

Zim - desktop wiki

<http://zim-wiki.org/>

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Software freedom day - NLLGG

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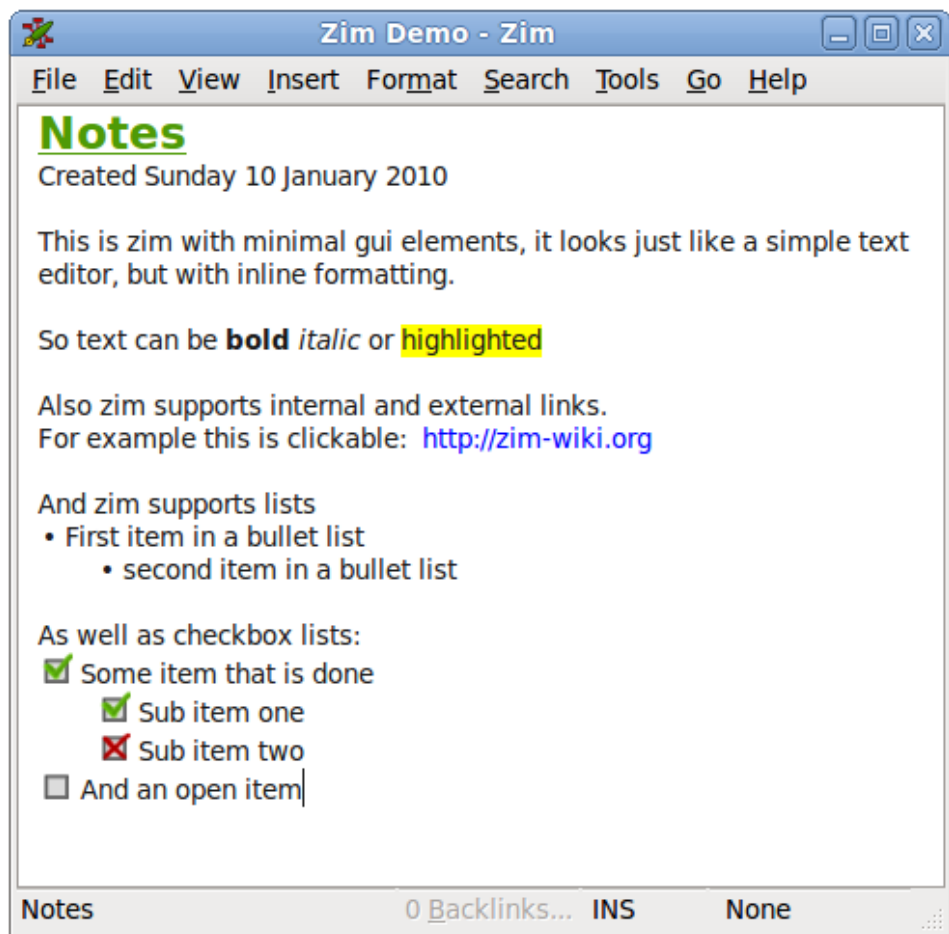


Contents of this presentation

- **Introduction**
 - What is zim
- **Part 1: different ways to organize**
 - Per topic, as a journal, etc.
 - Full project & GTD flow
- **Part 2: customize zim to your own work flow**
 - Working with files
 - Custom scripts & Plugins

