

Presentation review by Leah Clark, Editor, User Friendly, Los Angeles Computer Society – December Issue

Photo Editing with the GIMP

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<https://www.socallinuxexpo.org/scale/15x/>

Dennis, an Open Source Software supporter, offered tips for using the GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) as a cost-effective (free) way to restore, enhance or fix images. This application is cross-platform and Open-Source. It uses a plug-in framework. This powerful application contains features that both beginners and advanced users will appreciate.

The Basic Flow

- Target - What are we modifying?
 - Image, Layer, Selection
- Selection - How will we pick it?
 - Box, Circle, Fuzzy, Freehand, Color
 - Options
- Action - What are we going to do?
 - Lighten, darken, sharpen, ad infinitum

Commonly Used Features

- Crop - Remove clutter or distractions
- Curves - Correct exposure and adjust light balance
- Resize - Reduce the image and size for a web page
- Transform - Flip, rotate or invert
- Red-eye removal
- Cloning - Clone out dust specks, etc.
- Color levels - Punch up colors on a gray day, black and white conversion
- Perspective tool

Raw files are directly off the sensor. There is no loss from JPEG conversion. They allow for more flexibility with shadow and exposure detail, white balance and noise reduction. Conversion software is required, either from the manufacturer or a third party. UFRAW (Unidentified Flying RAW) is plug-in that allows reading an image directly from the Raw file.

There are also layer mask tools, de-noise tools, a free-rotate tool, and more complex options. The GIMP will save the original and the edited file in the GIMP format, or it can save to many file formats with its File Conversion Tool.

You may Google for GIMP tutorials. See other resources at:

- https://wiki.gimp.org/wilki/Main_Page

- <http://www.gimp.org/tutorials>
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