

**YOUR MONTHLY FLOSS MAGAZINE****March 2010**

# The Ideal Choice For Freedom!?

page 02



Rights to Copy © 2009-2010  
Service Crack 1

**Green Revolution of Software...**

by Neha

page 04

**Should all Linux Distros Unite...**

by Mohamed Malik

page 06

**KDE Educational Applications...**

by Mohamed Malik

page 11

**Does IE have a future...**

by Mohamed Malik

page 05

**Questions and Answers...**

by Adolf

page 07

**Zenity Dialog for your scripts**

by Adolf

page 21

# WELCOME

**We proudly present you the third issue of MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine - the online publication for Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) by Maldives Open Source Society.**

**MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine will be published on the 7th of every month, each issue can be downloaded for free on our website [moss.org.mv](http://moss.org.mv). Enjoy your time! We are looking forward to read your feedback. Thank you and happy reading!**

# WHAT IS MOSS?

Maldives Open Source Society (MOSS) is a not for profit organization registered in the Republic of Maldives to support, advocate, oversee and promote the use, implementation and development of Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) within the country. The name MOSS was coined after a long debate on finalizing a name for the organization.

MOSS is an initiative of the Maldives Linux User Group (MLUG) and had it's early history and projects run under MLUG's resources, although ironically, MLUG is now a member of MOSS and oversees it's operations and developments.

Thus the name of this magazine as MOSS: Your Monthly FLOSS Magazine, indicates this as the voice of MOSS. All articles are contributions of MOSS members and the spirit runs at heart. Our aim is to empower all people to freely connect, create and share in a digital world that is participatory, transparent, and sustainable. For more information on MOSS and it's activities visit [moss.org.mv](http://moss.org.mv)

# HOW TO CONTRIBUTE!

Everyone and anyone is welcome to contribute to the MOSS Magazine. You can email articles to [magazine@moss.org.mv](mailto:magazine@moss.org.mv). Our editors will moderate the articles for the magazine and contact you if needed.

In addition to articles you can also submit news, comments, your FLOSS experiences, hardware/software reviews, questions, screenshots, photos or interesting links to the email address.

## Article Submission Guidelines

The only condition for contribution of articles is that they must be related to Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS).

## Rules for articles

1. You can use any software to write your articles, preferably OpenOffice.org
2. All images can be in JPG, PNG and SVG, images should be good in quality and full-size.
3. Articles for now must be in English, don't worry if your English is not too good, we will proof read it for you.
4. You can use a pen-name, your nickname or use your real name, whichever you are comfortable with, but each article must have a writer identity (Important for reader feedback!). If you want your email address publicised along with the identity, indicate it too.

**Deadline to send articles for the next release  
Wednesday, March 31, 2010**



The articles contained in this magazine are released under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. This means you can adapt, copy, distribute and transmit the articles but only under the following conditions: You must attribute the work to the original author in some way (at least a name, email or URL) and to this magazine by its name ('MOSS') and the URL [www.moss.org.mv](http://www.moss.org.mv) (but not attribute the article(s) in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work). If you alter, transform, or build upon this work, you must distribute the resulting work under the same, similar or a compatible license.

# The Ideal Choice For Freedom! FLOSS

Yusuf Abdulla Shunan | shunan@gmail.com

**Without exceptions** any of the Maldivians who use a computer has used illegal pirated software. It is true, as far as technology is concerned; if we have to purchase software at the current high cost, we will be considerably backward. People do justify that for a small community like us to keep up with the technology race, piracy is a must. However, if we are using illegal pirated software, whether an individual, a business or a government agency, we are preparing ourselves for a disaster. Now it is officially decided that by the end of 2011 Maldives will introduce Intellectual Property (IP) Law.

So why and how would this change the way we use software? Software falls under IP Law, and thus using illegal pirated software by law will be a punishable crime. One may ask how you would be caught using illegal pirated software. Well, unlike today, when the IP Law is in full force, everyday law enforcement officials will raid, force people to buy original versions of software and exercise fines as dictated by law. In addition I personally know few lawyers who are patiently waiting to sue you. We have to wait and see how much these fines will amount to, but the question is, are you willing to wait for the law to come and cause a huge financial burden. You may say, nobody talks about this IP Law, or you may have doubts that it will ever come to Maldives. I will advise

you to do your own research on the topic. Whether you are convinced or not, whether you want to wait for the IP Law to come and force you, right now the choice to stop using pirated illegal software is just a matter of ethics. Truth is, even today, without the law enforcers chasing you, there are enough reasons to avoid illegal pirated software.

First and foremost, it is strange for anyone to trust an unknown person with no identity in providing an executable that has been tempered. In most cases, illegal pirated software carries a lot of Viruses, Trojans and Worms. The software will be reasonably slow and at times bound to stop working. On the other hand, nobody can give any kind of warranty or offer sustainable technical assistance for such software. If you are providing or promoting or using illegal pirated software, as far as technical help is concerned, you are pretty alone in this world. If you are an IT Manager or a Technician, it is your duty to stop using illegal pirated software. Why wait for the day for your seniors to come up with policies and audit regularly to force you to stop the use of illegal pirated software. Everyone should break the current habit of using illegal pirated software and be responsible for the software they use.

I do understand many of the software are too expensive for most of us to afford. Especially

given the fact, we have been using pirated illegal software for the last 30 years. If you choose wisely, you don't have to waste that much money. There is a better option than spending all your hard earned cash into buying legal software. There are Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS) alternatives. For example Windows 7 Ultimate costs like \$319.99, but along with that you have to buy Microsoft Office Professional 2010 for \$499 and the average price of a Virus Scanner at \$35. This totals to \$853.99 or MVR10,973.77. Question is, can you afford to spend an additional Rufiyaa 10k for software per PC? However, you can go for an alternative like Ubuntu, which is FLOSS based, popular operating system built upon Linux. You can also look into OpenOffice.org, which is another popular Office package that is as feature rich as any on the market. The virus threat on Linux distributions are very rare, but for the sake of not being a Virus carrier for Microsoft Windows users you can use ClamAV Virus Scanner. All of these are very few selected FLOSS that you can easily get used to without spending a fortune. If you are concerned about the cost and demanding hardware requirements of the latest Windows Operating System, then just have a look at Ubuntu or any other Linux Distros (check the issue #1 of



MOSS for some popular Linux distributions). I know it is a major change for anyone to consider, but this is a change to which we have very little choice. The risks are way too high for using illegal pirated software, and thus, individuals and the staff of companies and government agencies have to look at FLOSS as a friend.

Today, one reason why nobody really trust, or value the IT Industry of the country is due to illegal pirated software.

When there comes a day, when software needs to be budgeted heavily, people will realize the importance and value software. Opening a computer shop around the corner is not taking part in the IT Industry, it is just like any other retail shop.

Introduction of the IP Law will bring a positive spill to create many new jobs, boost the economic growth with the creation of an IT Industry.

In reality the fact that companies like Microsoft has grown so huge taking

advantage of a need and pricing their product unreasonably high is the real reason for software piracy. However, we cannot just say so and stop at it. I have always supported FLOSS and believed in that information should be free. FLOSS today is a good competitor that even giants like Microsoft has officially accepted and acknowledged. Hopefully this will force to reduce the prices of future products of major players like Microsoft for the benefit of all. What I personally do not get is, when the government knows and says that they have to use legal software by the year 2011, they are sitting like ducks doing nothing. I guess it is about time the government take the first step, educating people of using legal software and advocating on the potential dangers of pirated software. As a government initiative, cutting down on software piracy is a doable task. If you are an individual, I will

advise you to start looking at alternatives. If you want to take part in the IT Industry I will advise that you start exploring FLOSS. If you are a business I will advise you to contact a trusted partner who can help you get a legal software environment. When the government is serious about the use of legal software by 2011, then today is the right time to act. This task is way too big to accomplish within the last three months. The use of illegal pirated software is an unethical choice we make, as it is equal to stealing. The legal version of pirated software has a value that the creator has placed on it. May it be too high for everyone to afford, but using pirated illegal software from an ethical point of view is a criminal act. So FLOSS is the ideal choice for freedom...

