graphical-budget-planner
Quick Tutorial
**version : 2024-10-31 21:25:41**

What you have to know before hand

- Graphical-budget-planner cares only about the future.
- The basic idea is that you define sets of incomes/expenses. Financial events are automatically generated from these definitions and are used to produce a "cash balance curve", available to be inspected by the user.
- A particular set of incomes/expenses is collected in a "scenario", which is saved in a file ("json" file) on disk. You can have as many scenario files as you want. Only one scenario can be loaded at a time.
- You can use the Analysis module to get more insight and statistical information about the financial events generated from incomes/expenses definitions.

Interacting with the Cash Balance Curve

- **Zoomed in/out** with the mouse scroll wheel. 3 types of zoom operations are possible :
  - scroll wheel : both *horizontal and vertical* zoom
  - scroll wheel + SHIFT pressed : *horizontal* zoom only
  - scroll wheel + CONTROL pressed : *vertical* zoom only
- **Panning** in any direction by clicking on the chart with left button and, while keeping it pressed, move the mouse around
- **Panning strictly to the left or right by one full window**, by pressing the "<-" or "->" on the toolbar.
- **Rescaled** by clicking on the "**predefined scales**" toolbar above the chart.
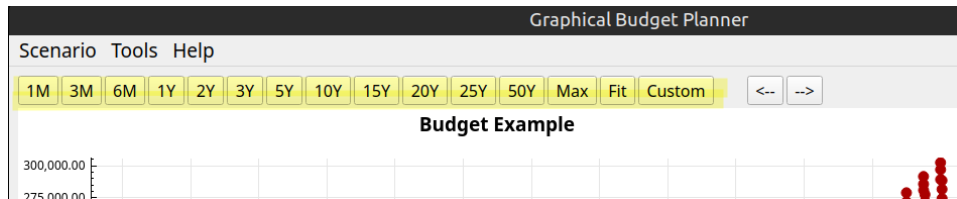
- If you **click on a data point** on the curve, it becomes green and several useful info are displayed on the right, including the list of financial events that contributed to build the amount for that day.
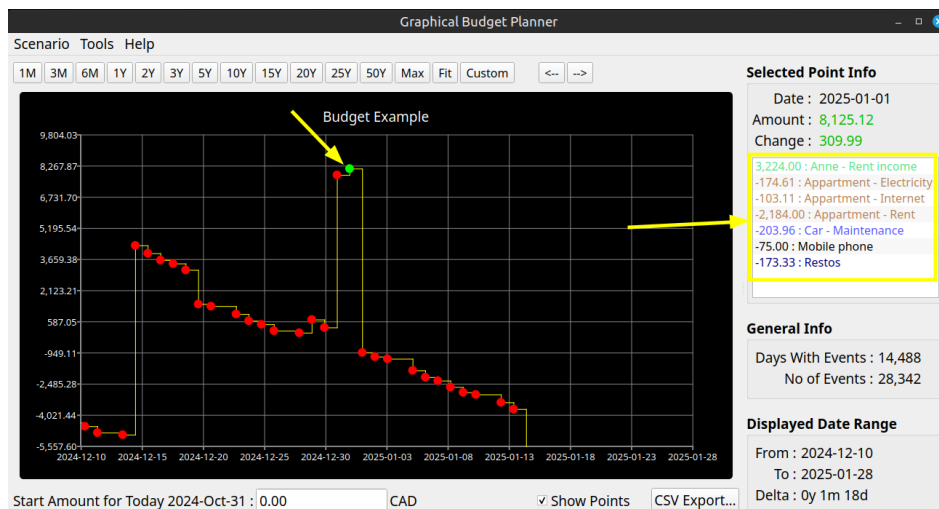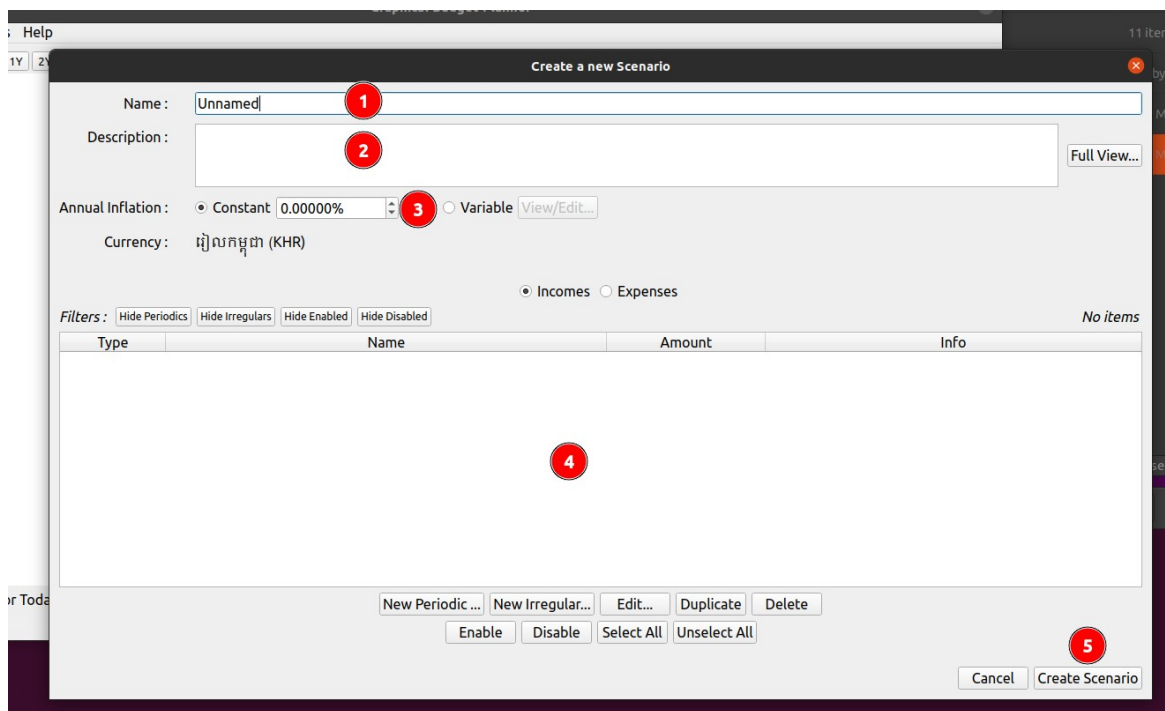
Creating a new scenario
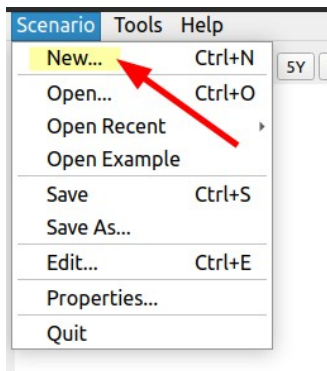
A) Select the "Scenario -> New..." menu

