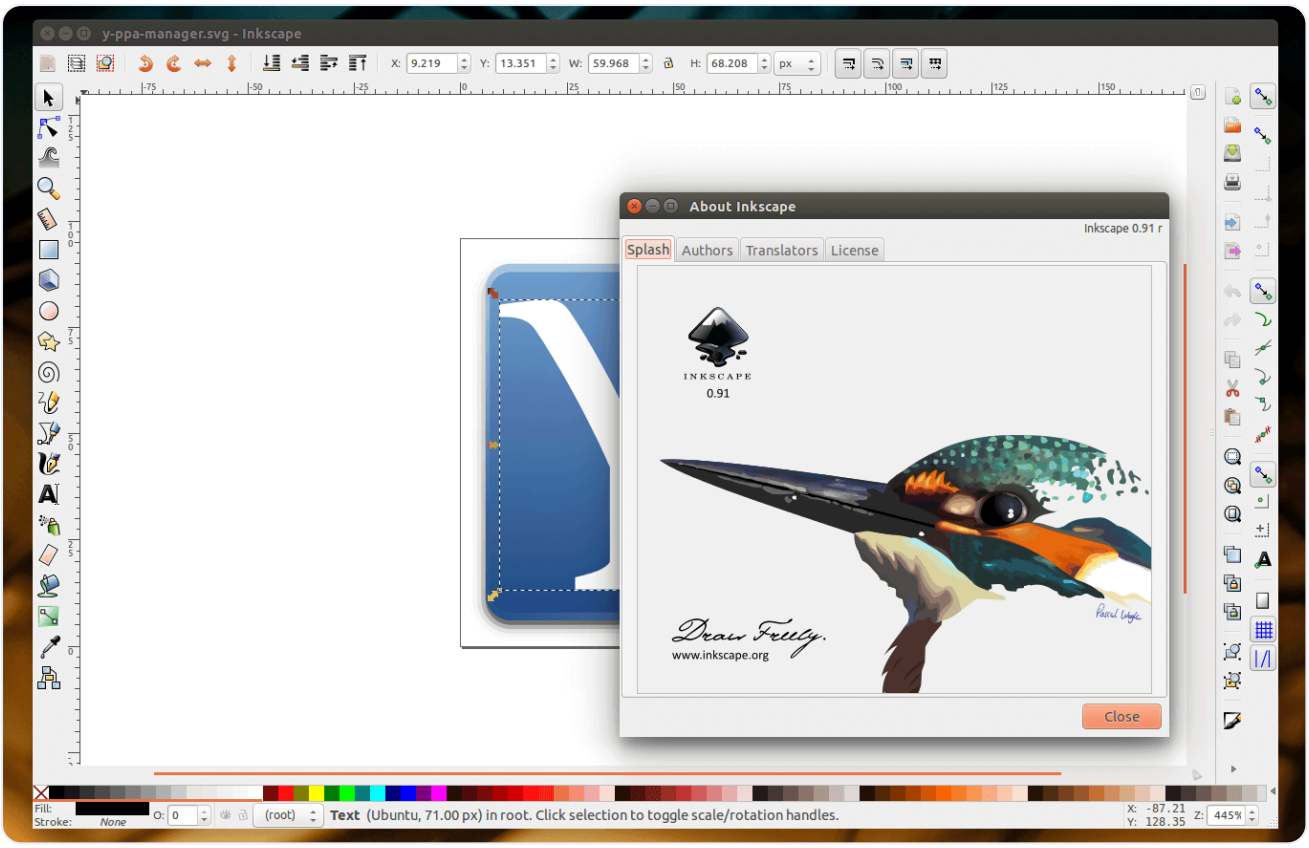


yED Graph Editor

4. Inkscape

Inkscape is a free and open-source, cross-platform vector graphics software with a simple interface, which runs on GNU/Linux, Windows, and Mac OS X. It is multi-lingual and highly customizable. You can use it to create a wide range of graphics such as flowcharts, illustrations, icons, logos, diagrams, maps, and web graphics.

It features object creation and manipulation, fills and strokes, text operations, rendering, and more. It uses the W3C open standard SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) as its native format. With Inkscape, you can import and export to various file formats, including SVG, AI, EPS, PDF, PS, and PNG. You can also extend its native functionality using add-ons.

