



Documentation Plan

For more help or troubleshooting, please visit our online documentation:

<https://docs.gimp.org/download.html>

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License

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19 April, 2024

GIMP v2.10.36 Documentation Plan

Overview

This documentation plan provides an initial framework for localizing and updating existing documentation for the latest GIMP release (2.10.36). It is addressed to the developers of GIMP and outlines the tasks undertaken by the technical writer responsible for its implementation.

This documentation plan includes a basic help system proposal as a resource/reference guide for GIMP users (beginners and advanced). It provides in-depth information for five key functions of the software and how to accomplish these tasks. See **"Top 5 Features"**. The end goal of this guide is significantly improved user comprehension and utilization.

Scope

This documentation plan includes the localization of all user documentation required for GIMP version 2.10.36. Specifically, it covers updating:

- UI text
- Windows installer
- libgimp
- Plug-ins
- Python
- Script-fu
- Tags
- Tips
- GIMP User Manual

The scope of information development in relation to the above documentation involves localization of the XML copies of each segment as well as production of PDF, HTML, and Markdown copies, and any potential writing, review, and revision of documentation involving new features. This does not include user testing nor quality assurance.

Updating this documentation involves localizing information that was released with US English versions of all documentation. No new information will be included beyond localization of the version 2.10.36 release. This work is completed with the assumption that the US English version of the documentation is complete and up to date.

Assumptions and Constraints

It is assumed that the readers of this document are familiar with GIMP and photo editing in general. It is also assumed that users have a general knowledge of their own operating system.

Constraints on this documentation project are the available time of the Technical Writer, the software feature roadmap, and the release schedule. Any changes in workload, or sudden new release announcements or feature introductions will affect the documentation plan.

References

Refer to the following documents for additional information about the latest GIMP release:

- [GIMP 2.10 Online Manuals](#)
- [GIMP 2.10.36 Release Notes](#)
- [GIMP Tutorials](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Target Audience

The target audience includes two distinct types of users: users at a beginner level (those with little to no prior knowledge of GIMP's capabilities and functions), and users at an advanced level (those with a firm grasp of GIMP's capabilities and functions). Users at an intermediate level serve as a bridge between these two targets.