# Green Revolution of the Software Industry

Neha Jain, B.Tech Student, India



The **OPEN SOURCE MOVEMENT** can be rightly referred to as the green revolution of the IT sector. The green revolution of the agricultural sector, brought about by scientists of Mexico, was due to the innovation of the HYV (High Yielding Varieties) seeds, ones that have disease-resistance, high productivity and other desirable properties. Now compare and contrast this with the innovative idea of the opensource software, that gave way to the sowing of the creative ideas and capitalising on them by the real nerds, the hackers, whom the media has insinuated in the notorious image of the computer criminals!

Now, this faction of innuendo-proof (disease-resistant) and high yielding software developers (geeks) syndicated to form the most popular enterprises of today Mozilla,

Ubuntu, Paypal etc; with some leading firms like Google, Sun etc, following the suite, thanks to their visionary leaders. But the true success does not only lie only in creation, that these people have been doing since ages, rather in acceptance of it. So users, thanks to you too! And today with Google becoming the leading software firm, the time has proved that this world is ready to accept the freedom of Business in real sense; it is no longer allowing any one "gate" to control this world of geeks and tie their creative skills into chains in the name of commercialization.

Hey! Now please don't think this to be a drastic upturn of events suddenly, as if some outbreak of a fountain head in a day or so; this is what is referred to as the RISE OF NATIONS. This is the long cherished philosophy of collegial model of organization; and gradually,

people came to terms with it.

The real individuals, who had since time immemorial been burned, poisoned, isolated by the so-called social humans. You remember Galileo, Copernicus, Socrates and many others how they were suppressed by the catholics! But these hard core people, unperturbed of the charges like egotists blah-blah, with the real motive of selflessly serving the society, did everything save yield! And now their seeds, their hard-work, their vision, their perseverance is bearing fruits. We should be proud that we have come a long way up in the civilizational hierarchy that we can accept the purest form of business and individual. The world is undergoing another renaissance. So CHEERS FRIENDS!



# Does Internet Explorer have a future against arch rivals?

Mohamed Malik | <http://www.mohamedmalik.com>



**A few years ago** Microsoft's Internet Explorer was the king of explorers. According to recent reports that are being published in the internet, the Redmond giant's Internet Explorer is losing its popularity at a rate that has never been seen before. Here is the way I see it. Take ten typical internet users, four of them have a technical understanding of computers, the rest are just casual users who just browse the Internet. The four use a browser other than Internet Explorer, meanwhile the remaining six are using Internet Explorer, the reasons for this could be as follows;

Lack of technical understanding.

Lack of awareness that other choices exist.

Or they had Internet Explorer installed by default.

However, technical understanding in computer users are becoming more and more rapid, which is bad for Microsoft meaning that those who understand that there are other browsers on the market are opting for other browsers.

According to Internet sources they say that Internet Explorer will lose more market share in the coming months.

It all depends on the development speed of the browsers, when discussing this issue it is known that Microsoft doesn't include new features once the browser is released to the public. For instance Internet Explorer 6 was released on August 27, 2001, meanwhile its predecessor IE7 was released on October 18, 2006. Nearly after six years. Meaning that the browser was not updated with new features for almost 6 years, it only reviewed bug fixes. IE8 was released on March 19, 2009 roughly 2 and half years after the release of IE7. IE9 is at the moment

underdevelopment which means that according to the release cycle of IE it will take at least another 2 or maybe 3 years. During this long time consumed for developmental strategy, that the Redmond giant takes, its all the other browsers which continue to make improvement in other areas and rips Microsoft's market share. Firefox 3.6 was just released at the beginning of last month. Meanwhile 3.7 is already in alpha 2 stage according to Mozilla, which means Mozilla is very busy cooking the next iteration of Firefox, and with the development speed that has seen in Mozilla version 3.7 will be ready in just a few months. However in the meantime, Google Chrome and Opera are also cooking their next iterations. Google Chrome is in version 5 beta meanwhile Opera is at 10.5 beta 2.

In my personal point of view, Microsoft will be short of options to keep IE at the top of the browser market in a few years. Since every time the Redmond giant makes a step forward other browser developers are already two steps ahead of them. Which brings me to my point. If Microsoft is to survive this war against Firefox, Chrome, Opera and Safari, the final option that they have to take is to open source Internet Explorer and develop it with the help of the community rather than developing it behind closed doors. Let us hope that, that day will come soon!

# Should all Linux Distro's get united

Mohamed Malik | <http://www.mohamedmalik.com>



**As a Linux user** this is an issue that bothers me a lot, there are thousands of Linux developers which are scattered across the planet. According to distowatch.com there are more than hundred Linux distributions in existence, most of them are small distro's which are lead by small teams or individuals. Meanwhile the big guns, Ubuntu, Opensuse, Fedora, Mandriva & Debian are trying to reinvent the wheel which is basically the same thing. Most Linux distro's get updated once in every six months, which is the time that is taken for their default desktop environment to get updated. Some use KDE others use GNOME for different reasons. In the meantime all these distributions argue that they are better than one other, but the fact remains that they are all equal since both underlying kernel and desktop environments are the same except for features which are specific to that particular distribution.

The major purpose of all desktop related Linux distributions is to unleash Linux's potential on the desktop. Nevertheless, no one will argue about the fact that it is the ultimate server solution. In this

regard all major Linux distributions have some similarities; they are

stand against windows  
promote free software

In this regard why are all distributions doing their own thing, developing and promoting their own distribution. In my personal point of view if the major Linux distributions come under one roof and start developing the desktop as a unified project, it will make Linux much better and much powerful. When they have the same aim why not do it? Why not come under one roof and start developing the same thing. But why are they not doing it or why isn't anyone talking about it. Microsoft windows and apple's Mac OS developers will definitely be more scared of the Linux desktop if all come under one roof, since we already know what the Linux community is capable of doing. If they call get united it will definitely make the ultimate Linux Desktop! United We Stand Divided We Fall!

# QnA

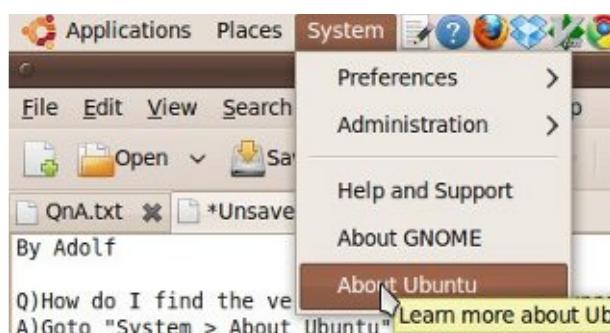
Adolf

## Q) How do I find the version of Ubuntu I am running.

### The GUI way

Goto "System > About Ubuntu"

The resulting window will show an introduction to Ubuntu beginning with the version.



