

## Questions, Ideas, Favourites

by Andy Pepperdine

This month we discussed a number of applications and topics. Here is just a flavour of some of the issues and possible answers and suggestions.

Thank you to all who contributed.

### **Old floppies**

The question came up as to what to do with any old floppies you can no longer read, because there are no drives in modern machines, and/or the operating system no longer supports a the drives and devices that exist that might read them. Probably the best bet is to find an expert to transfer the contents to a USB drive for you.

If you want to try to do it yourself, and your PC has a drive built-in, then you will need the package *fdutils* and here are a couple of sites to look at:

<https://askubuntu.com/questions/168597/how-do-i-use-a-floppy-drive-in-ubuntu>

<https://www.kubuntuforums.net/showthread.php?58581-Enable-your-floppy-drive>

### **Shutter**

If you have trouble with taking screenshots, then **shutter** is recommended as a more flexible way of doing it. The particular problem our correspondent complained about was that the built-in version added black spaces in various places, but the replacement does not.

It is available in the repositories for most Linux systems.

Home page: <http://shutter-project.org/>

### **Add-ons for Thunderbird**

Some more add-ons that are suggested for Thunderbird. To get these, use Tools → Add-ons and then the Search tab.

**Auto Resize Image** will adjust the sizes of images being sent with an e-mail.

**ImportExportTools** enables the transfer of the Thunderbird database of messages to/from other formats and mail clients.

**Lightning** is a calendar add-on that can set up appointments regularly and provide reminders days, hours, or minutes before the due time.

## **Gwenview**

**Gwenview** is a simple picture viewer, but it does have two useful and easy features.

Firstly, it can reduce the size of the file, by reducing the “pixel” count in each direction., under the menu item Edit → Resize.

Secondly, it can crop with Edit → Crop and then drag the corners in to the desired amount and hit the Crop button.

You can then save the picture under a different name, and either return to the original or continue with the cropped version.

It is available in the repositories for most Linux systems.

More information: <https://www.kde.org/applications/graphics/gwenview/>

## **Okular**

Okular will display documents in various formats. As well as PDFs it can support Postscript, XPS and ePub files. It's in the repositories for Linux systems.

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Home page: <https://okular.kde.org/>

## **LibreOffice**

We all know this well, but an example of combining the results of Draw, Math, and multilingual text in Impress was shown

## **Gimp**

An example of using Bezier curves in Gimp to round off the corners of a triangle was demonstrated.

## **Blender**

Blender is an application that allows you to generate artificial pictures and animated films entirely from the screen, without any “natural” input like photographs. The sample video was impressive. However, we were warned that it can take months to create some work of art with it as the detail can be very impressive in the final result.

It can also be used for 3-D design and to prepare a product for 3-D printing.

It is available in the repositories for most Linux systems.

Home page: <https://www.blender.org/>

***Fslint***

This is a little utility to find oddities among your files, like broken links and duplicate files; the latter being particularly useful if you keep copies in various places and forget you have done so.

It is available in the repositories for most Linux systems.

More information: <http://www.pixelbeat.org/fslint/>

***Kfind***

This is a very useful utility for finding files based on various attributes you know about.

More information: <https://www.kde.org/applications/utilities/kfind/>

***References***

The references are included in each section above.