Methods

For the purpose of measuring usability of GIMP, we used two methods. Firstly, we conducted an online survey to quantify usage habits of users who use photo editing tools in different platforms. In the second method, we assigned a task list for users to complete in GIMP and Photoshop, then we measured the time passed to completion of these tasks.

1. Survey

In this method, participants are asked for some questions like which platform they use, which program they choose to manipulate images, rating they give to the program they use, what are their purpose to use a photo editor, how frequent they use these programs. 163 persons attented to this survey. Results are examined in charts in results section.

1. Tasks

In the second method, we assigned participants to execute some tasks by using tools and effects which are exist in both programs, GIMP and Photoshop. These tasks are opening a new file with dimensions 15x15 cm, opening an existing photograph in a new window, selecting and copying an arbitrary portion of the photograph to the initial blank file, resizing the combined image, applying “Wave” filter, adding a text, then finally saving and closing the file.

Results

1)Survey

First question in the survey is about the operating system. Results show that Windows is the most used operating system with 92 users, Android is in the second place with 34 users, and the iOs is third with 15 users.

In the second question, we asked users which software they use as a photo editor. Photoshop is the most used software with 30%, which represents 49 votes. Paint is second with 31 votes and GIMP is third with 14 votes.

In the third question, participants are asked to rate the photo editing programs they use in terms of easiness of usability and user interface, from 1 as worst to 5 as best.

Next question is an open question which examines usage purpose of the program they use. According to most of the answers, participants are using these programs to manipulate basic properties of images, for instance adjusting shadows or lights, resizing or cropping photos, using effects and filters.

In the last question, we asked testers their usage frequency of these image manipulation tools. Over all 163 participants, 68 of them stated that they use several times a month, 53 of them are using several times a week and 27 of them are using several times a year.

1. Tasks

Task measurements are based on 4 participants. Results show that execution time of these task in GIMP is generally lower than Photoshop. Results are shown below in the chart.