### The Commandline way

```
cat /etc/issue
```

## Q) How do I find my disk space usage.

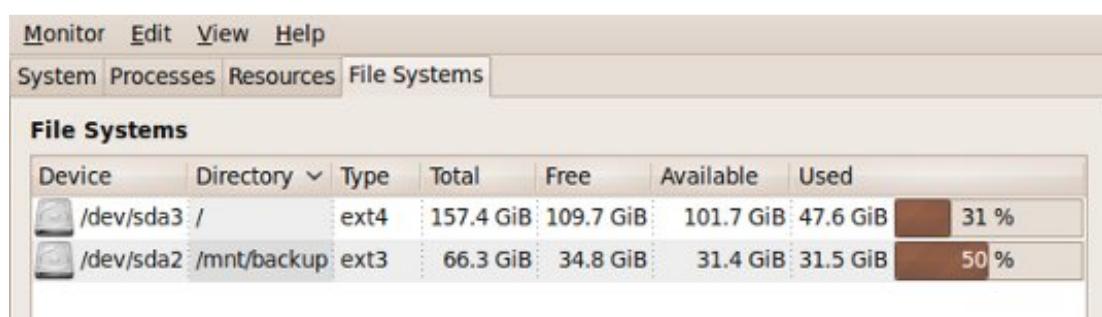
### The GUI way

Go to "System > Administration > System Monitor"

The filesystem disk-space usage for all partitions will be available under "File Systems" tab in the resultant "System monitor" window.

### The Commandline way

```
df -h
```



## Q) So How to get disk space usage for a directory

### The GUI way

Right-click the folder and select "Properties". The no. of items in the folder along with the total size of all items will be shown in the "Folder Properties" window.

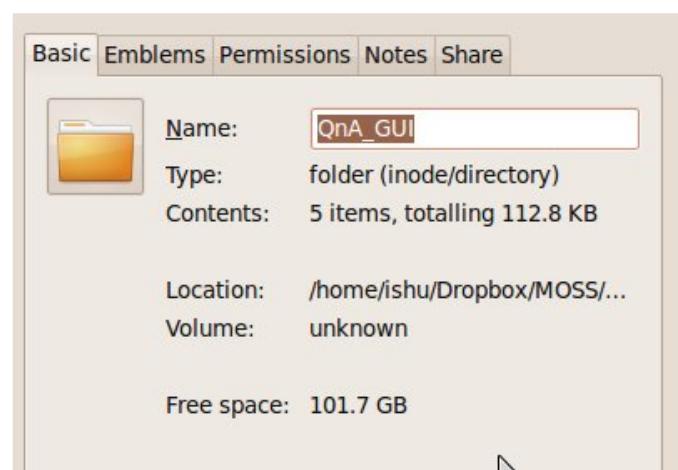
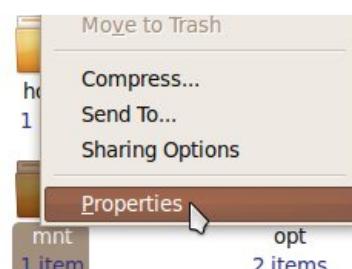
### The Commandline way

The du command displays the disk usage for a directory. It can either display the space used for all subdirectories or the total for the directory you run it on.

Example:

```
user@users-desktop:~$ du /media/pen
1032 /media/pen/files
1036 /media/pen/
user@users-desktop:~$ du -sh /media/pen
1.1M /media/pen/
```

-s means "Summary" and -h means "Human Readable"



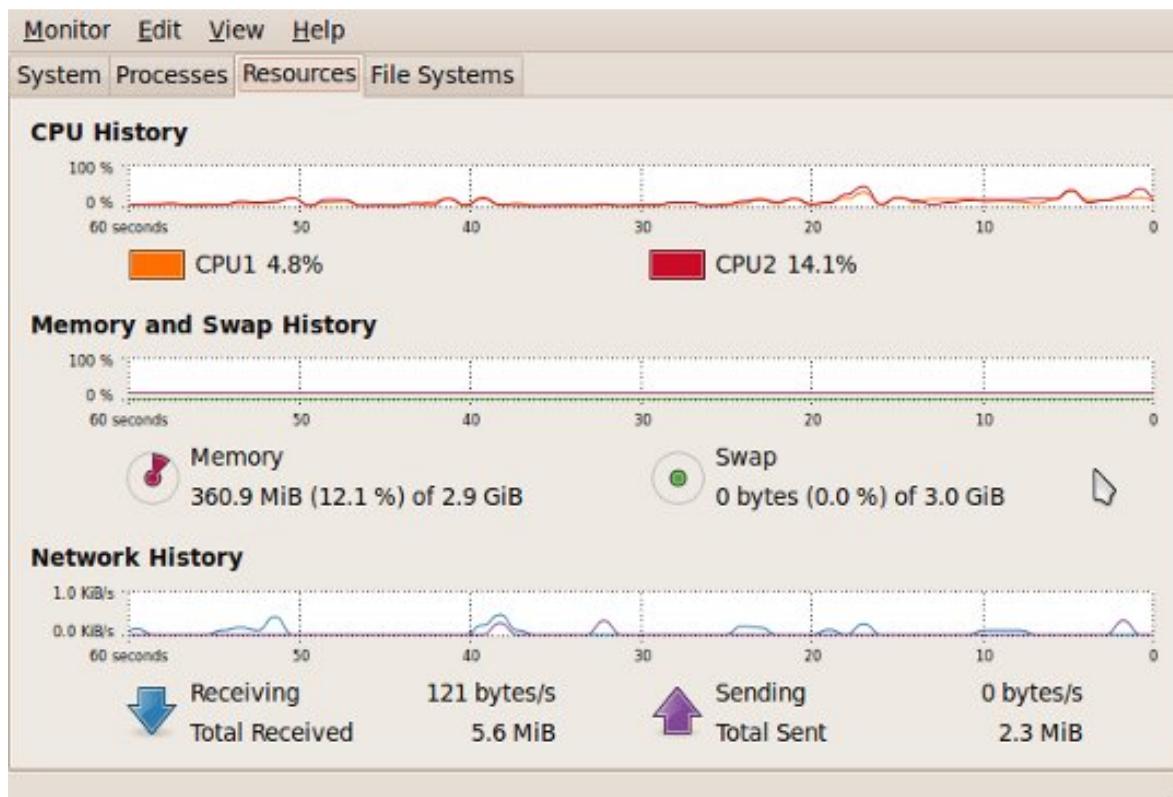
## Q) I want to know the amount of free and used memory in the system

### The GUI way

Go to "System > Administration > System Monitor". The information will be available under "Resources" tab in the System Monitor.

### The Commandline way

```
free -m  
(gives memory usage in megabytes)
```



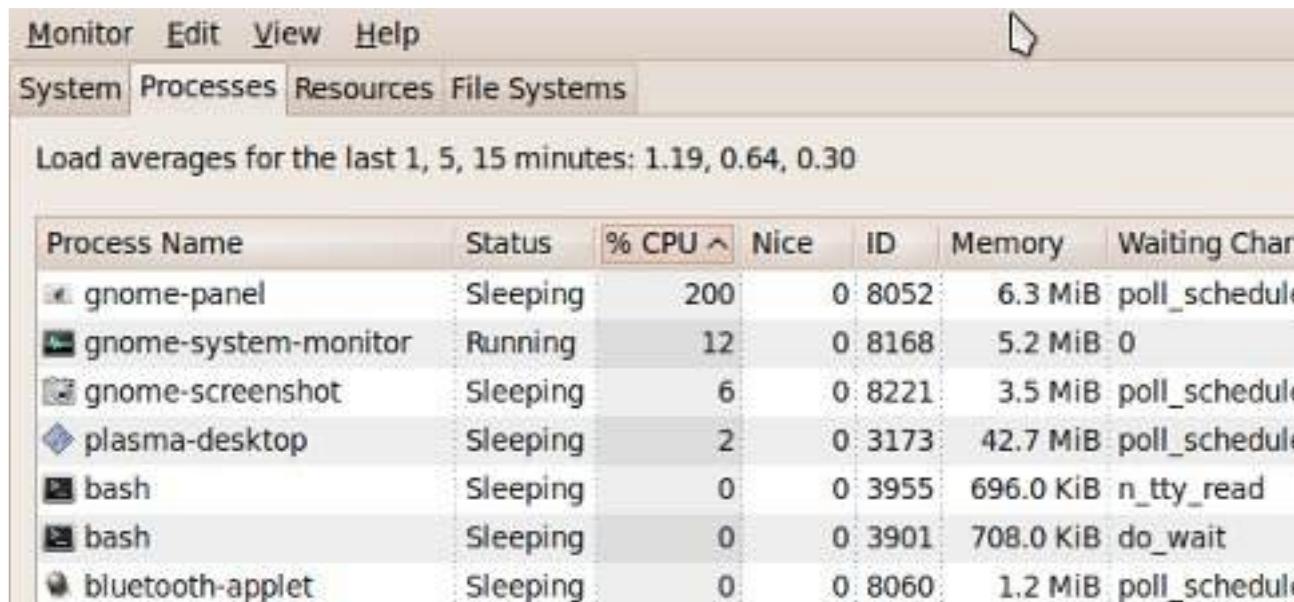
## Q) I want to know running processes on my Linux System and their CPU, RAM & swap usage