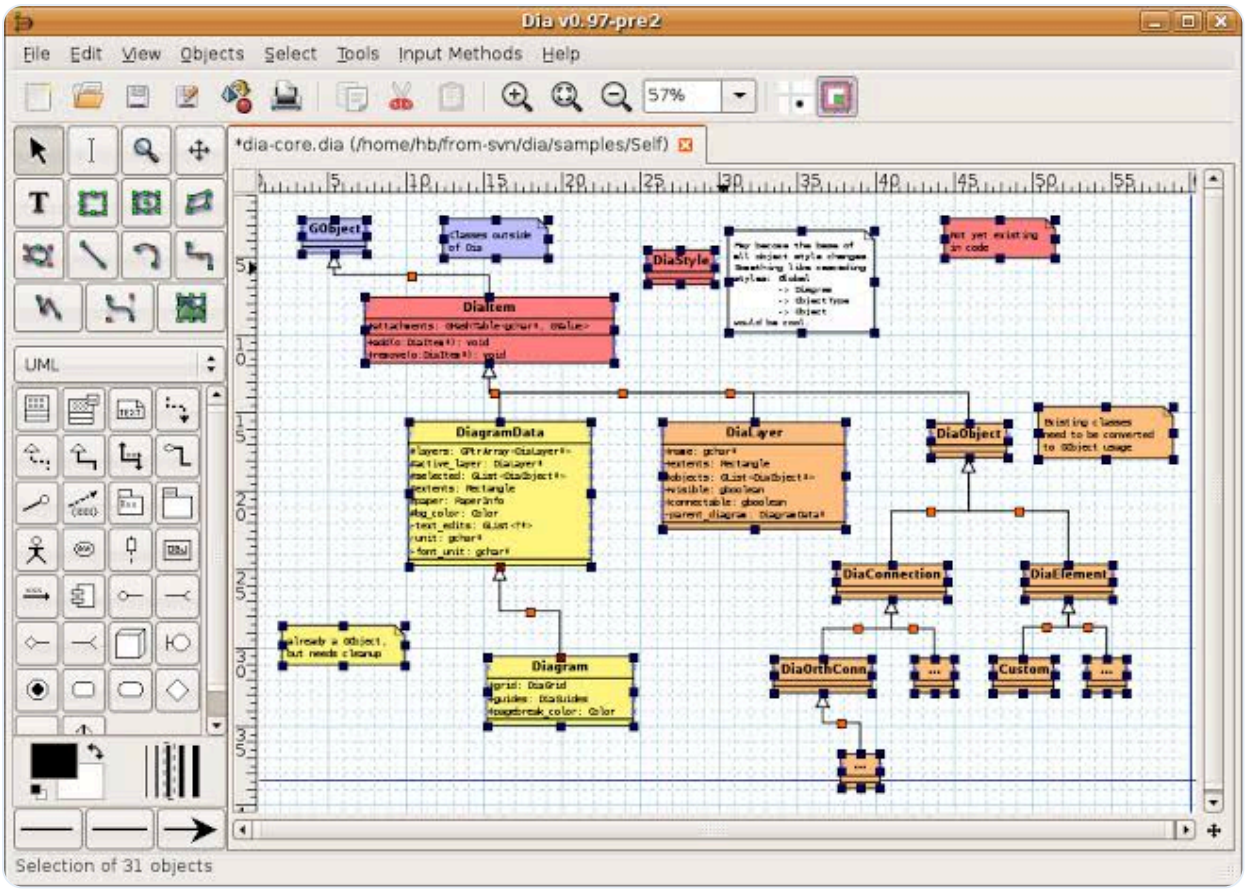


Inkscape – vector graphics editing and illustration tool

5. Dia Diagram Editor

Dia is a free, open-source, easy-to-use popular, and cross-platform drawing software for Linux desktops. It also runs on Windows and Mac OS X. It is used to create more than 30 different diagram types including flowcharts, network layouts, and database models.

