

PrintANotebook: Custom Design Generation

The following figures illustrate the steps needed to generate and export a custom design made with LibreOffice Draw. This will allow you to make your own personalized notebooks, like the one shown in Figure 1!

Should you use custom designs for the notebook pages, these JPEG images would need to replace the "Left-" and "Right Page Daily Planner.jpg" files that are included in the working folder by default.



Figure 1. Daily planner custom design generated with LibreOffice Draw.

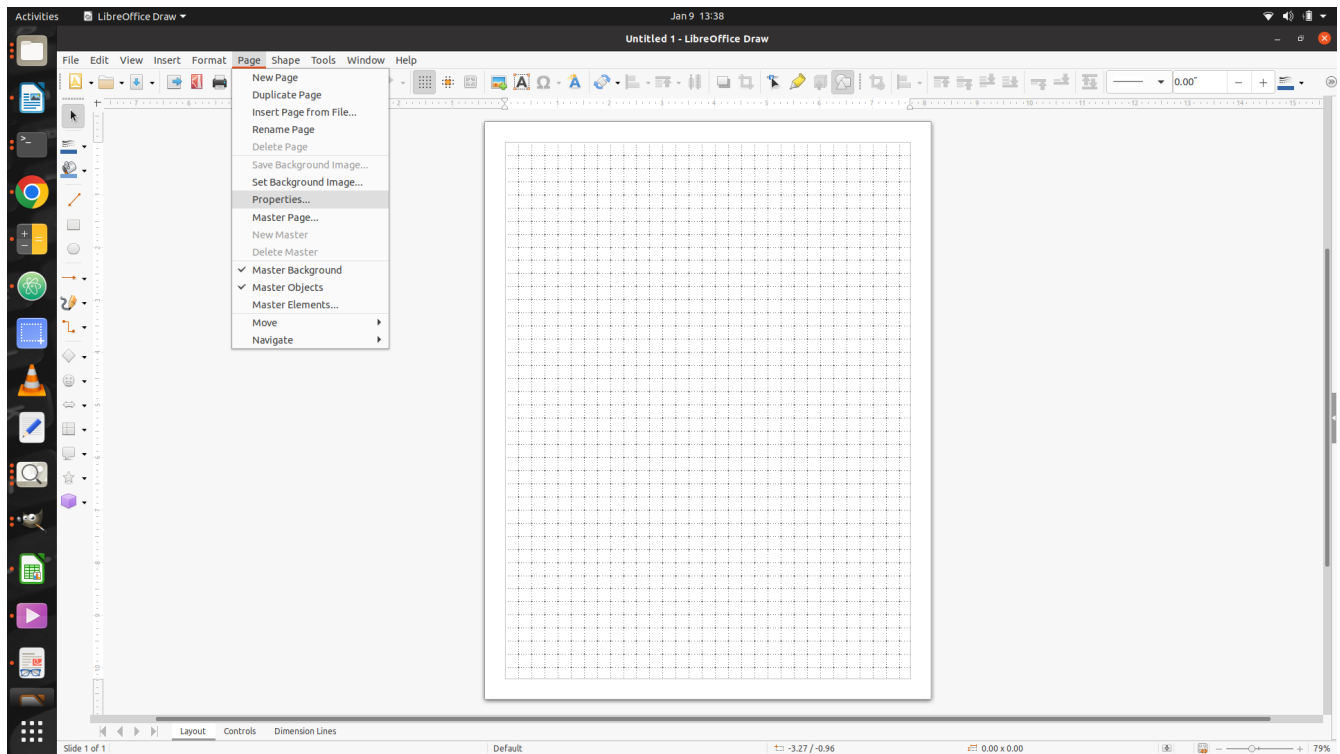


Figure 2. In order to properly set the margins of the document so that it prints well, start by selecting "Properties" from the "Page" menu of LibreOffice Draw.

Page Setup

PageBackgroundTransparency

Paper Format

Format:User

Width:5.50"−+

Height:8.50"−+

Orientation:☒ Portrait☐ Landscape

Paper tray:[From printer settings]

Margins

Left:0.50"−+

Right:0.75"−+

Top:0.50"−+

Bottom:0.50"−+

Layout Settings

Page numbers:1, 2, 3, ...