### The GUI way

Go to "System > Administration > System Monitor".  
The information will be available under "Processes" tab in the System Monitor.

### The Commandline way

top



A screenshot of the KDE System Monitor application. The window title is "System Monitor". The menu bar includes "Monitor", "Edit", "View", and "Help". Below the menu is a toolbar with tabs: "System", "Processes" (which is selected), "Resources", and "File Systems". A status bar at the bottom shows load averages: "Load averages for the last 1, 5, 15 minutes: 1.19, 0.64, 0.30". The main area displays a table of processes:

Process Name	Status	% CPU	Nice	ID	Memory	Waiting	Char
gnome-panel	Sleeping	200	0	8052	6.3 MiB	poll_schedule	
gnome-system-monitor	Running	12	0	8168	5.2 MiB	0	
gnome-screenshot	Sleeping	6	0	8221	3.5 MiB	poll_schedule	
plasma-desktop	Sleeping	2	0	3173	42.7 MiB	poll_schedule	
bash	Sleeping	0	0	3955	696.0 KiB	n_tty_read	
bash	Sleeping	0	0	3901	708.0 KiB	do_wait	
bluetooth-applet	Sleeping	0	0	8060	1.2 MiB	poll_schedule	

## Q) I want to know my network configuration

### The GUI way

Right-click network manager applet and select "Edit Connections".

You can add, edit and manage connections through the resulting "Network Connections" window. To edit a network-connection select it and click Edit.



### The Commandline way

ifconfig

## Q) How do I add a new user?

### The GUI way

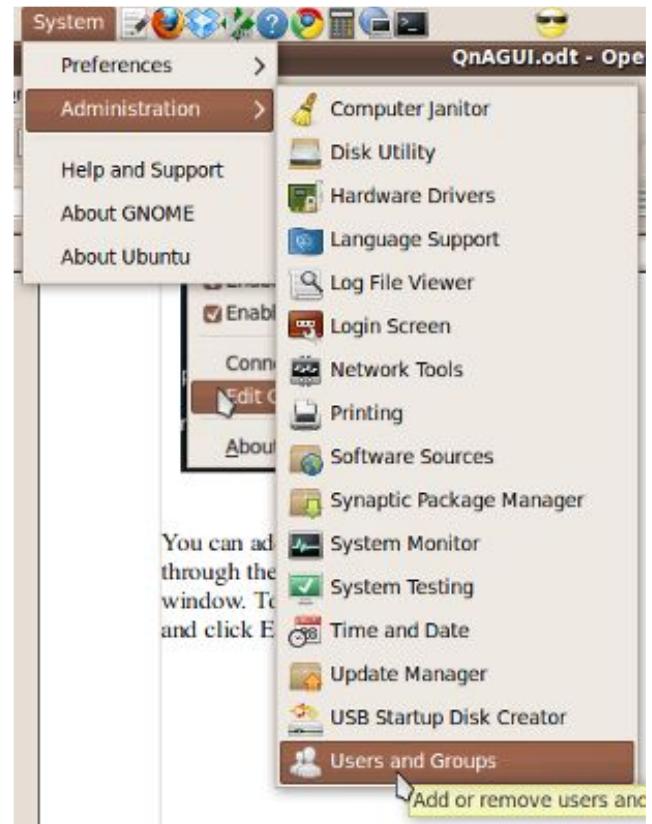
Go to "System > Administration > Users and Groups"

### The Commandline way

`adduser username`

command will create a general user called "username", to assign a password for "username" account, use

`passwd username`



## Q) I want to change my password

### The GUI way

Go to "System > Administration > Users and Groups". Select the user, click "Properties" and Change Password.



### The GUI way to get help

To get more help go to "System > Help and Support".

If you have any questions you can submit it to the moss mailing list or at Ubuntu Forums:  
<http://ubuntuforums.org/>

### The Commandline way

`man commandname`  
 to display a complete manual or

`commandname --help`  
 to display brief help

`man -k foo`  
 will search the manual page files for foo

`man -f foo`  
 searches only the titles of your system's man files.  
 For example, try  
`man -f gnome`

# KDE Educational Applications

## The Perfect Solution For Schools : Part 1

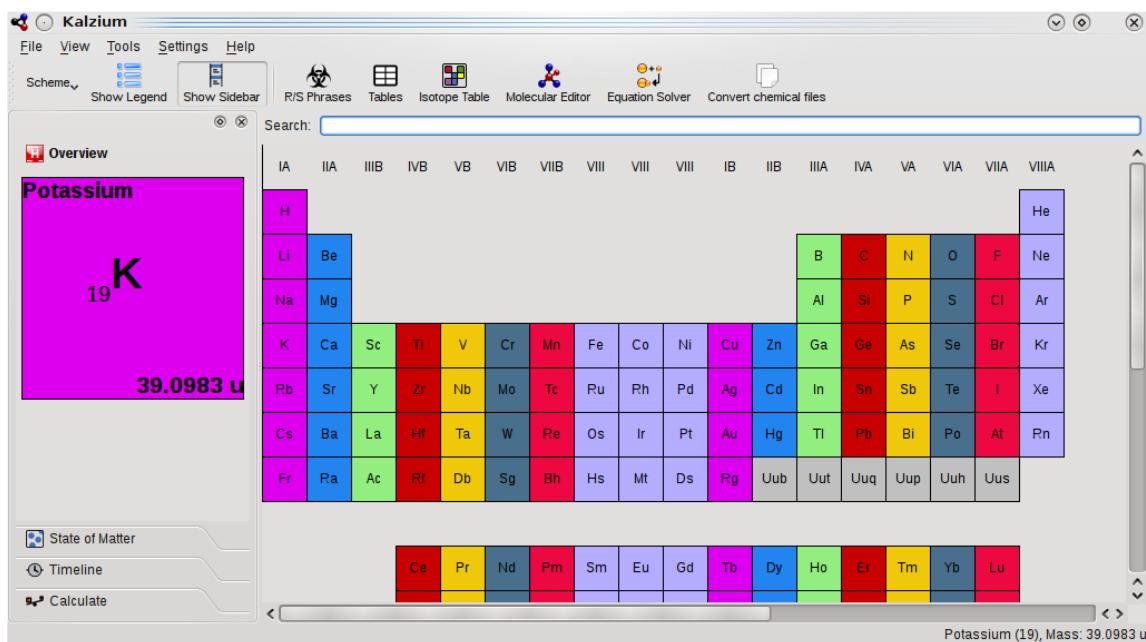
Mohamed Malik | <http://www.mohamedmalik.com>

**It is no furtive that** children like to play games. Recent study has revealed that children learn more quickly through multimedia related applications. The KDE learning suite caters the need of all students in a school. In this regard, in a school there are students with different cognitive level (ability to think and manipulate thought).