B) Choose the currency to be permanently associated to this new scenario, by selecting a country (1), then press Select button (2)

C) Fill the data (1,2,3,4) related to the scenario. When finished, press "Create Scenario" button (5).

(C-1) : Give name to the scenario (this is NOT the file name)

(C-2) : Optionally enter a descriptive text.
(C-3) : Define an annual inflation, to be optionally used later in the process of defining incomes/expenses. Leave to default if you don't want to use inflation (0 %).

(C-4) Define all the incomes / expenses you need in the scenario. There are 2 types of each :

*"**Periodic**" Income / Expense : Amount that repeats itself in time (e.g. salary, rent, mortgage). Press "New Periodic" to create one, "Edit" or double-click to modify an existing one.*

(1) : Give a name. All UNICODE characters are allowed. Limit of 100.
(2) : Optional description. All UNICODE characters are allowed. Limit of 4000.
(3) : The amount to be repeated.
(4) & (5) : The periodicity of the repetition. End-of-month force all the financial events to occur at end of month.
(6) : Date of the first event generated for this Periodic Item.
(7) : End date after which no more event can occurred for this Periodic Item.
(8) : Define an optional growth pattern to be applied to the amount. See the User Manual.
(9) : Optionally apply a color to the name of this income/expense.
(10) : Advance use, leave to default value if you don't know how to use it. See the User Manual.
(11) : Should this income / expense be enabled or not ?
(12) : See the effects of all the parameters defined above on the financial events generated.
(13) : Create the income / expense by pressing "Create". The window will stay here in case you want to create another one right after this one. Press "Close" to get rid of it.

*"**Irregular**" : Set of amounts for which you define specifically when they occur. Press "New Irregular" to create one, "Edit" or double-click to modify an existing one.*

(1) : Give a name. All characters are allowed. Limit of 100.
(2) : Optional description.
(3) : Optionally apply a color to the name of this income/expense.
(4) : Should this income / expense be enabled or not ?
(5) : Add / Delete / Modify individual specific amounts along with the dates of occurrence. This could for example look like this:
(6) : See the effects of all the parameters defined above.
(7) : You have the option to import the data from a CSV file instead of entering them manually.
(8) : Create the income / expense by pressing "Create". The window will stay there in case you want to create another one right after this one. Press "Close" to get rid of it.
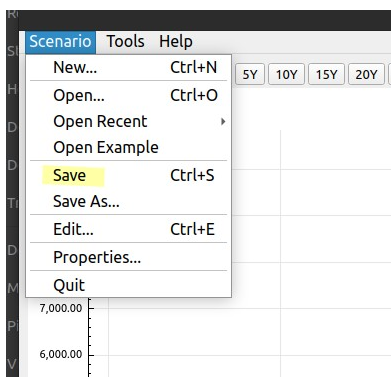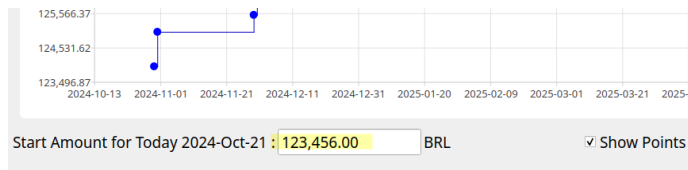

