

## Working With Files in Linux

A year ago, I made the prizewinning and worst mistake of my life: I messed up my GRUB boot list, and didn't impact the wherewithal to mend it. I was so frustrated, that I chose to desert the Microsoft axis altogether. What would I do without the tools I used in Windows? I found myself relying on whatever very adjuvant roundups online. You undergo "The 5 prizewinning apps for this or that", and the like.

It turns out, after you read 50 or so UNIX roundups that don't help you at all, you encounter digit shining program (or solution) in the rough that takes care of your issues. Sometimes, you end up using a compounding of programs together, with varied degrees of success. Then, you impact the "kludge". This is a programming term that essentially means "an inefficient, clumsy way to get the termination you want". I impact plenty of those, and impact detailed a few of my favorites below.

I'm not locution that you module see much of a disagreement in the programs I suggest in this roundup. Depending on how new you are to the UNIX scene, you might stumble onto something you aren't currently using. What I module offer are unique and occasionally "kludgy" solutions to get the employ done.

PDF's: These gave me a real problem when I started using UNIX full-time. Don't get me wrong, UNIX has plenty of PDF readers/writers. When it came to redaction them all, I impact a bit of a roadblock. I impact to amend PDF's (photo and text-based) on a lawful basis. So what are the solutions I found?

- PDFedit: This is okay, provided you are mitigated with having a one-shot edit. By that, I mean that you crapper access the document and modify it, but it does not impact an "undo" function. Hopefully, they module add this feature in future. You impact to close the document in order to "undo" whatever changes. I exclusive ingest this for highlighting book supported PDF's. For image supported PDF's I choose

- GIMP (a kludgin we module go): Yes, that's right. The venerated Photoshop equal crapper modify book and image-based PDF's. There are individual issues with this method, but I'll explain how to ingest it, should you be so inclined. The downfall of this method is that GIMP imports the PDF, whether Image or Text supported as an Image. When it exports, it exports the enter independently of the original as a PDF. That being said, it is a beatific solution for 1-3 page docs. All you impact to do is create a new place in Gimp, cover up the older information with a color (I ingest white, generally) and create a new book place to replace the older data. Then goods as a .jpg or .png (I mostly ingest .jpg, but .gif works pretty well, should you requirement a smaller enter size.)

Here comes the fun part: Now, you impact to unstoppered up the another PDF pages in GIMP, and goods them as a .jpg or whatever. Then, unstoppered up OpenOffice Draw. Insert the represent into the first slide. Insert another slide, insert pic. Repeat until done. Click "Export as PDF" button. Tada. Not fun. Or you crapper just write a PHP script to run on your Apache server, and ingest the PHP/PDF library to goods your files as a single PDF (if you feel froggy, jump.) I hired someone to write a brief script for me, and they were among the prizewinning dollars I impact ever spent.

- Scribus: This is the most grown of the editing/publishing platforms out there. I impact heard great things most its ability to modify PDF's. The exclusive problem is, I cannot get it modify a single PDF. It tells me that my PDF's are not in an unexceptionable format. Should they mend this in a later release, this would be your prizewinning shot at a redaction on a great platform. It just does not impact with PDF's generated in OpenOffice, or anywhere added for that matter.

- Xournal or Gournal: Xournal is the meliorate of the two. They are both lightweight PDF annotators/editors. They do not impact well with Image supported PDF's. They do an admirable employ when dealing with book supported PDF's.

Let's move on to represent formats, and picture management systems. Man, impact I ever had a problem with these. This mostly has to do with the frequent inability of UNIX programs to understand layers, as they relate to Adobe supported products.

The following programs earmark you to view, and even batch impact photos. These are the ones that module spend you more time than whatever other.

- Phatch: The single greatest effort to Open Source picture redaction since GIMP. Phatch allows you to quickly and easily batch modify thousands of files at the time. A simple interface makes this a snap. Resize, modify enter quality parameters, rename, rotate, modify shadow, etc., without ever seeing the command line.

- Inkscape: A vector application that comes close to accurately inaugural .ai and layered .eps files. I say, comes close,

because it picks and chooses which of these files it interprets. It's Russian Roulette. I wouldn't pay for a vector graphics package supported on its performance, unless it gives you the enter in .svg, which it interprets without a problem.

- GIMP: Okay, if you don't undergo already, GIMP is the app that started it all. You crapper unstoppered up pretty much anything in GIMP. It just works. There are enough scripts and tutorials out there that enable you to do anything you poverty with an image. Its batch processing abilities are not nearly as beatific as Phatch, but you crapper add &ldquo;Dave's Batch Processor&rdquo; should you feel the urge.

(For every of you who say &ldquo;Well, you crapper ingest Adobe products with WINE.&rdquo;, permit me inform you that I am not dual-booting MS and Linux. To speak of a solution using WINE would nullify the point of this article.)

Ok, now that I am finished with programs, I'd same to deal with you whatever websites that help you modify files into disposable formats. You undergo the ones, the primarily brilliant spawn of Microsoft that are a pain to open: .docx, .xlsx, .pub, and anything added you requirement decoded on the fly.

(It should be noted that underway UNIX versions of OpenOffice module unstoppered .docx, .xlsx, and .pptx locally. Windows versions of the information do not hold these files as of yet.) These are for when you are on the go, or using a machine that isn't owned by you. You could ever carry a bespoke distro on your keychain, but my guess is you are not that hardcore yet. If you are, you impact belike discovered or coded far meliorate solutions than I am offering.

- k2pdf.com : This module take .rtf, .txt, .doc, .eps, .docx, .mdi, .tif, and a few another formats, and modify them into a usable, viewable PDF for you.

- pdfonline.com- Should you requirement the document editable in word, head over here to modify your PDF to a standard MS Word file. The exclusive reason that you would possibly requirement this, is to modify tables from an .xlsx to PDF conversion. Still, a reasonably decorous kludge.

[http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/access\\_onlinetools.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/access_onlinetools.html)- Yup. Adobe offers to modify your PDF to HTML for you here. You take the help where you crapper get it. Then you crapper paste the HTML into OpenOffice and spend as .doc (or preferably, an .odt.) Again, not the greatest solution, but digit that works.

The UNIX community is doing an admirable employ of making enter formats accessible. Hopefully, in the near future, an unstoppered standard module overtake these proprietary formats. In the meantime, I wish whatever of these patched unitedly solutions module help you get the job.