☐ Fit object to paper format

Help

ResetCancelOK

Figure 3. Configure the page size in half letter format, with a page width of 5 1/2 inches and a page height of 8 1/2 inches. Specify the "Portrait" orientation, and set the right margin to 3/4 of an inch (this is the gutter margin for the left-hand pages), and the left, top and bottom margins to half an inch. For right-hand page designs, you would need to set the left margin to 3/4 of an inch and the right margin to half an inch.

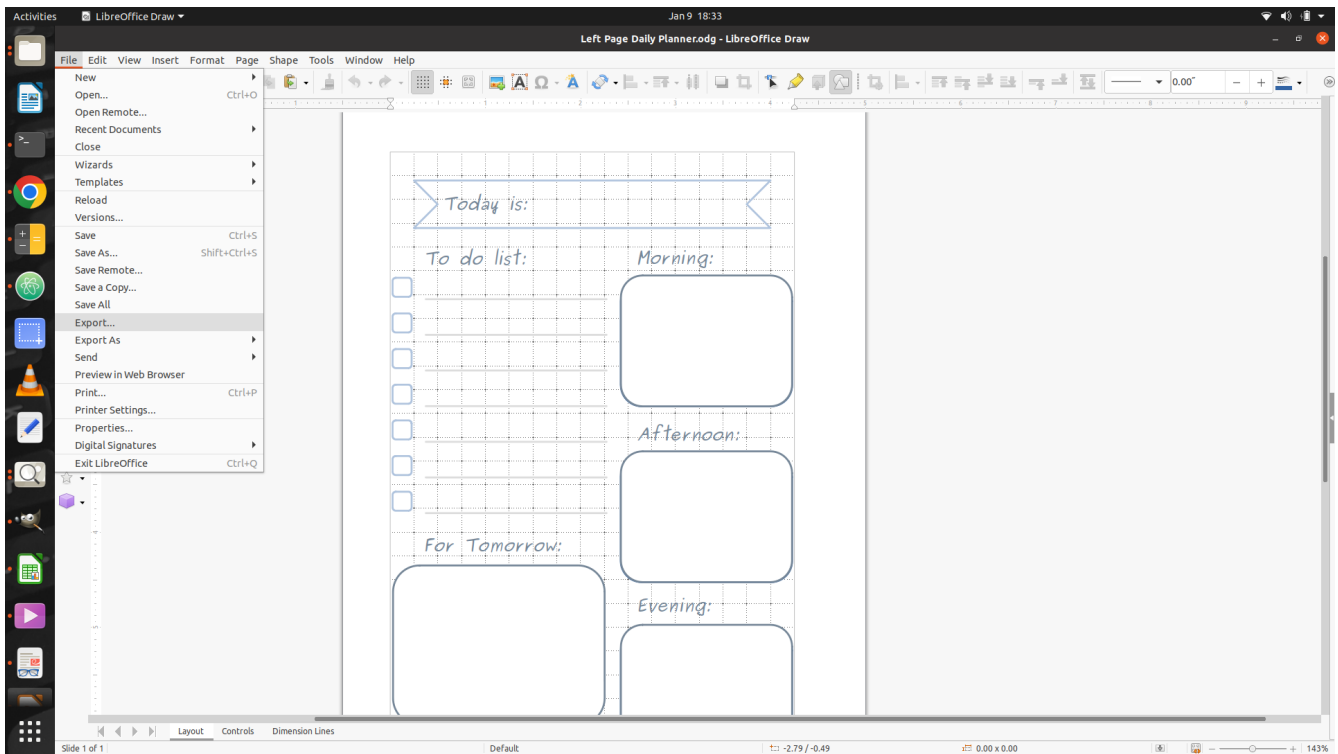


Figure 4. Once your design is complete, select "Export..." from the "File" menu.