D) Save the scenario into a file if you want the new scenario to be used later
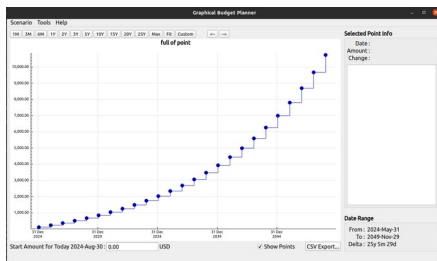
Opening an existing scenario
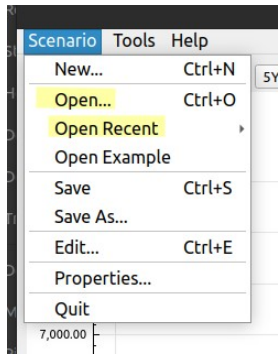
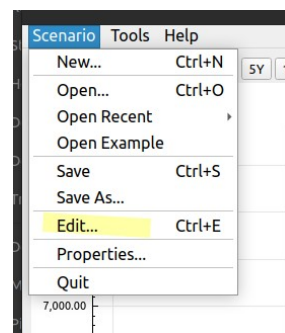**A)** Open an existing scenario file using the "Scenario->Open" or "Scenario->Open Recent"

B) Enter the total current cash asset you have as of **today**. The Cash Balance curve will start from this amount. This is NOT saved in the scenario file.

You will then see the calculated cash balance curve, derived from all the financial events generated.

Editing an existing scenario

A) Once a scenario is opened, select "Scenario->Edit" menu to bring the same window seen previously in the "Create Scenario" section

B) Do all the editing required. Everything can be changed, except the currency.

C) Once completed, press "**Apply Changes**" to update in memory the currently loaded scenario and thus see updates applied to the displayed cash balance curve. To discard all the changes made in the edit window, you have to re-open the same scenario file WITHOUT saving the changes made (there is no Undo...).

D) To save **permanently** the modifications made to the scenario, you have to <u>explicitly</u> save it using the "Scenario->Save" menu. Otherwise all changes will be lost when you exit graphical-budget-planner.

Analyzing a scenario

This module, available with the "Tools->Analysis" menu, provides a lot of statistical info about the financial events generated, including :
- the super useful distribution of incomes/expenses by weight (which are the most significants over a certain period of time)
- Monthly and yearly summaries, both in histogram form and exportable tabular form.
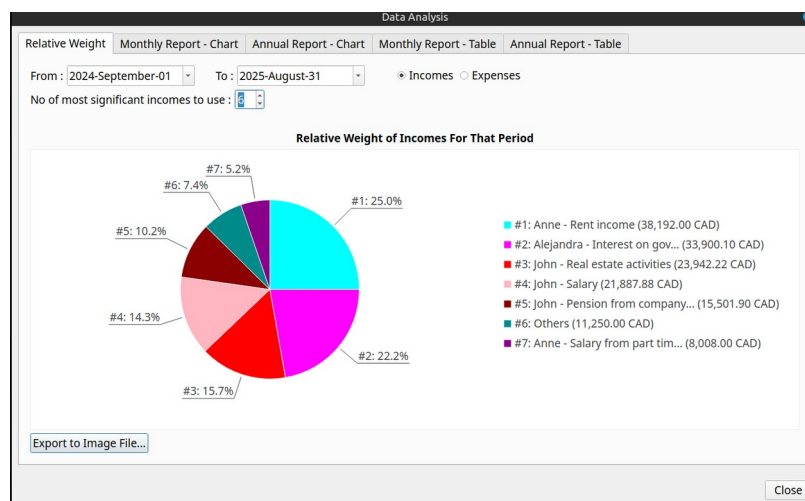
To get more details
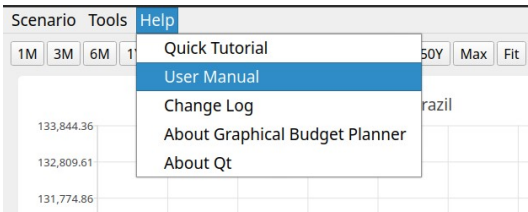
See the User Manual (english version only), which provides a great deal of details on every aspect of graphical-budget-planner.