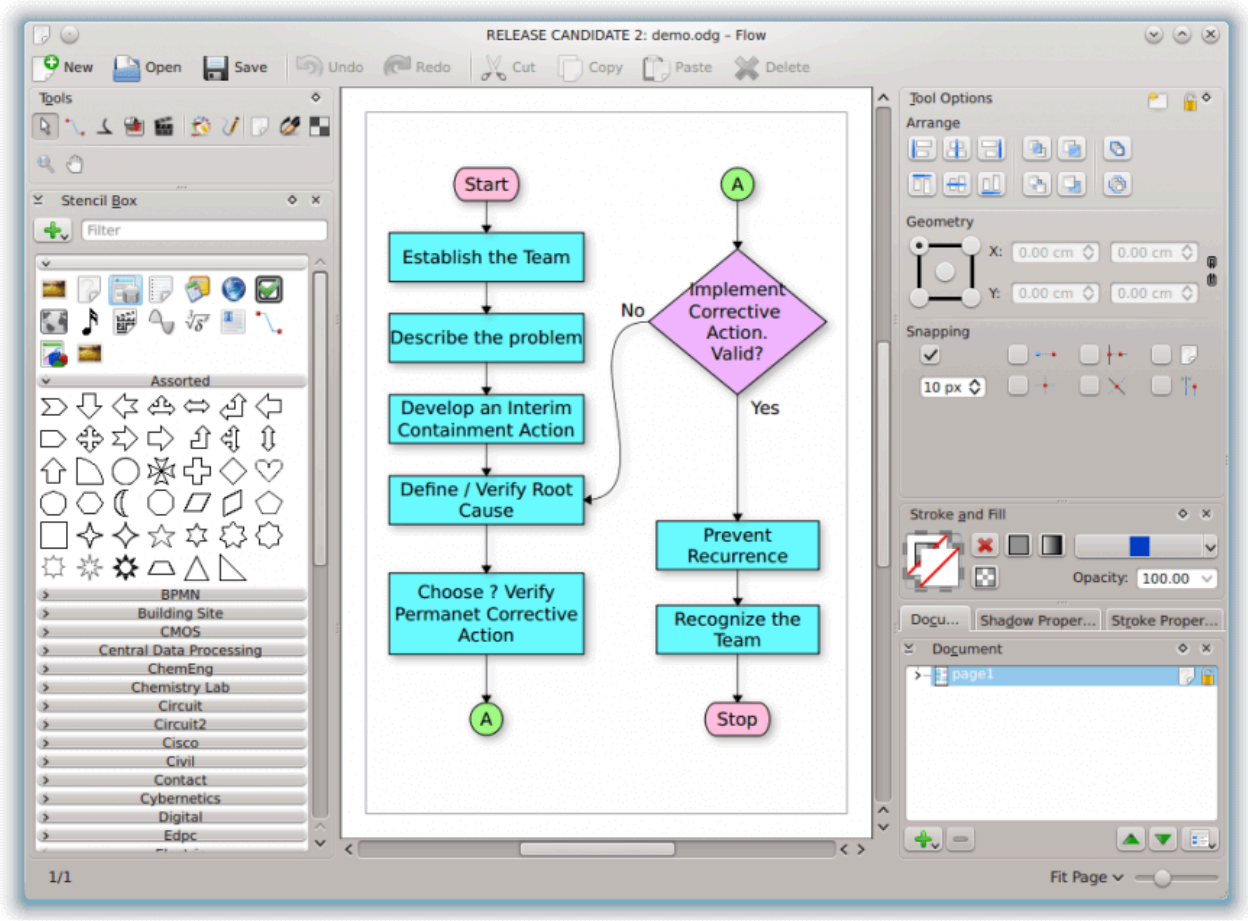
Dia features more than 1,000 predefined objects and symbols and supports many import and export formats. For programmers, it is scriptable via Python.



Dia Diagram Editor

6. Calligra Flow

Calligra Flow is an easy-to-use tool for creating diagrams and flowcharts. It is included in Calligra Office Suite and is highly integrated with the other Calligra applications. It supports various diagram types such as network diagrams, organization charts, flowcharts, and more.

