

Re: If I was Ron Hovsepien...

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Yugo wrote:

A long time ago, when my OS was Windows, I used a demo of a little program called Paint Shop Pro 4. Of course, I didn't have much time to RTFM, since the demo expired one month later, but I had more than enough time to make quite a few backgrounds for my desktop. As far as I can remember from 5 years ago, it worked about like this.

For a 1024 x 768 desktop. I'd draw a 3 x 4 frame of any size. That was easy since the ratio of the frame's sides was indicated in the status bar at the bottom. Then, by pressing CTRL, the pointer would turn to a hand. By grabbing the corners of the frame, you could resize it and keep the aspect ratio. By grabbing the nodes on either side, you could modify the aspect ratio. By putting the hand somewhere in the picture, you could move the frame around . So the job was quickly done and there was no need to RTFM. You just tried this and that and pretty soon, you found how things worked. And, of course, it was easy to remember.

Now, I use The GIMP. When I draw a "selection", the aspect ratio is not indicated and since no hand or nodes appear to modify the selection, I must figure out exactly what the size of one side will be, then grab a pen to calculate what the other side's size should be to get the right aspect ratio. Painful? You bet!

If you press the CTRL key to see if you can move your selection, you find out that, unfortunately, it only allows to remove something from the selection. It looks like this:

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(Excuse my ascii art :)

Well, SHIFT maybe? Well, no. It does the opposite, it adds to the selection.

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Well, I'm surely a weird guy. I suppose GIMP developers add and subtract from selections hundred of times a day and that's why they use the most common keys to accomplish these operations they so dearly cherish and cheer, but I for one have never used them.

So, what about ALT? Sorry. It moves all the picture and title bar to another part of the screen.

ALT + SHIFT? It does the same ALT alone.

What about no key at all? It cuts the selection from the picture and moves it. (Also very useful!)

ALT + CTRL ? YES! It does move the selection! But how do you enlarge the selection? There's a way. I remember taking an hour or two searching this about six months ago. It must be somewhere in my notes, but I don't remember.

Is there a way to enlarge the selection while keeping the aspect ratio? I'm not sure. Maybe another hour or two of research would help. My time being precious, I could call a partner who could search for me at 75\$ / hour. (At this hourly rate, they're never in a rush. The less they know, the more it pays!)

And it's the same all over the interface. For instance, having to sharpen a picture is a very common operation. Many amateur and not so amateur pictures are out of focus. Here's how to do it in the GIMP. You'll see how handy it is.

Right-click on the picture and select the 9th option, filters. (Isn't it clear that you need a filter to sharpen a picture?) There, the 6th non-grayed option out of 18 is Enhance. It looks like it. Then, the 5th option out of 6, is sharpen. So, you sharpen your picture. Shit! It seems that, overall, you overdid it. So you take great care opening the 3 levels of menus — what was that first option again? Image, Tools? Nope. Filters! — and you click the right had corner of the last menu and select "Stay on top" or "Stay visible", whatever, so that you can try all the degrees of sharpness you want on your picture and maybe tenths of other ones. But every time, the 3 levels of menu collapse after you make your changes.

Now, if you RTFM, there might be a way to get away from this nightmare. The problem is, after you're through RTFM, you're divorced twice, your kids have left home, your dog is dead and you must start over because you don't remember the beginning: there's no frickin' logic in the interface!

Many Linux softwares have such a low degree of usability. The 8th most asked question at OOo, is how to save a page as the default template! Is it really normal that users search more than 30 seconds to find how to accomplish such a basic operation?

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Whereas Windows developers test and retest their interfaces with users, Linux braggarts explain that there are two kinds of Linux users: developers and ranters. If you don't code, you're not allowed to rant and if you're a developer, you're not allowed to rant, since you can change the code to suit your needs. The bragging never ceases, things never change.

The GIMP could move to 24 bit color, have superb CMYK printing, be vector based all the way, it still wouldn't be a favorite. After an hour or two of this fooling around, graphic artists would still move back to Photoshop.

The main thing Linux lacks to make it on the desktop is common sense. That things can finally be done somehow is irrelevant. What counts is how efficiently they can be done.

If I was Ron Hovsepian, there's one thing I would care about: the usability of the software I sell. In all the long interview he gave to CRN, this concern didn't appear once.

I'm really tired and I've had a long day. So if I sound a bit terse it's because you sound like a fucking ass hole !! Or maybe just a jerk. Or maybe just a troll. Whatever it is what the fuck is your problem ???

If you love Photoshop then just use it. If you don't like the Gimp don't use it. If you're too stupid to know that this is NOT the Gimp newsgroup then go to comp.graphics.apps.gimp. It seems that you're just here to rag on something you simply don't know how to use. If you did you would know that you could simply use the rectangular selection tool to do what you suggest can't be done. It's so simple to do yet you haven't figured it out.

Duuuhhhh !! The one thing Linux lacks is.....?? I've heard crap like this since 1999 when you Windows ZEALOTS thought it was "just for hackers & geeks". If you were Ron Hovsepian you'd have your work cut out for you...educating idiots like yourself not to expect everything in Linux to be exactly like it is in WinBLOZE. If it were it would be the same old piece of crap. After spending 5 hours fucking with STUPID ASS WINDOWS on a computer for a friend's business I can tell you I think Windows absolutely is a piece of crap. And you are a FUCKING WINDOWS ZEALOT...Period.

Yes I'm pissed off. Just when you think the ass hole trolls are gone here they come again.