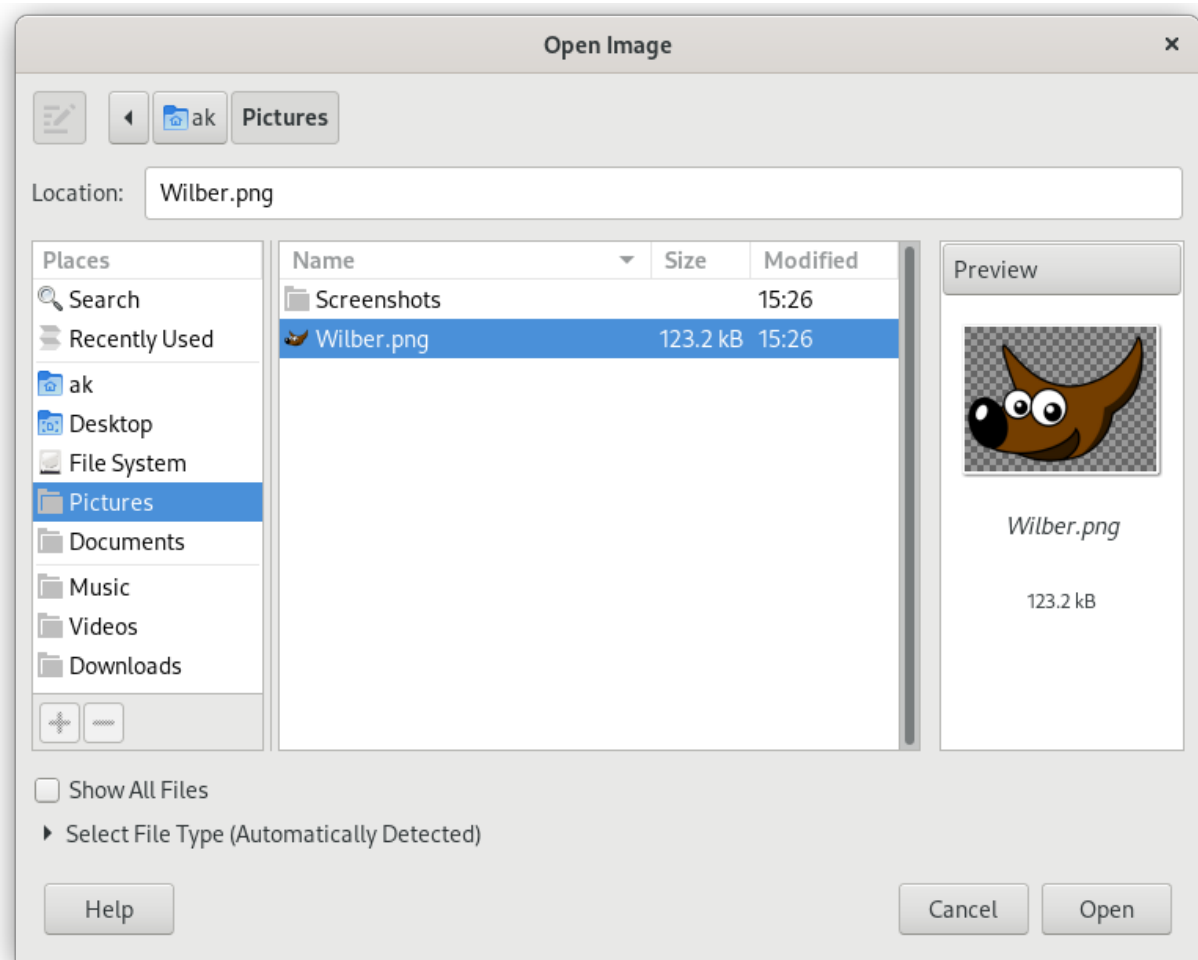
Top 5 Features

This section provides an explanation of the top five most-used features and provides a brief how-to for each required task.

Importing Images

About

Importing is the first step to completing a task in GIMP, as photo editing software typically requires an image to act as a starting point.



Guide

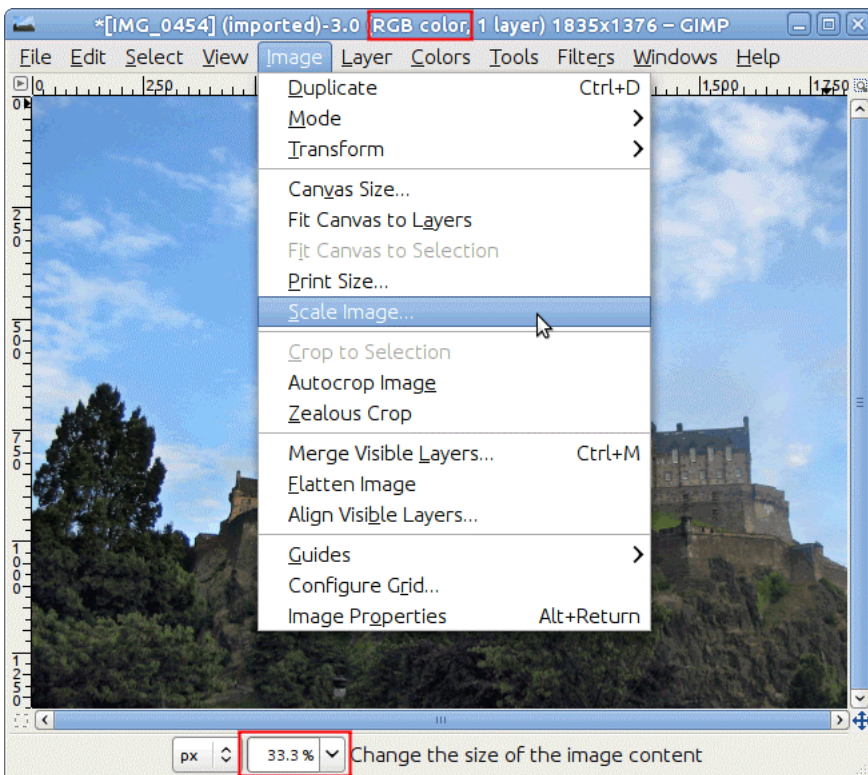
Do one of the following:

- Select **File > Open** in the ribbon menu or use keyboard shortcut **CTRL+O**
 - Select image from pop-up file explorer
 - Select **Open**
- Drag-and-drop image from File Explorer onto GIMP window

Resizing Images

About

Resizing an image is one of the most popular use cases for photo editing software, particularly as many web hosts have file size limits.