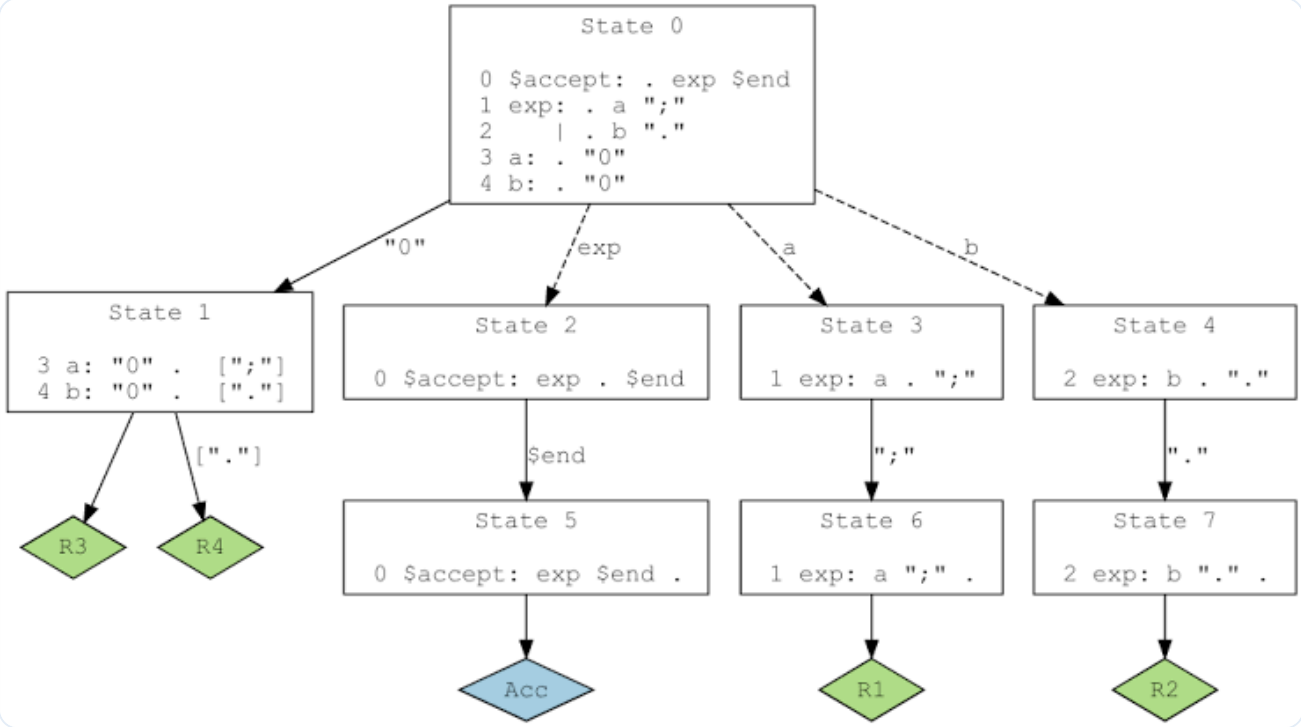


Calligra Flow – diagramming software

7. Graphviz

Graphviz (Graph Visualization Software) is an open-source and programmable graph drawing software. It ships with a collection of programs for graph visualization specified in DOT language scripts. Besides, it has web and interactive graphical interfaces, auxiliary tools, libraries, and language bindings.

Graphviz is used to generate diagrams either manually or from external data sources, in several useful formats including images and SVG for web pages, and Postscript for inclusion in PDF. You can also display output in an interactive graph browser.

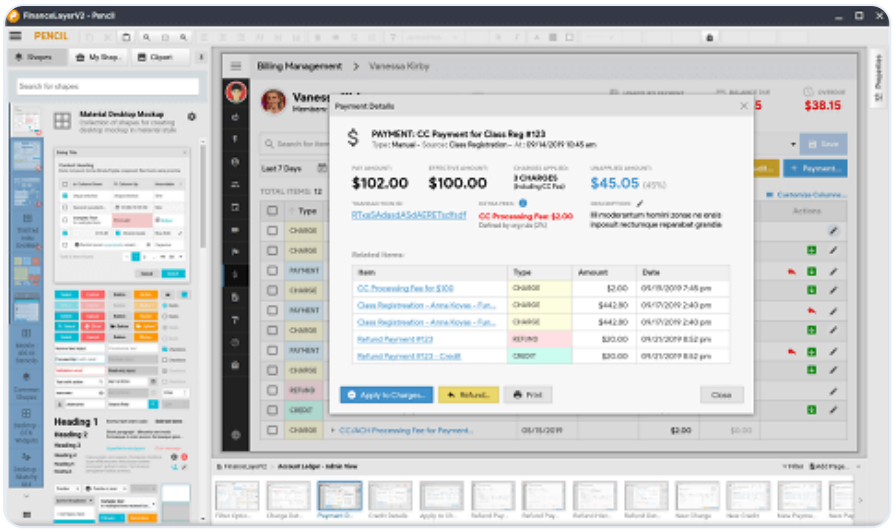


Graphviz – Graph Visualization Software

8. Pencil

Pencil is a free and open-source, easy-to-use tool for GUI (Graphical User Interface) prototyping, used to create mockups in popular desktop environments. It comes with numerous built-in shape collections (including general-purpose shapes, flowchart elements, desktop/web UI shapes, and Android and iOS GUI shapes) for drawing different types of user interfaces ranging from desktop to mobile platforms.

The pencil also supports diagram drawing, exporting to different output formats including OpenOffice/LibreOffice text documents, Inkscape SVG and Adobe PDF, and inter-page linking. In addition, it integrates with OpenClipart.org allowing you to easily find Cliparts from the Internet.



