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DIGITAL TOOLBOX

Tool name: Inkscape

Category: Illustration and image tools

Official website link: https://inkscape.org/

Available languages:

- Interface available in EN, FR, ES, PT, etc.

Free version available?

Yes

Short description:

Inkscape is a free and open-source software vector graphics editor. It is used for both artistic and technical illustrations such as cartoons, clip art, logos, typography, diagrams and flowcharts. It uses vector graphics to aloow for sharp printouts and rebderings at unlimited resolution and is not bound to a fixed numbers of pixels like raster graphics. It uses Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) as its main file format. It can import and export various file formats such as Adobe Illustrator (AI), encapsulated PostScript (EPS), PDF, PostScript (PS) and PNG.

Inkscape can render primitive vector shapes (e.g.rectangles, eclipses, polygons, arcs, spirals, stars and 3D boxes)and text.Objects can be filled with solid colours, patterns,and radial or linear colour gradients, and their borders may be stroked, both with adjustable transparency.

Available both as a browser-based and desktop (Windows/Mac/Linux) app, Inkscape allows users to create and manipulate Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG), emphasising precision and clarity in design.

Key strengths:

- It provides users with images that maintain sharpness and quality at any scale.

GREEN SAGA project (2024-2-LT02-KA220-YOU-000293123)
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- It boasts a vibrant community and transparent development process, making it a trusted choice for designers worldwide.
- Manipulating objects is seamless in Inkscape. Users can resize, rotate and skew elements precisely , allowing for intricate adjustments to achieve the desired visual impact.
- Completely free to use with no licensing fees, and open for community-driven development.
- Usable directly in a browser or via downloadable desktop versions for Windows, MacOS, and Linux.
- Inkscape simplifies text editing and enables fonts, sizes and styles to be customised in order for a message to be conveyed effectively.
- Active user forums, tutorials, and resources to support its users.
- Widely used in classrooms for teaching vector drawing basics, used to create teaching materials for teachers.
- Once installed, it can be used completely offline.

Limitations:

- It does not preview effects and filters.
- Some functions are not available compared to other programmes.
- The programme can crash if you do not save your work on layers.
- If SVG objects are not converted to paths, they might not display correctly in other applications.
- Inkscape lacks support for the CMYK colour format.
- It lacks a suite of native tools, such as the Affinity suite or Adobe Creative Cloud, which allow for easy file transfer between programmes.

Screenshots or example links:

- https://inkscape.org/
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFYQW2DCM2I

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