Guide

With the mouse:

- In the ribbon menu, or after right-clicking the image, select one of the following:
 - **Image > Scale Image...**
 - **Tools > Transform Tools > Scale**

With the keyboard:

- Use the keyboard shortcut **SHIFT+S**

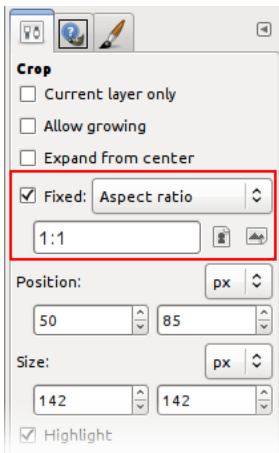
Resize image as desired by clicking and dragging or entering numbers in dialog box

Select **ENTER** on keyboard to confirm and resize.

Cropping Images

About

Cropping an image is another one of the most popular use cases, as photos have a tendency to contain extraneous material.



Guide

With the mouse, do one of the following:

- In the ribbon menu, or after right-clicking the image, select **Tools > Transform Tools > Crop**
- Select **Crop Tool** in the toolbar

With the keyboard:

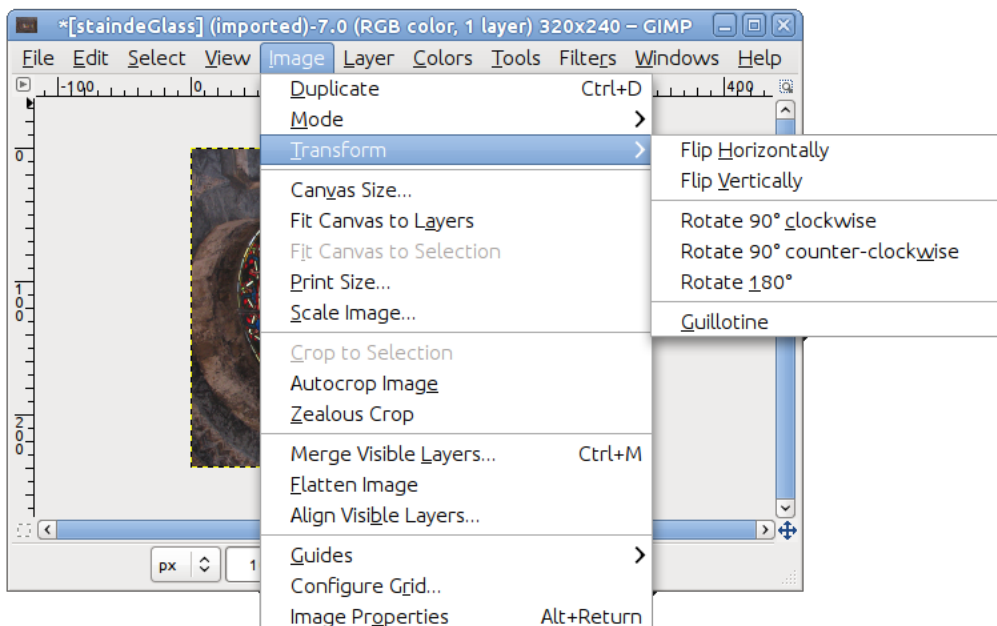
- Use the keyboard Shortcut **SHIFT+C**

Crop image as desired by selecting the area to remain after cropping and tweaking if necessary via toolbar. Select **ENTER** on the keyboard to confirm and crop.

Rotating Images

About

Rotating an image is one of the more popular use cases for more adventurous users, who would like to add visual interest or change the perspective of an image.



Guide

With the mouse, do one of the following:

- In the ribbon menu, or after right-clicking the image, select **Image > Transform**
 - Select any of the following options: **Rotate 90° clockwise**, **Rotate 90° counter-clockwise**, **Rotate 180°**, or **Arbitrary Rotation...**
- Select **Rotate** in the toolbar
- Select **View > Flip & Rotate (0°)**
- Select **Tools > Transform Tools > Rotate**

With the keyboard:

- Use the keyboard shortcut **SHIFT+R**

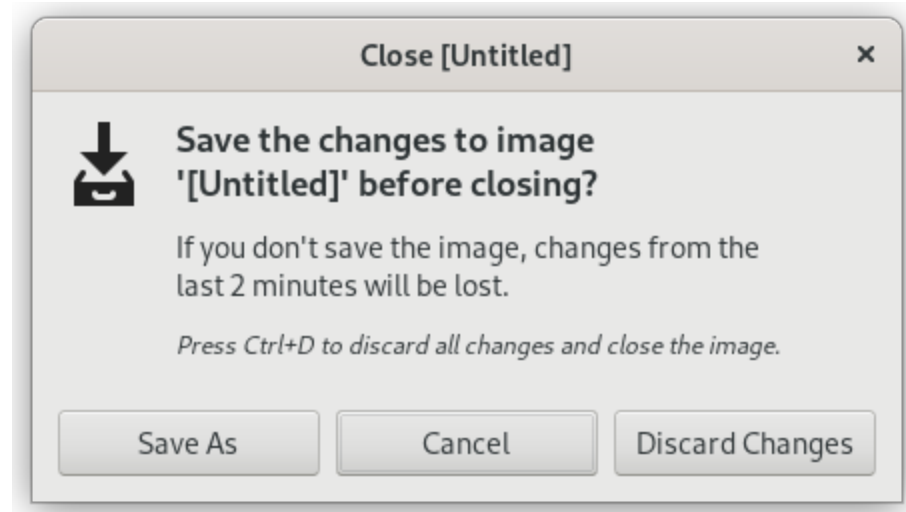
Rotate image as desired by clicking and dragging or entering numbers in dialog box.

Select **ENTER** on the keyboard to confirm and rotate.

Saving/Exporting Images

About

Saving and exporting are some of the most important tasks that can be completed in photo editing software, as they allow for images to be used in many other contexts.



Guide

To **Save** an image:

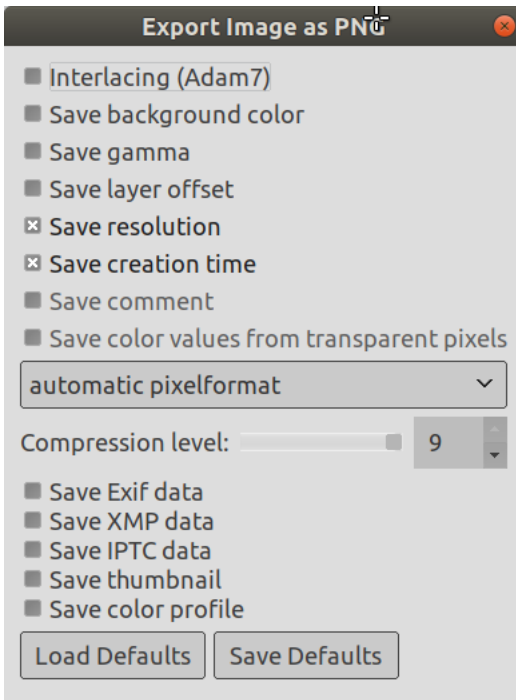
- Select **File > Save** or use the keyboard shortcut **CTRL+S**
- Name the file and choose the desired file location
- Select **Save**

To **Save As** an image:

- Select **File > Save As...** or use the keyboard shortcut **CTRL+SHIFT+S**
- Name the file and choose the desired file location
- Select **Save**

To **Export** an image:

- Select **File > Export As...** or use the keyboard shortcut **CTRL+SHIFT+E**
- Name the file and choose the desired file location
- Select **Select File Type (By Extension)** and select desired file type from list
- • Select **Export**



Usability Goals (Requirements)

The localized documentation will have achieved its goals if users can successfully install, complete, and troubleshoot all processes and issues in GIMP version 2.10.36 and the previous version, 2.8.22.

Existing Documentation

What follows is a small sample of the available documentation for the most recent versions of GIMP (v2.0 onwards):

User Manual

Publication	Version/Date
Online User Manual	2.10
Online Manual – HTML	2.8
Online Manual – HTML	2.6
Online Manual – HTML	2.4
PDF	2.4
Online Manual – HTML	2.2
PDF (No English translation available)	2.2

Tutorials

Publication	Version/Date
GIMP Quickies	N/A
Simple Floating Logo	N/A
Making a Circle-Shaped Image	N/A
Making a Heart Shape with Selections	N/A
Layer Masks	N/A
Basic Color Curves	N/A
Your GIMP Profile (and You)	2.10
Image Formats Overview	N/A
Asset Folders	N/A
Digital B&W Conversion	N/A
Luminosity Masks	N/A
Tone Mapping with 'Colors/Exposure'	N/A
Focus Group	2.10.2
Parametric Brushes	N/A
How to set the tile cache	N/A
How to install fonts for use with GIMP	2.0
How to use MIDI devices with GIMP	2.2
Basic GIMP Perl	2.8
Automate Editing	2.8
Automatic Creation of XCF from JPG	N/A

