

Quality Printing with GIMP

By *srlinuxx*

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In spite of Silicon Valley's best efforts, it is still not a paperless world. On a free software desktop, this is rarely a problem, because significant work has gone into making CUPS, Foomatic, and other parts of the printing tool chain work well and integrate seamlessly into the application suite ? at least, for the typical ?office? document. There are still a few things the average user can do to enhance the quality of prints from graphics applications like GIMP. Some are common to all raster image editors but which you might need a refresher course on, and some of which are more specialized. Given the price of high-quality inks and photo paper, though, a little preparation can save both time and money

Pre-flight check: accounting for how raster images work

An image undergoes multiple transformation between the time it is read from the hard disk and the time it pops out of the printer. Most importantly, of course, that includes the editing that you perform in GIMP. A critical component to getting consistently good prints is enabling and configuring GIMP's color management (CM). CM is built-in to all recent GIMP releases, but it does not come pre-configured, so if you don't take the time to set it up, it does you no good.

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