Just because you learned how to use a computer with Windows doesn't mean that the 'right' way to do it! That's the way you learned. I've used Photoshop and what you call intuitive I call lame. Why can't I right click and get my drop down menu ?? Why do I have to go to the top menu bar to find anything ?? How come I have to pay so much for Photoshop when I can use Gimp for free. Why can't I write my own plug-ins without having to pay to do that ?? Where's my right click on the desktop to bring up a menu??

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How come Windows wont let me upgrade from Windows 98 to Windows XP without me having to stick the original Windows 98 disk in the cdrom drive when the hard drive already has windows 98 installed?? Don't they trust me?? Awe, come on. I really did pay for Windows 98. How come they make me out to be a cheater ?? How come, when I put a nic card in the Windows 98 box and go to install the driver from floppy Windows says 'driver installed' and then when I reboot it says it found a new piece of hardware, "do you want to install it?" when I just did that, 3 fucking times ???

So go fuck yourself !! I'm sick and tired of you little ass holes !! And if anyone's wondering why Windows Zealots are so fucking defensive about Windows I'll tell you. Since I too was that way a long time ago (circa 1998). It's because you've spent so God Damn much of your money on a piece of CRAP. `God forbid you should have to admit you made a bad investment. Crap, crap, crap I tell you. Bugs, spyware, virus, BSOD...Yes, it's all in there. And now you've got Microsoft checking you out every time you log on.

However.....there are quite a few really nice Windows 'compatible' applications. I'll give you that. But they cost so fucking much. What is it for the full on version of Photoshop ? \$650.00 !!! And then more if you want third party plug-ins !! Much more!!! I could buy a computer for that much. One with Linux and hundreds of applications. No spyware, no viruses. And all the stuff I could possibly use. Including Gimp !! Which, after a couple of days, I easily learned how to use. And Apache. And php, perl, python, scribus, LyX, all the IDE's I'd ever want, inscape, gui designers, e-mail, web browsers, chat (don't use that) videoconferencing, scientific plotting programs, databases, office software, editors, text to speech in my browser, all the applets I'd ever want, etc, etc, etc....And that's just a small fraction of what's in there. Free !!! Did I forget to mention you can run third party Photoshop plug-ins in Gimp ??? Well, you can !!

And I can give away all this stuff to anybody without cheating or worrying about the software police coming after me. Oh, let me turn down my free streaming rock music so I can hear you bitching because Gimp doesn't do everything just like Photoshop.

So there you have it. Just my two cents worth for tonight. I'm sure I'll get lots of criticism for my remarks but as I stated earlier I'm tired. Oh, did I forget to mention that you don't know much about Gimp or you wouldn't be making such stupid statements. You could have just gone to the newsgroup that is for Gimp users I mentioned earlier and you could have asked how to do the things you're trying to do. You can keep the menu's and sub-menus visible at all times so you really don't have to go very far to find the right filter, such as sharpen. Come on. That's free. Stop bitchin. If you really have to look at your notes then you haven't spent much time trying to learn something different. Just go through some of the many tutorials available and you'll find you can do just about anything you want with Gimp. If it doesn't you can ask someone to make a plug-in that does. Or you can write your own. You don't even have to ask for

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permission. It's o.k. No, really, it's o.k. As for common sense, I find that there isn't much of that. A lot of the old 'monkey see, monkey do', but common sense ?? What's that ??

O.K. I've done enough bitching myself by now. I've still got that Gimp window open and I just went back to that rectangular selection I made and I can easily grab the left side, right side, top, bottom or corner and resize it to whatever exact dimension I want. Oh, that's tough. I better get out my notes. Let's see ?? Move cursor to line, left click, drag, watch the coordinate window in the lower left and the dimension window at the lower middle, oh, oh, my notes !! I've cracked my pencil tip !! Now what do I do ?? I've got it. I'll call my friend and for \$75.00 an hour he can tell me how to sharpen my pencil.. No wait. I've got a better idea. I'll get a ..PEN !! Oh, pardon me. I wanted to sharpen my image selection. Now let me see... Oh look, right there on the right of my work area is the enhance sub-menu. How'd that get there ?? wonder what would happen if I click on the...SHARPEN menu item ??? No, you think ??

Gee, that's only one click away....Oh, and I didn't even have a pencil..or even \$75.00....Oh the misery...Oh the horror.....

Listen Mr. Windows Zealot. You're an idiot !! But hey, I'll forgive you if you forgive me. I did say I was tired...and cranky too. But for a mere \$50.00 per hour I'll be more than happy to teach you how to use the Gimp.

Better yet get out your pencil..no get out your pen and start looking at the many on-line free Gimp tutorials and learn how to think!!! Or not. That's your decision. Uh oh, there's that Gimp window again. And it's still waiting for me to figure out how big a selection I want to make. And where I want to make it. And what I want to do with it. And what filter I want to apply.....Oh man, so many decisions. Looks like I'll need another pencil and another \$75.00. Because I can't decide.....

LOL all night long. Thanks for the stupid post you made. Now I feel much better. I just had to get that off my chest. You really are quite stupid !!

Good night.

P.S. I am not responsible for anything I said. It's just a nightmare I'm having. When I wake up this wont even have happened. Uh oh, there's that Gimp selection window again...and it's still waiting, waiting, waiting...AAHHHHHHH !!! LOL

Ctrl-Alt-Del...Ctrl-Alt-Del...Ctrl-Alt-Del...How come it wont reboot ??

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