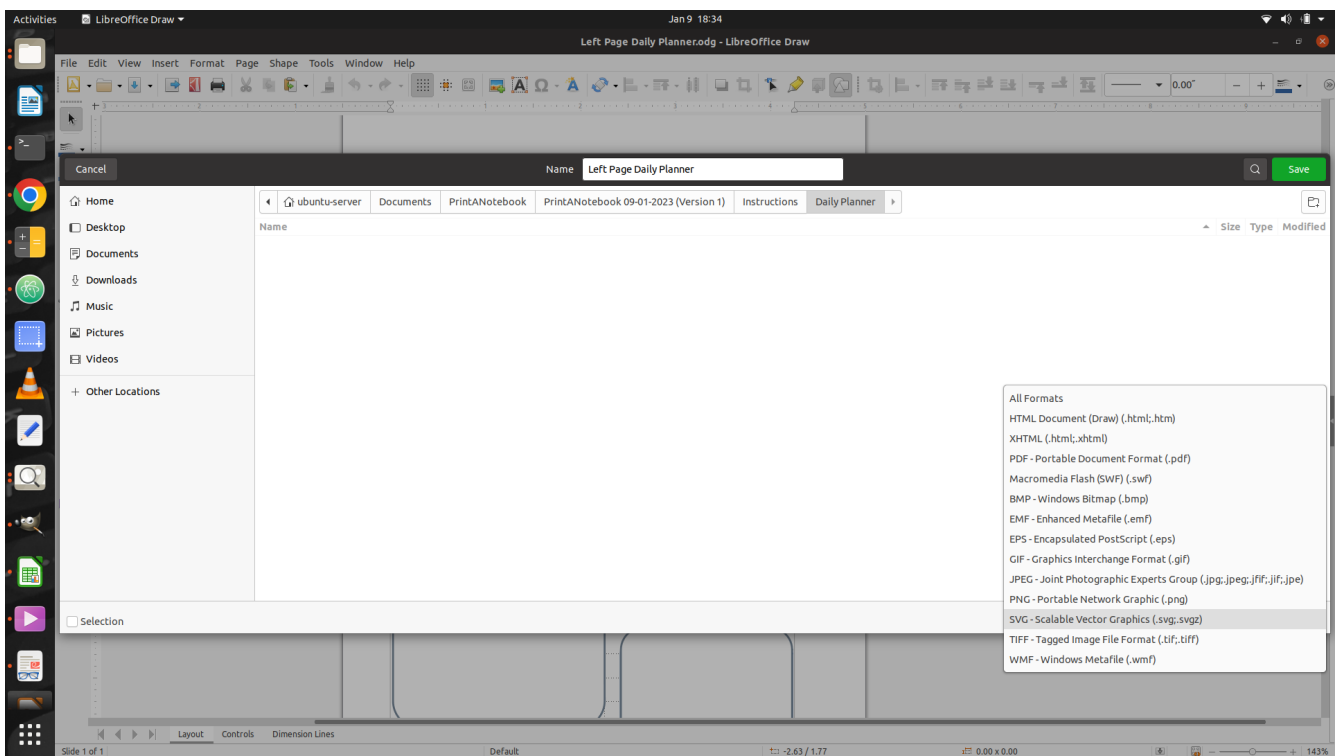


Figure 5. Choose the "Scalable Vector Graphics" format (.svg) option and save your file. I didn't get good results when exporting the designs as JPEG images directly in LibreOffice Draw, so the file first needs to be exported in SVG format for optimal image fidelity.