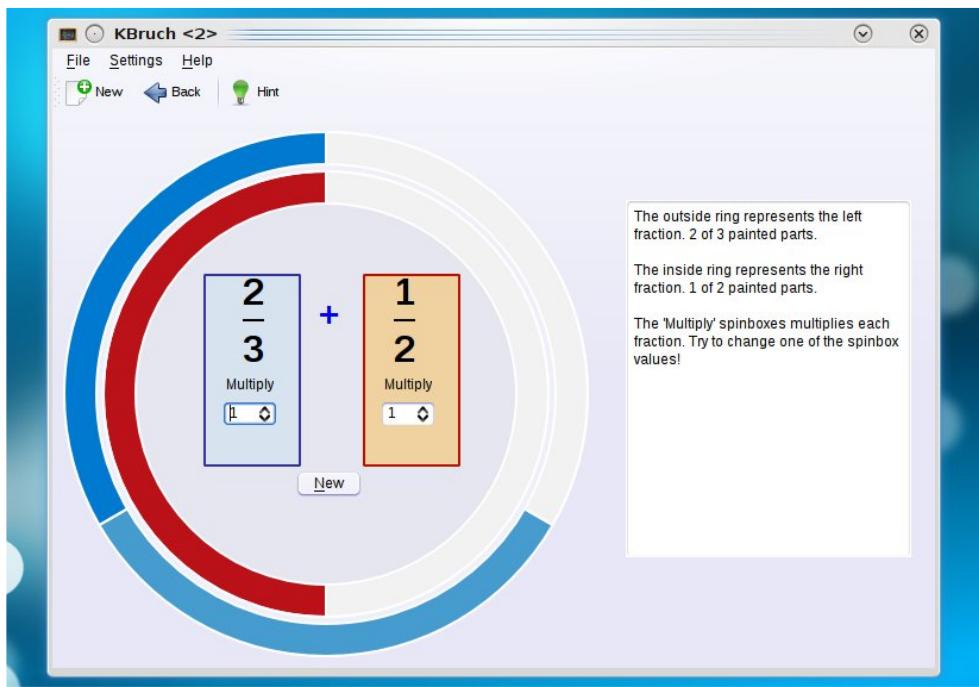
Educational packages in the KDE repository can be used to teach kids almost anything. From fractions to vocabulary games it's all there. In this article we shall take a look at some of the best educational applications that are available for KDE.



**Kalzium** is your digital substitute for the periodic table on paper. It a program that visualizes the Periodic Table of Elements (PSE) and includes basic information about all common elements in the PSE. Students who are studying chemistry and other science related studies will find this piece of software a worthy companion.



- Versatile overview of all important data from the elements like melting points, electron affinity, electron negativity, electron configuration, radii, mass, ionisation energy
- Tool to visualize the spectral lines of each elements
- Different colored views to the PSE: separation of the different blocks, Year simulator, Temperature simulator
- Molecular weight calculator
- An Isotopetable
- 3D molecule editor, with a load and save functionality
- A equation solver for stoichiometric problems
- Filetype conversion for different types of chemical programs
- Tool to produce a comprehensive list of all Risk and Safety Statements



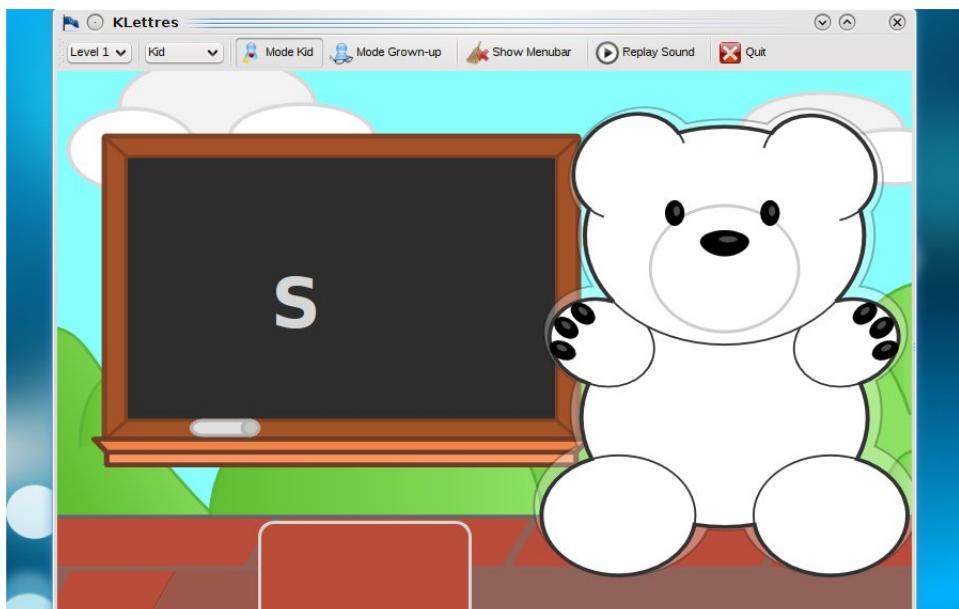
**KBruch** is a small program to practice calculating with fractions and percentages. Different exercises are provided for this purpose and you can use the learning mode to practice with fractions. The program checks the user's input and gives feedback. It also has levels in the settings meaning that the sums can be made easier or more complex depending on the cognitive capability.

- Arithmetic exercise - in this exercise you have to solve a given fraction task. You have to enter the numerator and the denominator. This is the main exercise.
- Comparison exercise - in this exercise you have to compare the size of 2 given fractions, using the symbols  $>$ ,  $<$  or  $=$ .
- Conversion exercise - in this exercise you have to convert a given number into a fraction.
- Factorization exercise - in this exercise you have to factorize a given number into its prime factors.
- Percentage exercise - in this exercise you have to calculate percentages.

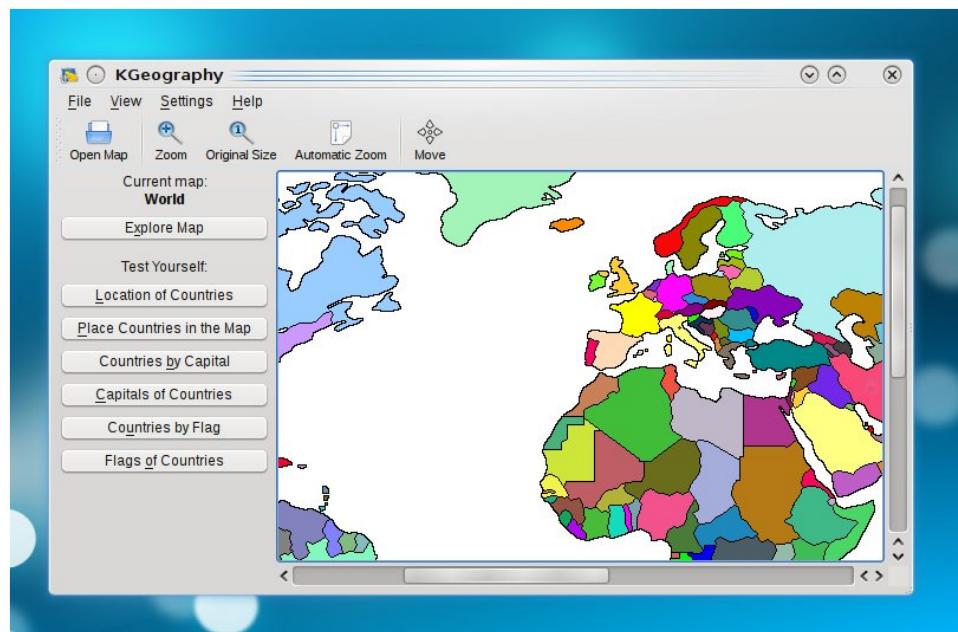
**KLettres** is an application specially designed to help the user to learn alphabet in a new language and then to learn to read simple syllables. The user can be a young child aged from two and a half or an adult that wants to learn the basics of a foreign language.