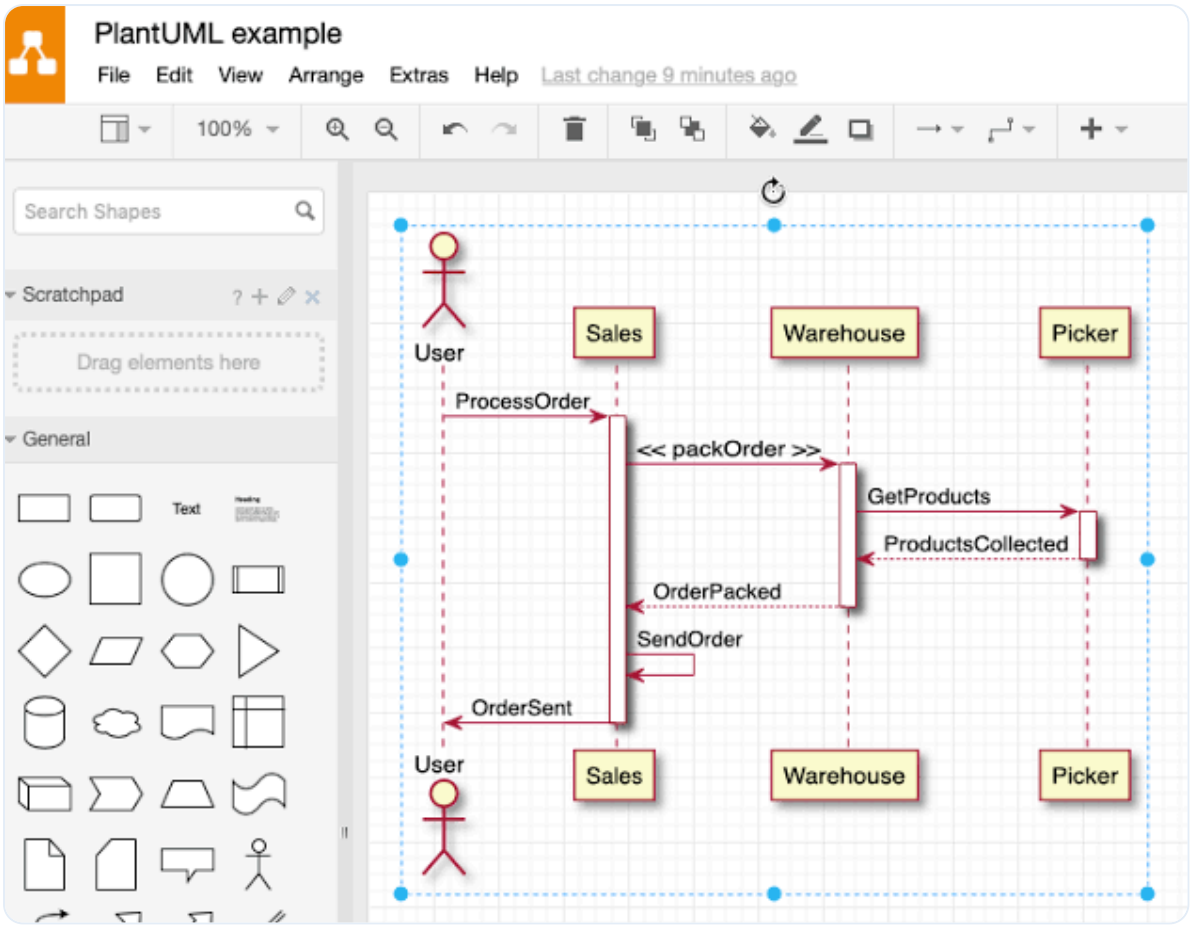
Pencil Prototyping Tool

9. PlantUML

PlantUML is an open-source tool for generating UML diagrams using a simple textual description language. It is used for modeling, documentation, and UML. It enables you to create nice professional-looking diagrams and technical designs. PlantUML has an intuitive syntax is command-line based, and can be used in combination with GNU Emacs org-mode for writing technical documentation.

It supports UML diagrams such as class diagrams, sequence diagrams, collaboration diagrams, use case diagrams, state diagrams, activity diagrams, component diagrams, deployment diagrams, and entity relationship diagrams.

You can also use it to create non-UML diagrams such as Wireframe graphical interface, archimate diagram, Specification and Description Language (SDL), ditaa diagram, gantt diagram, and many others. Furthermore, you can export output to PNG, in SVG, or in LaTeX format.