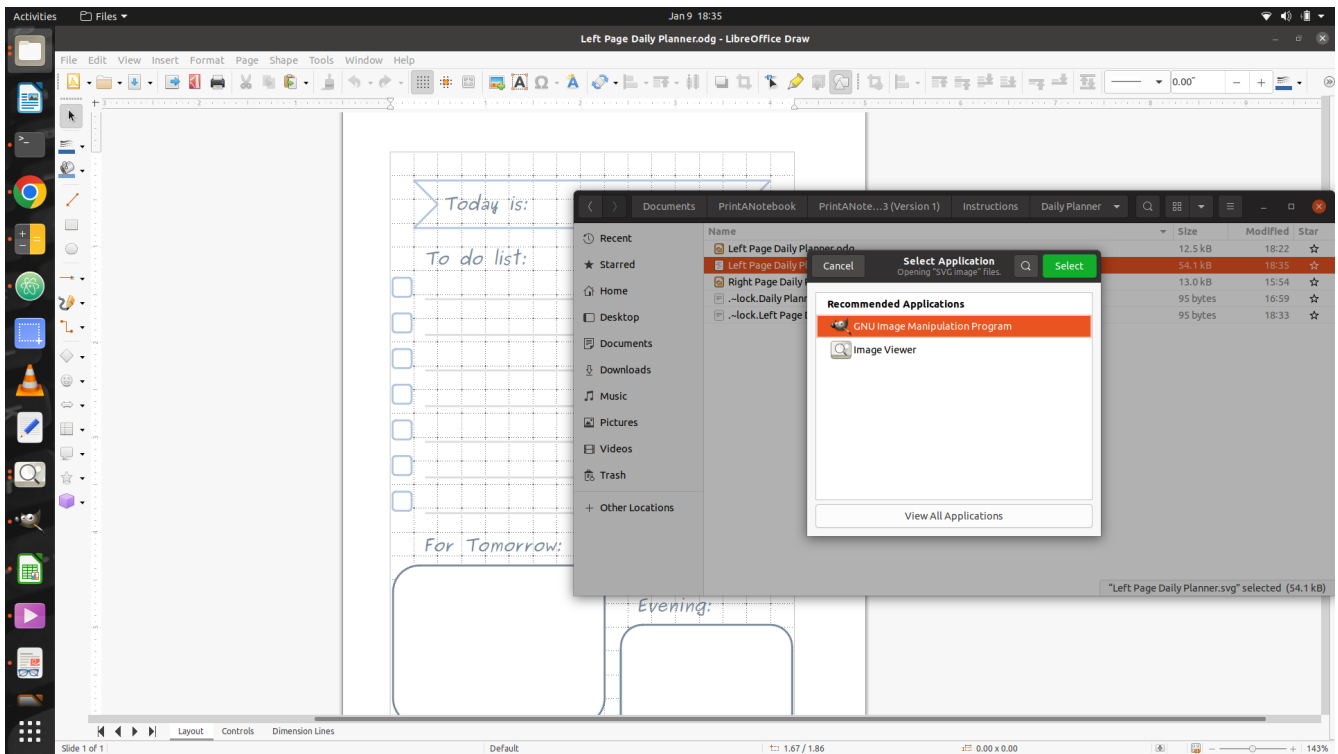


Figure 6. Open the SVG with the "GNU Image Manipulation Program" (or GIMP).

