Introduction to GIMP

Game Development Foundations
ICT30115 – Certificate III Information, Digital Media and Technology

Contents

- What Is GIMP?

- Learn the Interface

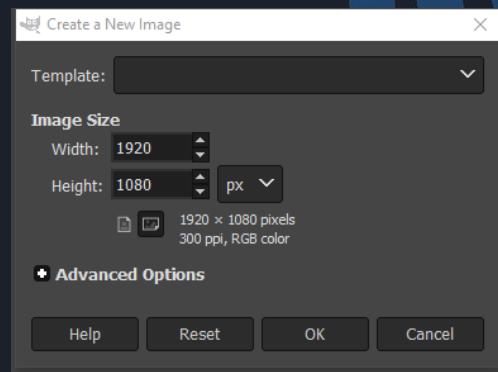- Drawing / Editing Tools

- Other Tools

What is GIMP?

- There are a number of free-to-use graphics programs out there

- GIMP is a commonly used one

- It can be used to:
  - Draw graphics
  - Manipulate graphics
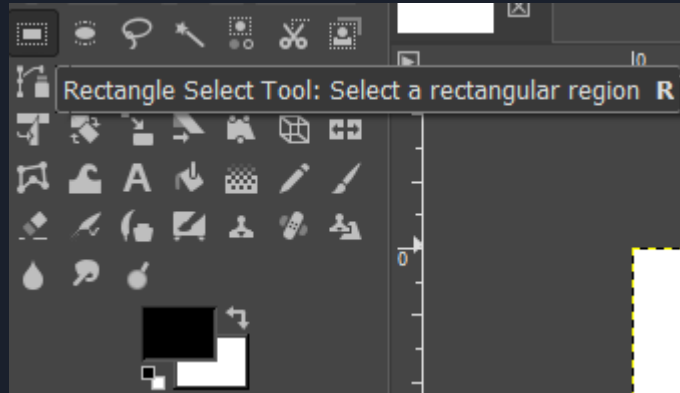 - Edit photos
  - Enlarge and shrink pictures

aie
SPECIALIST EDUCATORS IN
GAMES, ANIMATION & FILM VFX

Learn The Interface

- We'll quickly go over some of the basic tools of the interface.

- When you open the program, go "File > New" to create a new image
  - You can select the size of the image in pixels
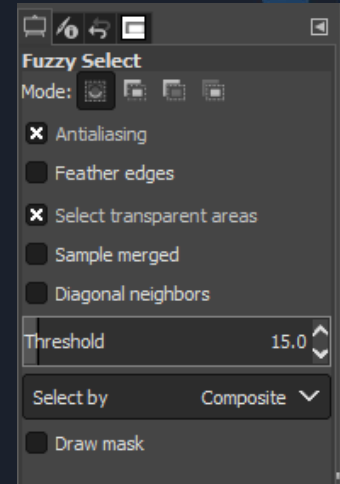 - Press OK to make a new image

Drawing / Editing Tools

- On the upper left you should have a list of all of the drawing tools
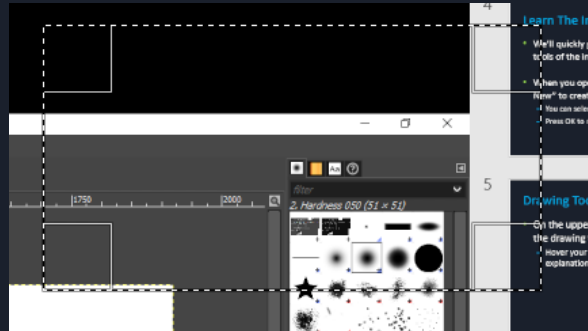 - Hover your mouse over one of the tools for a brief explanation

Selection Tools

- The Selection tools are all for selecting part of an image

- The first three are for drawing shapes

- The wand is for clicking and automatically selecting specific colours.
  - Under the wand you will see it's settings
  - For a low threshold, it will only choose one shade of what you click on
  - For a high threshold, if you have a gradient of say grey, it will select more shades of that grey that are next to each other

Fuzzy Select

Mode:

☒ Antialiasing
☐ Feather edges
☒ Select transparent areas
☐ Sample merged
☐ Diagonal neighbors