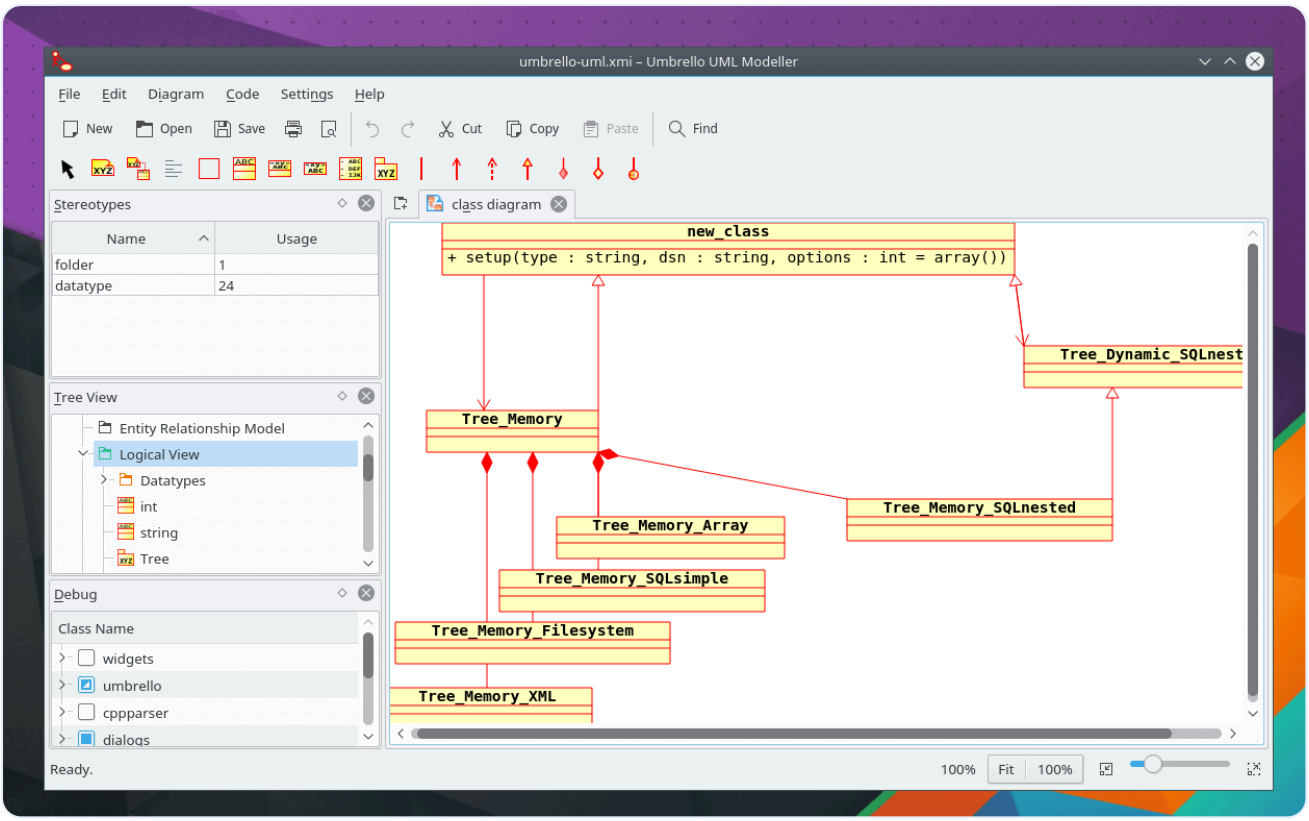


PlantUML – create UML diagrams

10. Umbrello

Last but not least, we have Umbrello UML Modeller, a free, open-source, and cross-platform Unified Modelling Language (UML) diagram tool based on KDE, that runs on Linux systems, Windows, and Mac OS X. It supports you in producing diagrams for designing and system documentation.

The Umbrello UML Modeller 2.11 supports different kinds of diagram types such as class diagrams, sequence diagrams, collaboration diagrams, use case diagrams, state diagrams, activity diagrams, component diagrams, deployment diagrams, and ERDs.



Umbrello UML Modeller

That's all we had for you! In this article, we shared the 10 best flowcharts and diagramming software for Linux. We would like to hear from you via the feedback form below.

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Aaron Kili

Aaron Kili is a Linux and F.O.S.S enthusiast, an upcoming Linux SysAdmin, web developer, and currently a content creator for TecMint who loves working with computers and strongly believes in sharing knowledge.