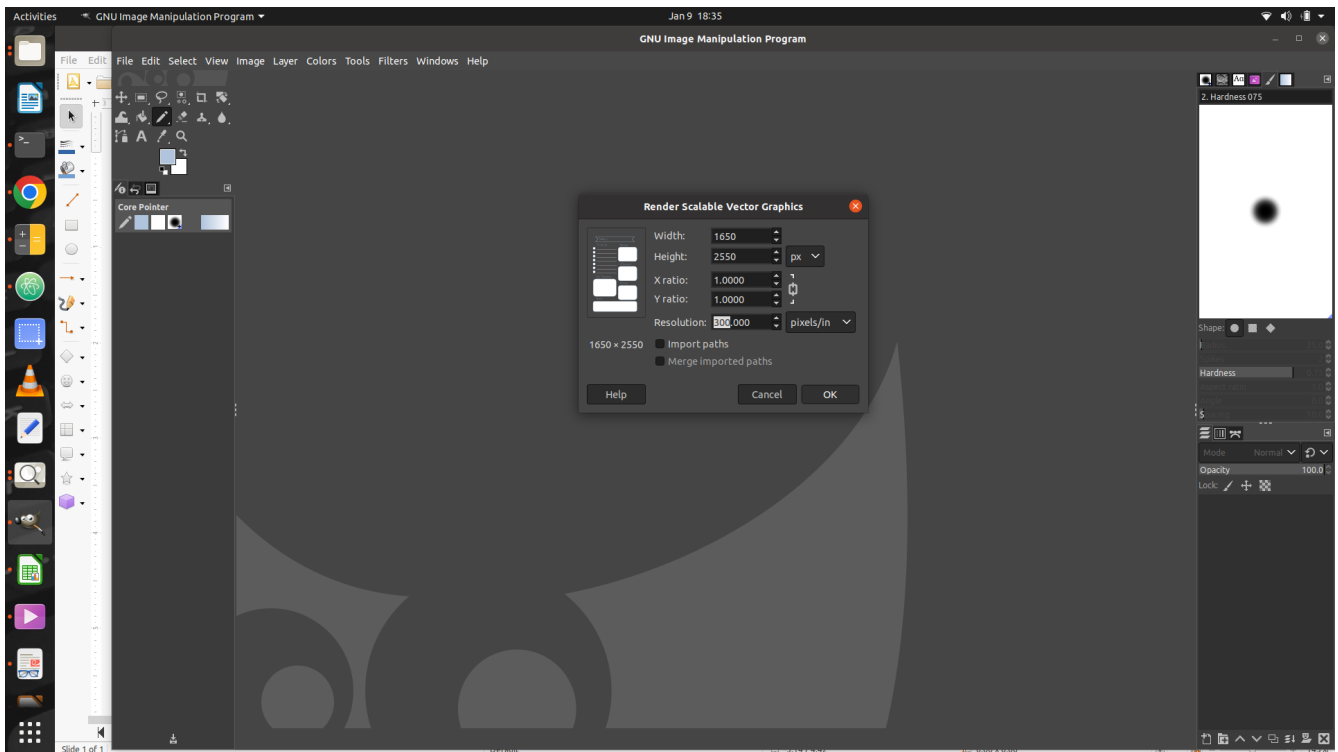


Figure 7. Enter 300 ppi as the SVG image resolution. This will open the image at the optimal resolution at which it will be printed later on.