Threshold   15.0
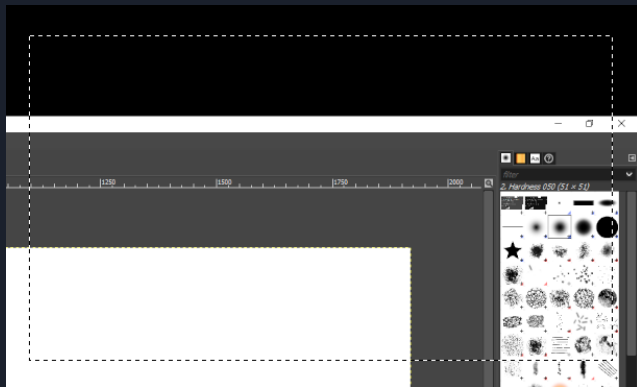
Select by   Composite ⌄

☐ Draw mask

Moving a Selection

- If you've selected part of an image with one of the Selection tools, you can move that selection

- To do so, hold "Alt + Ctrl" while highlighting the selection, then click the selection and drag it where you want it to

Crop a Selection

- If you want to crop an image
  - Use a selection tool to select part of an image
  - Go to "Image > Crop To Selection"
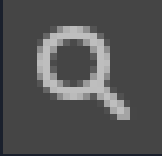 - GIMP will reduce the image to just the part you selected

Colour Picker

- The colour picker tool is so that you can select any colour in your image, and then draw with it
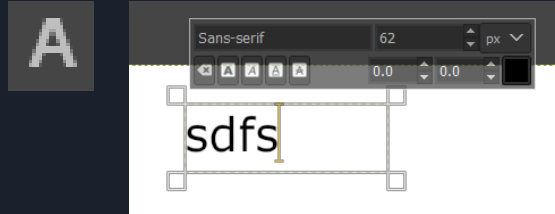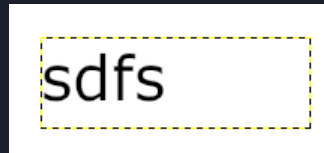
Zoom

- You can zoom in and out by holding "Ctrl" on the keyboard and scrolling with the mouse wheel

- You can also select the zoom tool

- The zoom tool allows you to click and hold to draw a rectangle, and then zoom in on that part of the image

Text Tool

- To create text, click the Text Tool, then draw a box to type text

- You can immediately type in the box, and above are font options

- To edit existing text, choose the Text Tool again and click inside the text box
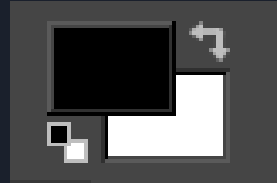
Fill Tool

- If you want to fill a large section of your image with a solid colour, use the "Fill Tool"

- Select the tool, then click on a section of your image, and it will change whatever colour you clicked on to your new colour

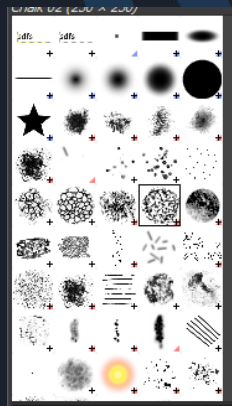- It will use the colour you have selected here: in this case, black.

Gradient Tool

- To draw a gradient, click the "Gradient Tool"

- It will blend one colour into another
  - It will use the colours here
  - The first colour is black, the second is white.
  - Change either for a different gradient

Drawing Tools

- If you want to draw, you can use the "Pencil" or "Paint brush" tools

- The pencil will draw a continuous line using your selected brush type, and the Brush will draw splotches

- Click one of the different brush types to change the drawing effect

Summary

- GIMP free-to-use program that replicates many of the features in Photoshop
  - It can be a good tool to use to start learning graphics programs
  - A good option if you only need to edit image occasionally, and can not afford a more professional program like Photoshop

- It has lots of drawing and editing tools to help you design and manipulate images

References

- GIMP - Tutorials. 2018. *GIMP - Tutorials*. [ONLINE] Available at: https://www.gimp.org/tutorials/. [Accessed 02 November 2018]