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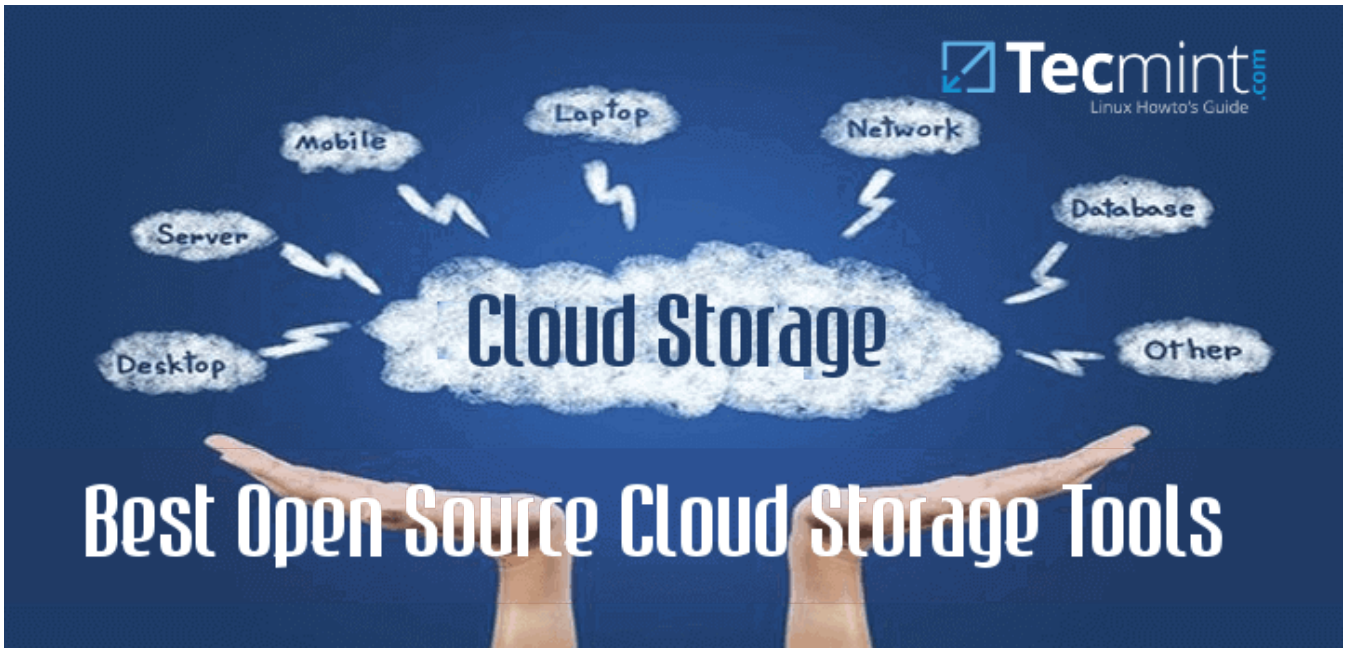

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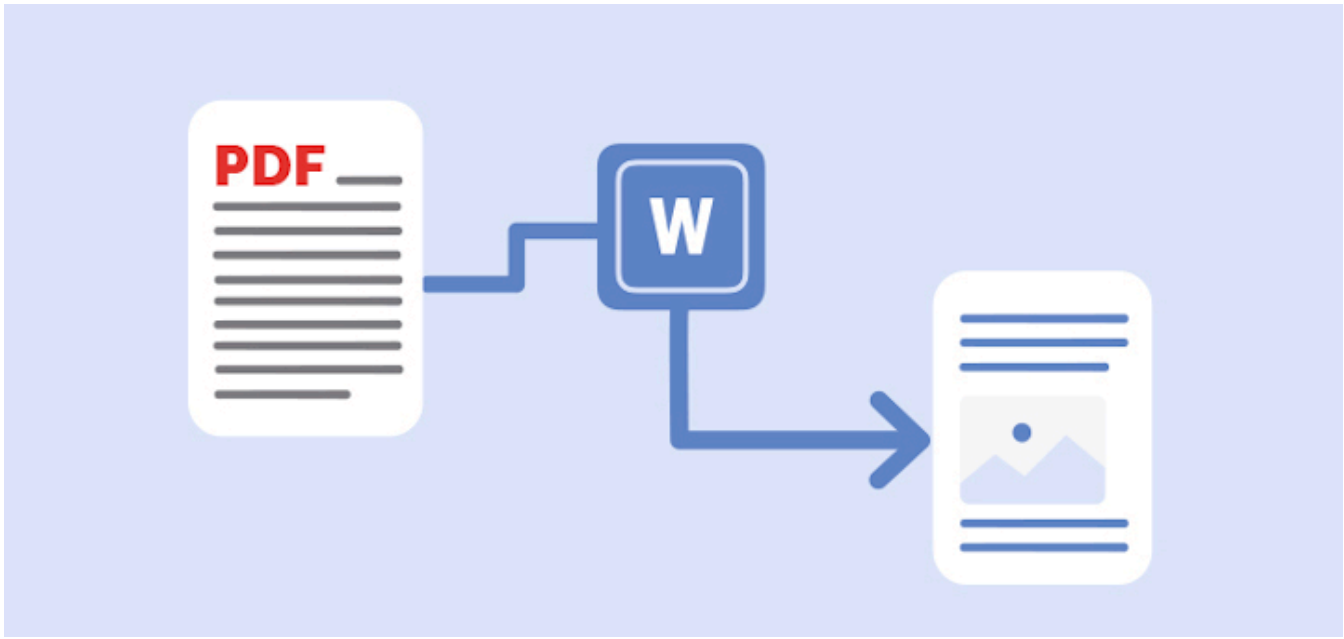

