

Krita and Koffice survey.

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1. What is that all about.

1.1. About me.

1.1.1. Who I am

I am a french student in electronics.

I used Krita to crate a map for a RPG, and to edit some photos / mockups.

1.1.2. Who I am not

I am not a UI specialist.

I am not a english mother tongue speeker, but I hope I will be understood.

I am not used to graphics apps, and I may forgot the point of view of professional in the ideas exposed downer. And I don't know any of this kind of software very well (I have only used GIMP for photo editing, Digikam and ACDSee for photo retouching, and the MS paint for drawing, but not at their best capabilities)

Moreoether, I wanted to make this document quickly, so the mockups will not be art, but just representing what I find hard to explain in english.

Excuse me for not trying there to use Krita at it's maximum capabilities.

1.2. About this document

1.2.1. What is this document about ?

This doc is intended to show, in a first place, where I belive Krita general user interface sucks.

Then, I'll expose more precisely the functions that I miss more, and the correction I belive not beeing really hard to implement.

I'll also speak about more general Koffice graphics related stuff, always from a very basi user point of view.

To point out the maximum issues, I writed this wall document in to Koffice.

NOTE : Unfortunately, I was taken by an illness called lazyness, and this document is finaly only half the lenght it may have been, but I'd rather send it unfinished after 2 mounth not working on it. I just made some polish and added a few ideas, but no detailed survey.

(many screen shots and the langage gap were to much for me to end whith a very nice document)

I apologise for not going as deep as it was intended.

1.2.2. licence.

You can redistribute this document as it is right now.

If you whant, you can modify it, take mockups etc..., but you have to edit the wall "who am I" part, and then distribute the new one under any licence that don't make this one illegal.

Hope you understood ! Just don't make me say what I did not.

2. The results of Krita:

2.1. The new document feature :

I think its quite good, except that the backgroud color and resolution should be separated in RVB mode.

But nothing really anoying there.

2.2. The general UI.

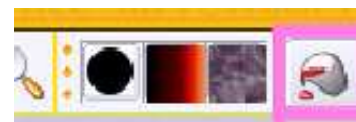
At the begining I often get lost beacuse the main tool isn't separated from the options in the UI

Then, I wanted to point out that many times, in the right panel, there is useless options and I miss related option.

For instance, I click on the brush buton and if I previously selected the fulfil which color tool on the right, it just changes the brush style.



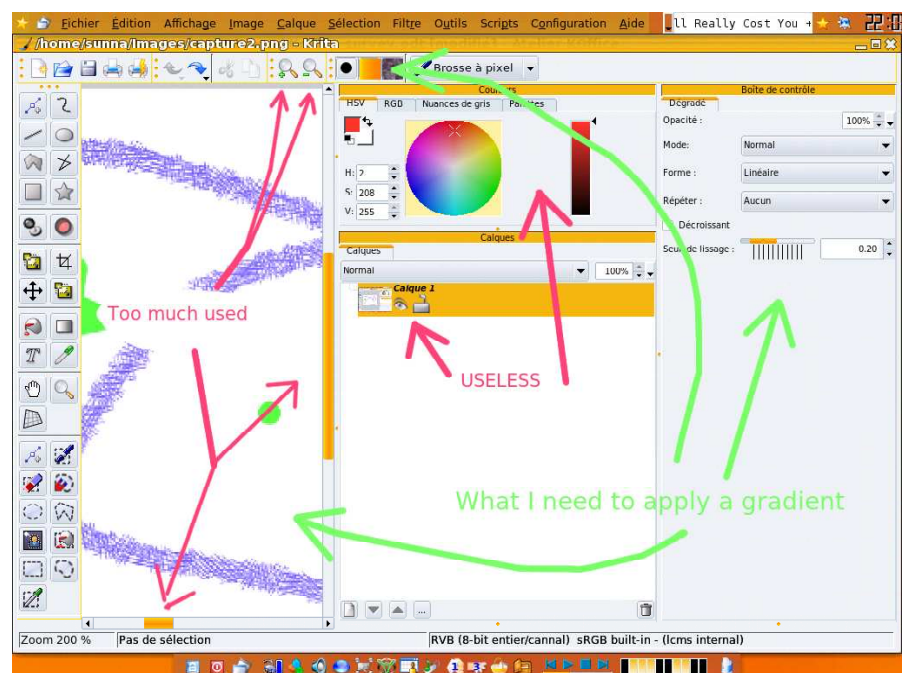
Let's add a "Now using" button next to these 3 oens, one displaying the icon of the accion from the left bar :
When I click on the brush/gradient/motif button, the "now using" buton switch to last used related tool.



Please, increase the dinamic in the tools displaying or not, depending on the actualy used feature.

For instance, when I choose the gradient tool, I still have the color manager. It's useless here, but I may want the "make your custom gradient" to be here. Then, tools take $\frac{3}{4}$ of my screen space, and I can't easily apply the gradient whithout zooming ...

When selecting the gradient, color management box may disapear and gradient box take its place.



2.3. The features.

2.3.1. The bezier curve tool.

It's a nice one.

But, when at the end, I apply the brush to the curve, it often is not what I would like it to be. So I've to undo, and there, everything is lost. I have to draw my bezier curve from nothing again.

I'd love just a 2 time bezier curve : first, edit, then, apply the brush. THE only difference from now is that there is a entry in the construction tree between the too. So, I just have to move the bad points to new location and double click once more to apply the brush.

Doesn't seem really hard to implement.