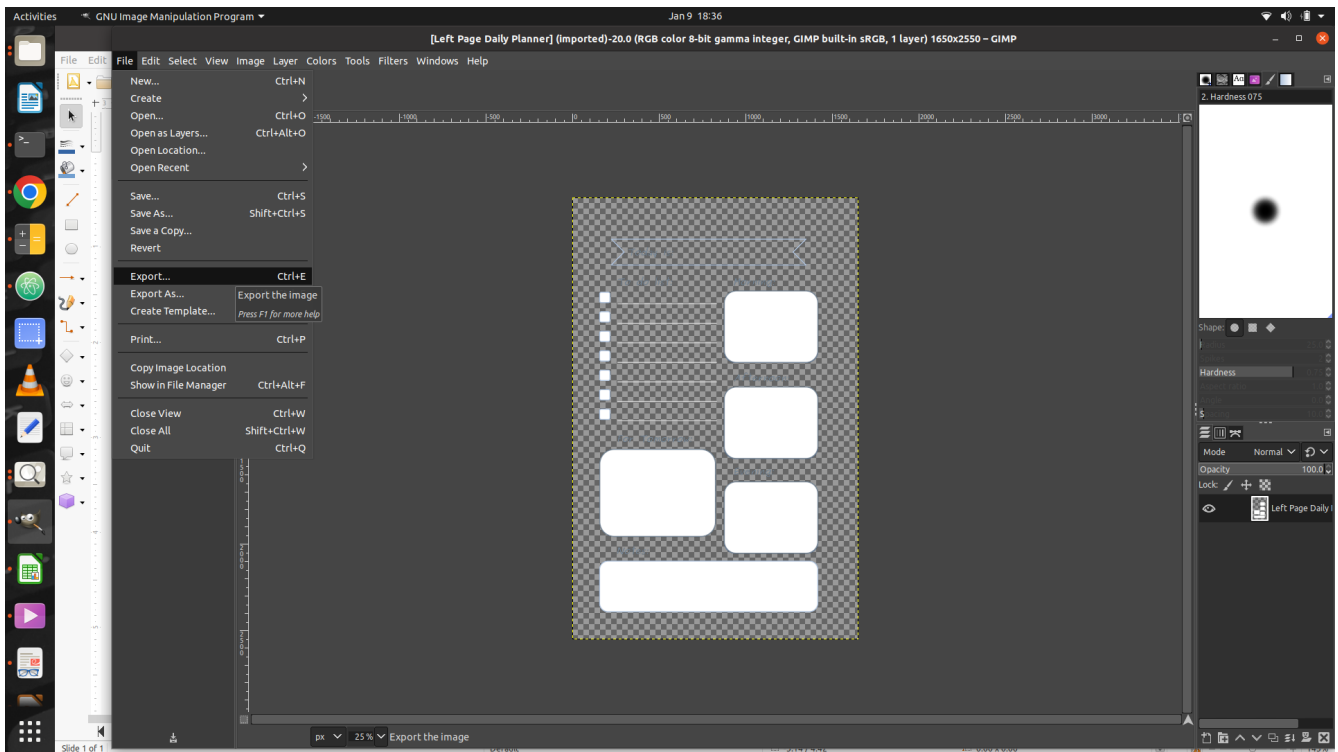


Figure 8. Export the design as a JPEG by first selecting "Export..." under the "File" menu of GIMP.

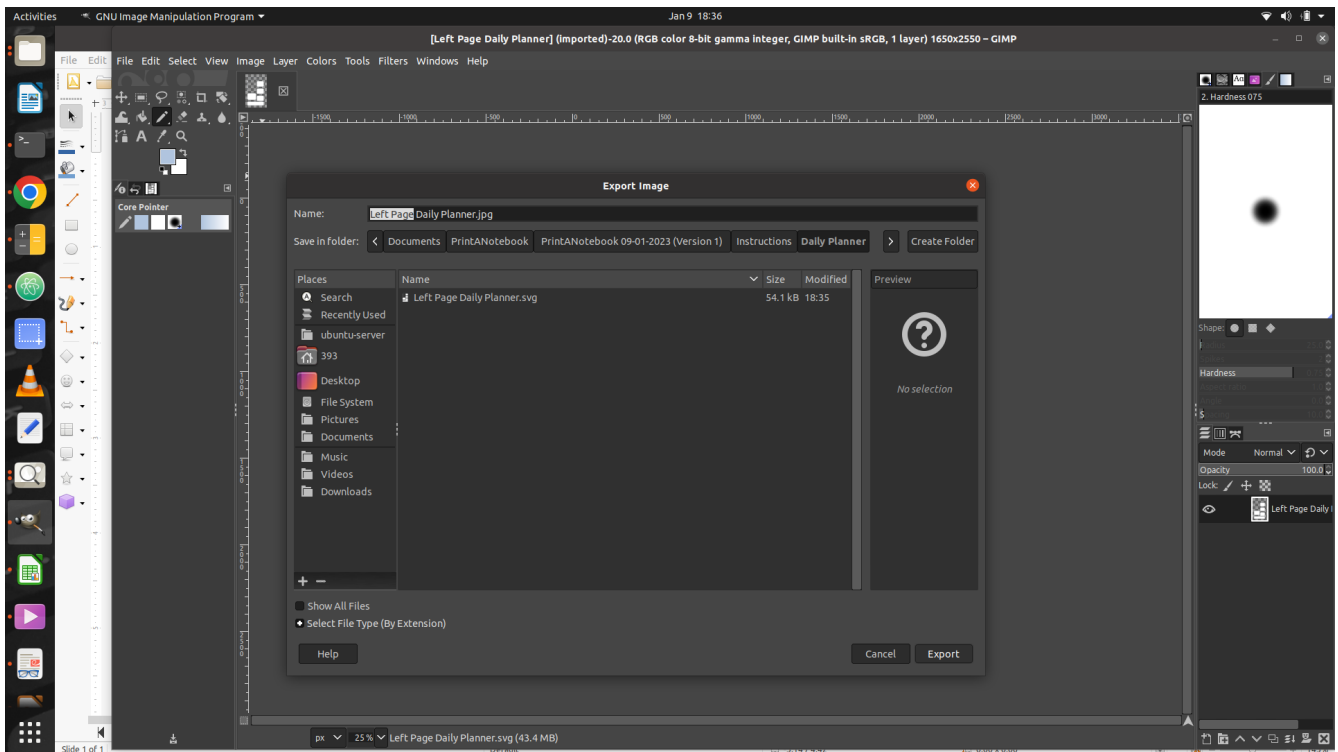


Figure 9. The left-hand page JPEG file names need to begin with "Left Page" (and right page designs file names need to start with "Right Page"), so that the code may recognize where to place the image within the notebook.