There are twenty languages available at the moment: Arabic, Czech, Brazilian Portuguese,

British English, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Kannada, Low Saxon, Luganda, Malayalam, Romanized Hindi, Spanish, Slovak and Telugu.



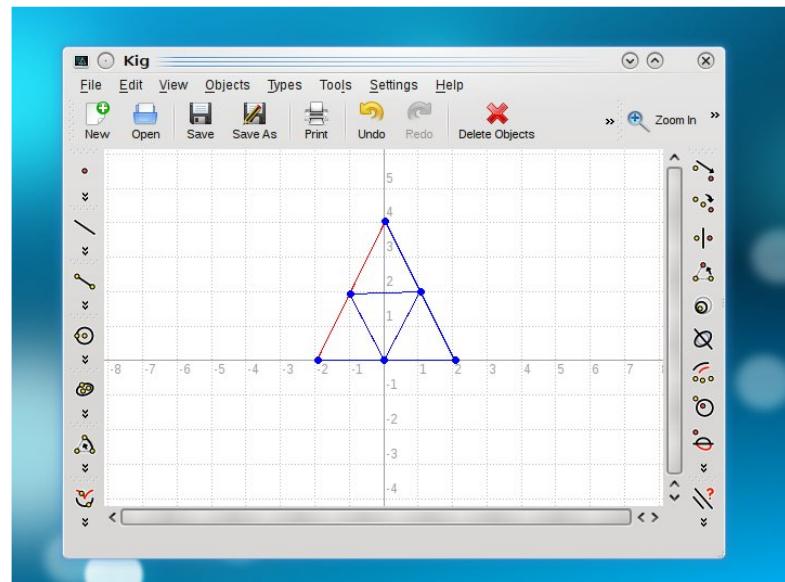
**KGeography** is a geography learning tool, which allows you to learn about the political divisions of some countries (divisions, capitals of those divisions and their associated flags if there are some). In addition it can generate questions and test your current knowledge about any nation in the world.



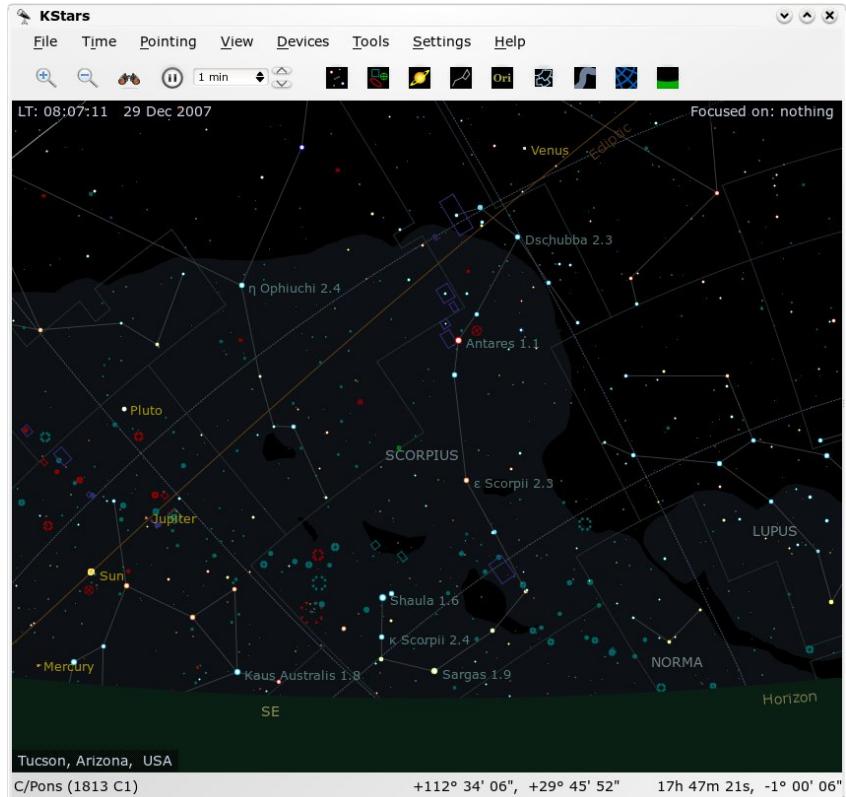
- Browse the maps clicking in a map division to see its name, capital and flag
- The game tells you a map division name and you have to click on it
- The game tells you a capital and you have to guess the division it belongs to
- The game tells you a division and you have to guess its capital
- The game shows you a map division flag and you have to guess its name
- The game tells you a map division name and you have to guess its flag
- The game shows an empty map and you have to place divisions on it one by one

**Kig** is an application for Interactive Geometry. It allows you to create geometrical drawing. This application will be very helpful for those students who are writing the international Cambridge exam in geometry.

- Allows the students to interactively explore mathematical figures and concepts using the computer
- Serves as a WYSIWYG tool for drawing mathematical figures and including them in other documents



**KStars** is a Desktop Planetarium for KDE. It provides an accurate graphical simulation of the night sky, from any location on Earth, at any date and time. The display includes up to 100 million stars, 13,000 deep-sky objects, all 8 planets, the Sun and Moon, and thousands of comets and asteroids. Which means that you don't need to worry at all even if you can't afford a telescope, Kstars is available for free.



### Catalogue

- Default catalog consisting of stars to magnitude 8
- Extra catalogs consisting of 100 million stars to magnitude 16
- Downloadable catalogs including Messier Images, Abell Planetary Nebulae
- Corrections for precession, nutation and atmospheric refraction
- Tools for retrieval of data from Online Databases
- Scriptable actions using D-Bus
- Integration with INDI provides support for a wide range of instruments

### Features for Educators and Students:

- Adjustable simulation speed in order to view phenomena that happen over long timescales
- KStars Astrocalculator to access some of the internal calculations of KStars, and also to predict conjunctions etc
- Astroinfo project to help facilitate learning with the aid of KStars
- Internet links for further information / pictures of objects

### Features for Amateur Astronomers:

- Observing List tool to plan observations
- FOV Editor helps calculate field of view of equipment and display them
- Obtain AAVSO light curves for variable stars
- What's up tonight tool
- Altitude vs Time tool
- Sky Calendar tool

These are only some of the applications which are available. We will be taking a look at more Educational applications in the next issue.

# Zenity Dialogs for your Scripts

Adolf

**Zenity, which is installed** by default in many Linux Distributions( including Ubuntu ) lets you use a GUI dialog to get and present information with the user. If your script doesn't require that much interaction with the user except for a few user inputs, and you don't want the user to use the command prompt each time they have to run the script( This can be used in nautilus-scripts for example), whether it is a simple warning, or a text input dialog, or you want to show a simple calendar, or display the progress of a task, Zenity is the way to go.



## General options:

\*These options can be used with all zenity dialogs.

--title=TITLE	Set the dialog title
--window-icon=ICONPATH	Set the window icon
--width=WIDTH	Set the width
--height=HEIGHT	Set the height
--timeout=TIMEOUT	Set dialog timeout in seconds

## Application Options:

\*These are the types of dialogs that can be called with Zenity.