2.3.2. The text tool.

I've missed in every picture editing software I used a good text adding tool.

I would like to be able to first select an area, with any select tool available (square, bezier, or magnetic ...) and then fill it with a text.

When the text encounter the end of the area, the text engine start a new line, doesn't cut words.

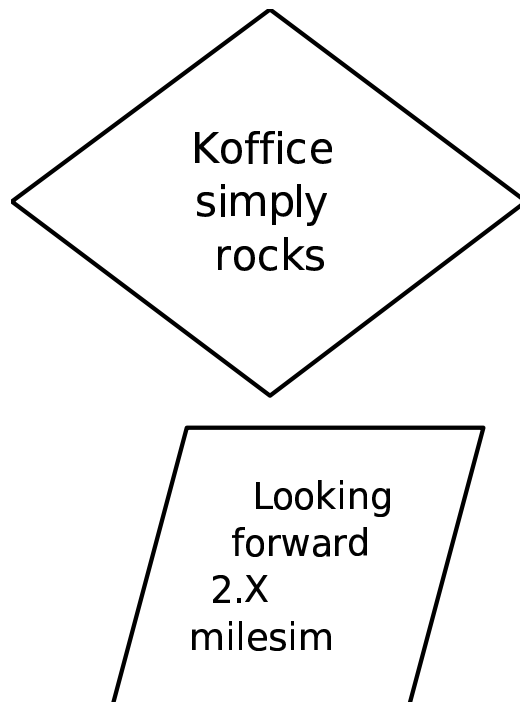
The text take the most space available in the current selection. As the algorithm seems quite hard and slow, the user may have an "see" button to preview (in the real picture of course) and then a "finish" one.

Moreover, this tool may be really useful within *Kivio*.

See the example:

This is just an overview. I had to work quite long for the text to match the losange and being fully printed. But I didn't managed to have it display the way I wanted : I'd like to have the losange text printed bigger without spreading out of the box. I would also like to have a bigger "rocks" than the other text, and being more centered.

And I was not able to have the text in the downer form big enough when a lot of place is available yet. You can see it's ugly, and not well centered in the box even when I tried to center it with spaces, the layout change every time you resize the box a pixel more or less.



3. Other apps.

3.1. Kivio:

As seen above, the text matching box would be a must for people needing a clean printing of their diagrams.

3.2. Kword

It seems that in most office suit I used, the **text** app is used to make **documents** and not only text.

I was wondering whether it would be better to add a **Kompozer** into Koffice which advanced layout (competitor to scribus ?) and to focus Kword only on Text (not so much image, nor diagram ...) which advanced text processing tools (chapters management and time/character events for novel writers, more text only optimized GUI ...).

The Kompozer would just be a flake (?) component organizer, which perhaps advances printing stuffs. It would be at the beginning quite the same thing that Kword is now.

example: I have a list of text page with a few pictures, I want to print them on A4 format but split the page in 2 for making a little book in A5 format which color only for covers... Kompozer allow to resize text (half the size, since it's to be printed on a little page), to easily modify the layout because usually people start just a blank page and do then, when the doc is ended, try to print it. The user can have real paper sized preview, to see if the text is large enough to be read once printed. The new page are automatically reorganized for the book to have the cover and pages where they are supposed to be....

Perhaps it's just too much for now, but what I recently see in screen shots, Kword 2 looks much more a Publishing app than a word processor.

3.3. Karbon14

Here is just a little comment about "integrated office suit":

Karbon behave very different than Krita. They are both image software, which many same function (which are obviously not the same code because of vector / raster) but may have the same user interface.

3.4. Kspread

I don't use spread sheet often, so it may be really fantasy, but allowing Kformula to produce spreadsheet formulas, and Kspread displaying the things which a math notation when available. At least allow to easily integrate formulas in charts for axis.

4. About non Koffice applications:

This may be not programming skills consuming, but rather organisational and advertinsing: What about selecting from KDE-apps the best and more mature components for office work, and pushing them on the scene side by side with Koffice ?

This apps may not use KOLibs, but some work may be done for this apps to work better with the Koffice core.

For instance : Kile, Kymoney, Kdissert, Qualculate...

(I didn't personally try them, but I see people who really love these apps).

These apps may be linked from Koffice web site and the chosen ones may want to work with KO team to improve both sides.

5. About bloat.

I wanted to point out an issue that Koffice will hopefully have to face one day : Adding new features and new features may at the end lead to a harder to use office suit.

So *perhaps*, but I am not sure at all, it may be cool to cut Koffice in two parts :

--**One for professionals**, and I hope one day koffice will be used in offices and not " only " at home (I don't think there are a lot of people using KO at work, given that even the well known and cross platform open source competitor OO.o is not really used yet).

--**One for /me**. I prefer Koffice to Open Office because, it has less features, so it's easier to find my way.

In the case Koffice becomes too big, and it is not much more work for developers, please, do not hesitate. When they are not other apps to do the job in a simple way (with Kolourpaint for instance, there is no need for a simple Krita version), make a more simple package.

But perhaps Koffice is just very well designed, so that even with more features provided than any competitor, Koffice will remain cool :)

Let's imagine...

6. Finaly

Thanks

To anyone involved in Koffice and KDE.

I belive Koffice will be realy improved in the near future, and I hope these idea will help.

I also hope my english was nice enought for you to understand.

Kollum, happy Koffice user number nbKoUsers, where nbKoUsers will soon need to go from **int** to **unsigned long** for not missing anybody :)