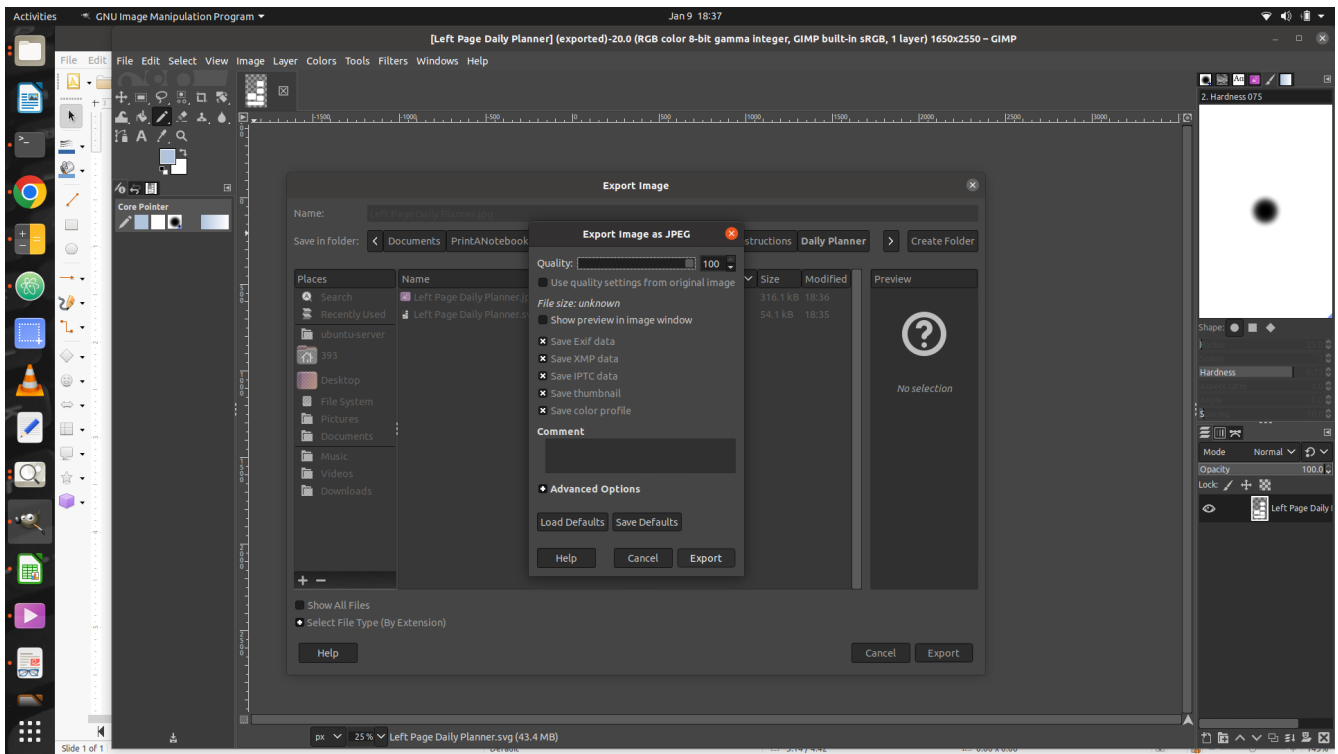


Figure 10. Select the desired JPEG image quality and then click on "Export" to save the image to your working folder. You're now ready to generate a notebook with your own custom designs!

And there you have it! Now get creative and spruce up your notebooks with your own designs!