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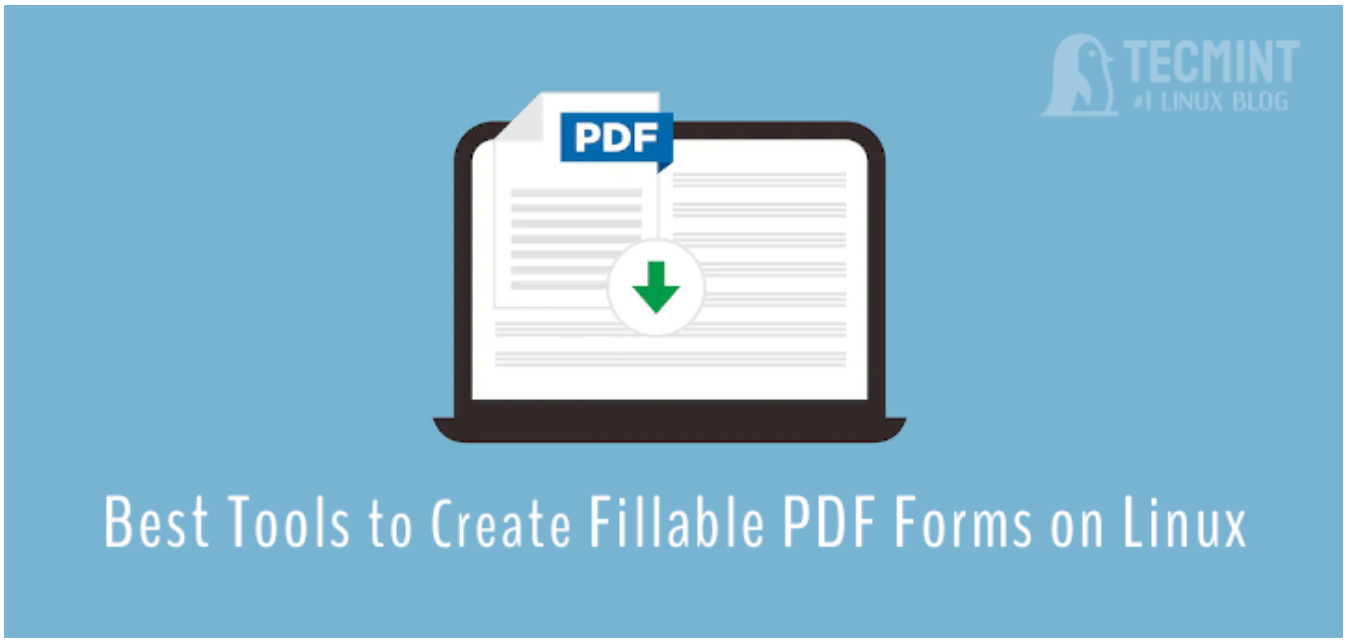

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4 Comments

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mehdi

November 18, 2023 at 1:32 pm

Does drawio count?!

It's modern and selfhostable with Apache-2.0 license. It's also available via Snap.

```
sudo snap install drawio
```

Reply

Shehan Perera
June 25, 2020 at 2:20 pm

Creately should be in the list. It has collaboration featured like Video, Real-Time Mouse Tracking and much more exciting options. Desktop version available for Linux.

Reply

Mikael L.
March 12, 2020 at 4:34 am

The **PlantUML** example shows a graphical editor but after installing **PlantUML** I can't find such editor other than external tools. What tools are actually being showcased here?

Where do you get them?

Reply

abc

December 3, 2019 at 9:24 pm

Calligra Flow is no longer contained in the suite and hasn't been updated for two years. If you have to post articles that are just compiling information from other articles (and not mentioning those sources), how about at least checking if that information is still true?

Reply

Got Something to Say? Join the Discussion...

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