--calendar	Display calendar dialog
--entry	Display text entry dialog
--error	Display error dialog
--info	Display info dialog
--file-selection	Display file selection dialog
--list	Display list dialog
--notification	Display notification
--progress	Display progress indication dialog
--question	Display question dialog
--warning	Display warning dialog
--scale	Display scale dialog
--text-info	Display text information dialog
--display=DISPLAY	X display to use

## Examples

Hello world info dialog example

```
sh@shpc:~$ zenity --info --title="Hello" --text="Hello world"
```



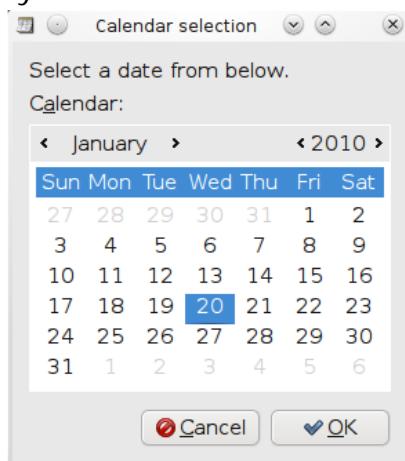
The same example with a larger dialog

```
sh@shpc:~$ zenity --info --title="Hello" --height=200 --width=200 --text="Hello world"
```



Display calendar with the default selected date at 1st February 2010, whichever date the user selects will be returned. In this case the selected date 20/1/2010, will be returned.

```
sh@shpc:~$ zenity --calendar --year=2010 --month=01 --day=01
```

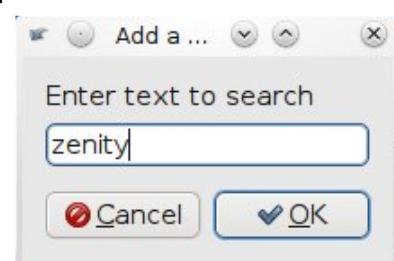


To display a text entry dialog and to search for and to display the names of files in the current directory which contains the matching string.

```
vsearch=`zenity --entry --text="Enter text to search"`;grep -l $vsearch *
```

We initiate vsearch variable with the return value of the text entry dialog, which would be the text the user entered, in this case vsearch will have the word "zenity".

Next we run a grep with "zenity" on all the files in the current directory. Any text files which has the word "zenity" will be printed in the standard output. If you want you can even display this with a zenity info dialog. This is a UNIX based OS after all, the possibilities are many.



To get help about any Dialogs, just type "zenity --help-" followed by the name of the Dialog option.

To learn more on zenity options and usage type "man zenity" or "zenity --help" in the terminal.

# Thaana Font Rendering In Linux, It's Simply Beautiful!

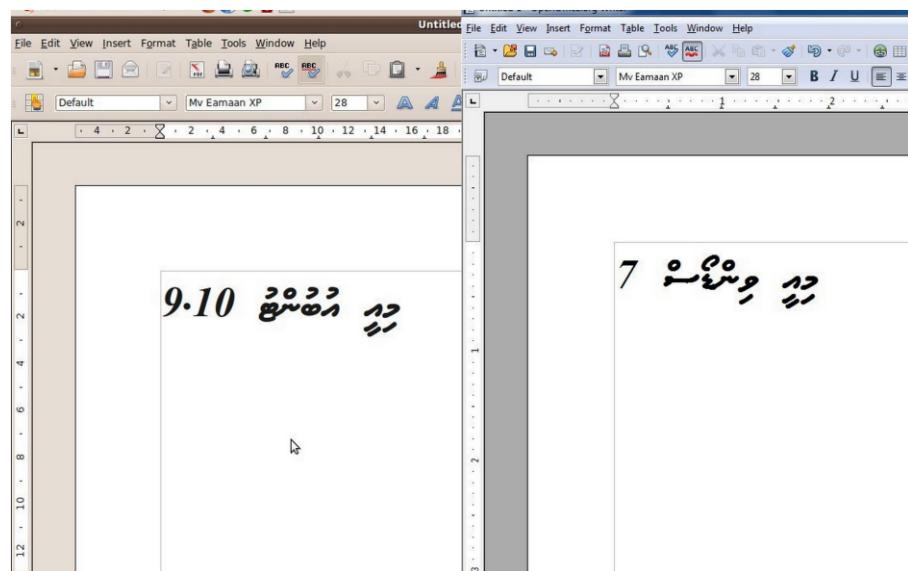
Mohamed Malik | <http://www.mohamedmalik.com>

**While reading local** online newspapers and magazines in Linux desktop, it is now beautiful. So let us do some comparison with Windows and Linux and see how they come up. In Windows the Thaana fonts which are rendered seem to be crooked, while in the Linux environment the fonts look amazing for the naked eye. In certain Thaana fonts, in some systems, the fonts are quite difficult to read. But in the Linux system they are simply beautiful. If you want proof just take a look at the screenshots below.

Picture 1 shows how Thaana fonts are rendered in Windows and Linux, while using the finest web browser in the planet, none other than Mozilla Firefox. In both cases it's version 3.6, only different is the OS.



Picture 2 shows how thaana fonts are rendered in Windows and Linux in OpenOffice.org writer, both at version 3.2, only difference is the OS.



## MOSS is a beautiful thing



**At times looking back** at past give me that chill and uncontrollable smirk on my face, so with this article I would like to bore you with little bit of the past. Roughly fifteen years ago I started off with Microsoft DOS! The black screen with white text, and the QBASIC and batch files got me started into the world of computing. Even today I have DOSBOX Emulator installed on my Ubuntu box just to get a feel of the good old days.

Still remember those days when images where created and printed using just ASCII characters on MSDOS. I know there will be lot of folks who can relate to me and say "so did I". Feel like the good old times of computing but those days are gone now and only good for nostalgia. Things change and change is the only constant in this world.

Likewise one day just out of curiosity, and since it was free, I tried Slackware, and instantly I fell in love with it. Unlike now a days, in my first installation of Linux I had to compile from source, and explicitly select which programs/modules to bundle. I simply could not give away the sharing nature of FLOSS, the opportunity to learn from others and share my ideas and input. However, in the office and elsewhere it was MSDOS and I hardly met anyone who knows or understand what Linux was. Than came Windows 3.11

with a GUI but at home I enjoyed Slackware, later on I moved on to Mandrake Linux (now Mandriva) for ease of installation, the drakxtools and ncurses interface. I was never bored of reading outdated documents and the man pages, back than in those documents most of the required information were either missing or wrong and had to work my way to a fix. Who is to be blamed or complain, for all those information came free and fixing it on my own was more exciting, plus I had the time.

Next came the free access to the Internet, and it was a godsend information for a total Linux nOOB like me. First place to get accurate information was IRC and Newsgroups. Of course there are lot of other sources for information, blogs, websites and wikis are filled with good Linux information. But even today I prefer the IRC and Newsgroups over other channels. It is really amazing for one to think and imagine the amount of information on the Internet maintained and edited by volunteers who just want to share information into the hands of people in need, without compensation, without publicity and without even a thank you. So given how much so many people have helped me I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank you".

Back than Linux was a hobbists

thing, and I was an anti-social geek who just enjoyed Linux for personal pleasure. However today there is no question about the future of FLOSS, specially the development model, with a disruptive business model - possibilities of earning through services and spending on R&D! As far as software is concerned I strongly believe that "given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow" principle and it really works in the real world.

After a series of business ventures from here and there in early 2008, I was introduced to MLUG Mailing List by an old friend of mine, I was stunned with childhood memories, the concept of helping one another, sharing knowledge freely and openly, and united collaboration at one cause, together to let others know and take advantage of FLOSS.

Today the movement is officially registered as Maldives Open Source Society (MOSS) and I am so deeply attached that I feel it as a part of my life. MOSS has put us Maldivians, on the road to achieving this vision of a beautiful thing. The intelligence of network with the wisdom of the crowd, of course we know this needs to be managed wisely. Yes, MOSS is a beautiful thing, and anyone with the good will and talent is always welcome to join and contribute, not as an agent of some company or government, but as a free humain being.