Release Notes

Publication	Version/Date
Release Notes	2.10 (stable)
Release Notes	2.8 (stable)
Release Notes	2.7 (development)
Release Notes	2.6 (stable)
Release Notes	2.5 (development)
Release Notes	2.4 (stable)
Release Notes	2.3 (development)
Release Notes	2.3.3 (SIOX release)
Release Notes	2.2 (stable)

Design Implications

The GIMP UI has remained consistent since the release of v2.8.22 in 2017, and this has not changed as of the latest release, v2.10.36.

Documentation Specifications

The following specifications detail the style, content, and distribution requirements, consistent with FOSS principles.

Platforms Supported

All documentation is accessible on all platforms in both PDF and Markdown formats, through any PDF reader or text editor, respectively. HTML format documentation, exported from XML, is accessible on all web browsers.

Graphics

Approximately half of the documentation consists of pre-existing screen captures of the various menus and options, as well as examples of processes. If required, additional graphics will be captured, created, and modified with Greenshot v1.2.10 and GIMP v2.10.36. Each graphic will feature alt text image descriptions either embedded (HTML) or as a caption (PDF and Markdown) to ensure maximum accessibility for users with screen readers.

Distribution & Delivery

All documentation will be delivered in the following external digital formats:

- XML files available on the GNOME Gitlab gimp-help repository for download.
- HTML and PDF versions accessible via the GIMP website.

Internationalization & Localization

This documentation functions as the localization for Canadian English (en_CA), which is not currently available as an external manual, internal help documentation, nor contextual help. This manual and its components were built on the base provided by the US English and British English versions of the documentation. All changes and updates will be performed and submitted through the GNOME Project Translation Platform.

Technical Writing Staff

James Foster is a Junior Technical Writer currently tasked with the documentation for GIMP. They will work as a contractor in a volunteer capacity due to the nature of GIMP as a major player in the FOSS community.

Terminology

This documentation will use the GNOME Developer Documentation Style Guide throughout all formats to ensure consistency with all pre-existing documentation.

Supplementary Material

For this release, all product components will have basic local documentation, which launches when the user selects Help > Help in the toolbar or F1 on the keyboard.

This release additionally features updates to the contextual help, found when the user selects Help > Context Help in the toolbar or Shift+F1 on the keyboard, as well as the PDF and HTML documentation found on the GIMP website. Future releases will include LaTeX source code for all documentation, to better comply with GFDL licensing.

Resources

This section documents the various resources that will be used to complete the documentation updates and localization.

Interfacing Groups

The following individuals are resources and contacts that need to know about the documentation plan or who can provide information and services required during development of the documentation:

Group	Contact Name	Responsibilities
Coordinator	Adam Weinberger (inactive)	Review all documentation for accuracy and completeness.
Translators	traveltipspot, xblitz	Write, review, and revise documentation components.
Developers	GNOME Discourse, GIMPNet IRC #gimp	Provide information regarding software and resolve any issues or queries.

Subject Matter Experts

Features and Functionality – Emma Goldman, Karl Marx

Software & Production Assets

All assets are currently available.

Risks

The following risks are identified as having potential to affect the delivery schedule:

- ***Dependence on current resources.*** The writer is effectively working alone as the current team coordinator is listed as Inactive on the localization page, meaning that response times for questions and revisions or review are likely to be longer than any estimate might assume..
- ***Unforeseen documentation updates.*** If US English documentation is updated or changed in any way, Canadian English documentation must reflect these changes. To account for this, the writer should assume that a regular review of all US English documentation release dates is required to ensure no recent changes have been implemented.
- ***Unforeseen software updates or releases.*** If new versions of GIMP are released or new features are added, documentation will have to be updated and amended to incorporate this information.

Issues

No issues have been identified.

Glossary

C

Crop/Cropping

The process of removing edges or margins of an image for greater focus.

F

File Extension

The format or attribute of a file added as a suffix after the file name (i.e. .jpeg, .png, .gif).

S

Scale/Scaling

The process of resizing an image (scaling down: making an image smaller, scaling up: making an image bigger).