**By Yusuf Abdulla Shunan  
7th March, 2010 12:16 AM**

# Monthly Summary of MOSS Meetings

February 2010

20 February, 2010 07:00 PM

Venue: Salsa Cafe

Attendees: Ihusan, Huxain, Haris, Inash, Sobah, Shunan, Soul, Malik, Jaau, Tascha, Vishah.

Finalized logo.

Since the majority of the attendees to the meeting did not vote for any logo, we decided to give them the opportunity to vote for the 2 logos which got the most votes through the list.

The chosen and final logo is [M8.b].

Decided to register the logo with home affairs.

Decided to create a stamp using the vertical version of the logo.

Below is a summarized updated logo guideline.

## MOSS Logo Guideline

### Typography

Myriad Pro is Maldives Open Source Society's typeface. There are several style and weight options within this font family. Myriad Pro is to be included in all print communications such as brochures, advertising, and digital media. The only exception to this font rule is in some web applications where Arial (PC) and Helvetica (Mac) can be used. If you do not own this font, please contact us via the mailing list.

### MOSS Logo

MOSS is represented with two logo versions. A horizontal version and a vertical version. For consistency, please use the vertical version only where the horizontal logo will not fit.



### Logo Guidelines

A strong image is a consistent image. That's why we've developed these guidelines to help ensure the world sees the same MOSS in everything we do. This is a top-level summary of the MOSS logo usage guideline, followed by specific implementation guidelines.

1. Only use approved artwork of the MOSS logo. Never recreate the logo with your own fonts.
2. When resizing the logo keep the height and length in the proper proportion.
3. It should only appear in the colors Black and PMS 281c.

You can find logo artwork on our mailinglist and Website, [www.moss.org.mv](http://www.moss.org.mv)

In the MOSS logo use only the word 'MOSS'. The MOSS logo is an image, not a font, and cannot be recreated using a different font.

The MOSS logo must be no less than 1 inch (.25" x 1"). It may not be manipulated in any manner to create a disproportionate size increase or decrease either horizontally or vertically.

The MOSS logo must not appear within 1/2 inch of any other logo, and must not be positioned within 3/8 inch trim of any printed material. When the MOSS logo appears with other logos within a document the MOSS logo must be: - at least equal in size and in color, if other logos are in color.

Promotion items include shirts, hats, pens, T-shirts, awards and all other miscellaneous items. The MOSS standards established in this guide apply to all promotion items. Logo font is Myriad Pro. Used in conjunction with the logo, in ads and/or in MOSS literature.

The MOSS logo may appear in one of three ways:

Pantone Matching System (PMS) 281c Blue & Black

- 100% black
- 100% white

The MOSS logo should only appear in the designated PMS, black or white colors.

## Our Mission

MOSS is an initiative to provide a collaborative platform and forum to promote and facilitate Linux and FLOSS. Its members are from the community, civil society, students abroad, professional bodies and businesses who promote the FLOSS concepts. It is aimed to help policy makers, commercial enterprises, and users to take advantage of the benefits of FLOSS. It also facilitates and administers FLOSS based projects like localization and translation of various FLOSS to Dhivehi.

MOSS thrives to promote the use of FLOSS everywhere. By everywhere we mean at Homes, Offices and Businesses. We believe that the use of FLOSS will bring great benefits such as:

- Elevate education and the overall experience by use of open educational systems.
- Increased sharing and collaboration within the community.
- Reduce overall software costs related to purchase and licensing.
- Reduced support costs.
- Empower developers and increase technical expertise.
- Reduce the boundaries that lie between software vendors and users.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to empower all people to freely connect, create and share in a digital world that is participatory, transparent, and sustainable.

## MOSS Needs Your Help!

This magazine is a result of lot of helping hands and contributions, thank you for it. To keep this alive we need your Articles, Opinions, Open Letters and Stories. We also need Reviews (games, apps & hardware), How-To articles (on any FLOSS subject) and any questions, or suggestions, you may have.

**Send them to: [magazine@moss.org.mv](mailto:magazine@moss.org.mv)**

**Deadline to send articles for the next release  
Sunday, March 31, 2010**

## How to Contribute to FLOSS

1. First give a try to FLOSS, see the beauty of freedom.
2. Create awareness with your friends, relatives and interested people.
3. Help others to learn how to use FLOSS.
4. Join MOSS and offer your help.
5. If you are up for it and got the skill you can help in development:
  - 5.1. Contribute by coding.
  - 5.2. Help find bugs and report them.
  - 5.3. Suggest new features, options and improvements.
  - 5.4. Help write documentation and corrections.
  - 5.5. Join the Ubuntu Localization Project.

## Mailing Lists

**Maldives Linux User Group/MOSS Mailing List**  
<http://groups.google.com/group/mlugmv>

**Launch Pad Dhivehi Translators Mailing List**  
<http://groups.google.com/group/divtranslators>

## Our Steering Committee

### President

Inash Zubair

### Vice President

Sofwathullah Mohamed

### Secretary

Mohamed Vishah

### Public Relation

Ibrahim Sobah

### Program Coordinator

Yusuf Abdulla Shunan

### Treasurer

Hussain Sharah

# This Magazine was created using FLOSS

## GIMP

<http://www.gimp.org/>



GIMP is an acronym for GNU Image Manipulation Program. It is a freely distributed program for such tasks as photo retouching, image composition and image authoring.

It has many capabilities. It can be used as a simple paint program, an expert quality photo retouching program, an online batch processing system, a mass production image renderer, an image format converter, etc.

GIMP is expandable and extensible. It is designed to be augmented with plug-ins and extensions to do just about anything. The advanced scripting interface allows everything from the simplest task to the most complex image manipulation procedures to be easily scripted.

## OpenOffice.org

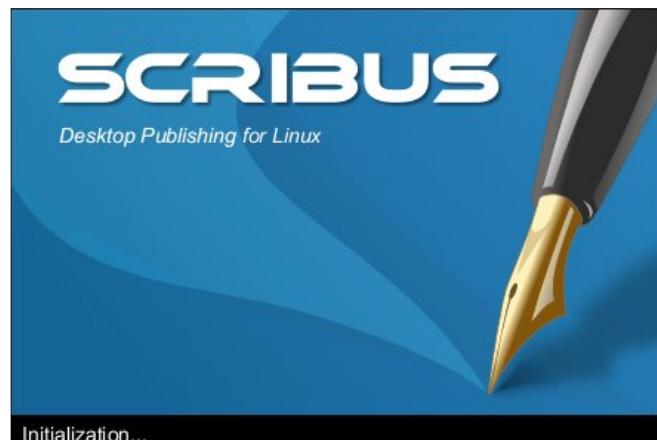
<http://www.openoffice.org/>



OpenOffice.org 3 is the leading open-source office software suite for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and more. It is available in many languages and works on all common computers. It stores all your data in an international open standard format and can also read and write files from other common office software packages. It can be downloaded and used completely free of charge for any purpose.

## Scribus

<http://www.scribus.net/>



Scribus is an Open Source program that brings award-winning professional page layout to Linux/UNIX, Mac OS X, OS/2 Warp 4/eComStation and Windows desktops with a combination of "press-ready" output and new approaches to page layout. Underneath the modern and user friendly interface, Scribus supports professional publishing features, such as CMYK color, separations, Spot Colors, ICC color management and versatile PDF creation.

## Ubuntu 9.10 Karmic Kola

<http://www.ubuntu.com/>



## Creative Commons

<http://www.creativecommons.org/>



Creative Commons is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to making it easier for people to share and build upon the work of others, consistent with the rules of copyright.

Creative Commons provide free licenses and other legal tools to mark creative work with the freedom the creator wants it to carry, so others can share, remix, use commercially, or any combination thereof.