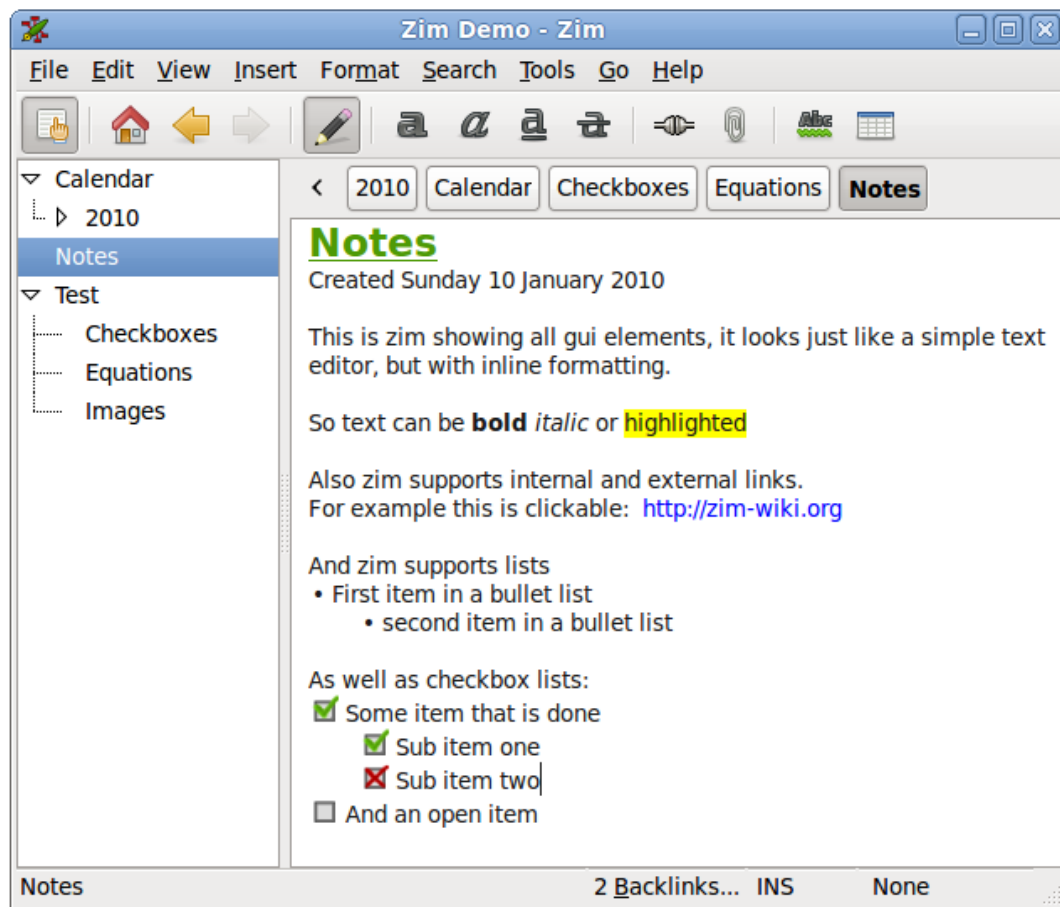


Introducing zim: just a simple text editor



*The most basic view: just a page of text,
more or less like notepad*

Default view: a page in the notebook






Wait a second - I thought wiki was something else...

Wikipedia, the free ... x +

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page Search



Create account Not logged in Talk Contributions Log in

Main Page Talk Read View source View history Search

 **WIKIPEDIA**
The Free Encyclopedia

Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia
Wikipedia store


Interaction
Help
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact page

 Wiki Loves Monuments: Photograph a monument, help Wikipedia 


Welcome to **Wikipedia**
the free encyclopedia that
4,969,039 articles

History
Mathematics
Geography
Science
Society
Technology
All portals

From today's

 The American musician **Jimi Hendrix** was born in London on September 18, 1970, aged 27. In the days leading up to

In the news

• A **magnitude 8.3 earthquake** strikes in the Pacific off the 



Wiki is a concept, not a specific website

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WikiWikiWeb>

Properties of a wiki:

- Easy to edit („wiki wiki“ means „fast“)
- Simple text formatting, stored as readable text without (to many) special codes
- Structure with multiple pages and hyperlinks (usually page names are in CamelCase)
- The best of the „web“ without all the technical hassle

So what does „desktop wiki“ mean ?

- It's a desktop application for one user, not a public website (but you can share ..)

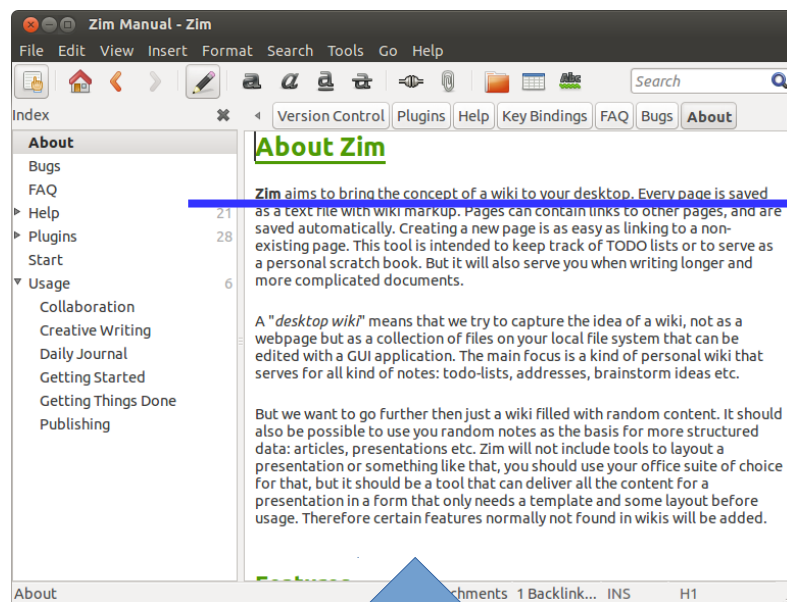


Zim in een nutshell

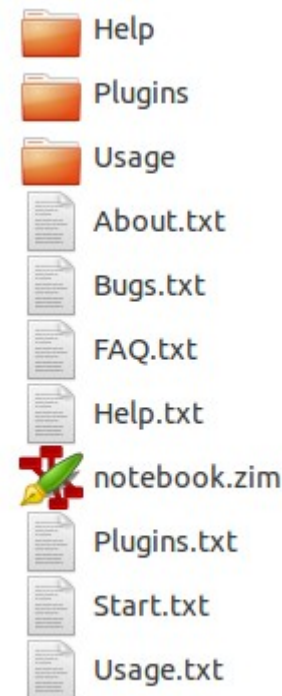
A desktop application



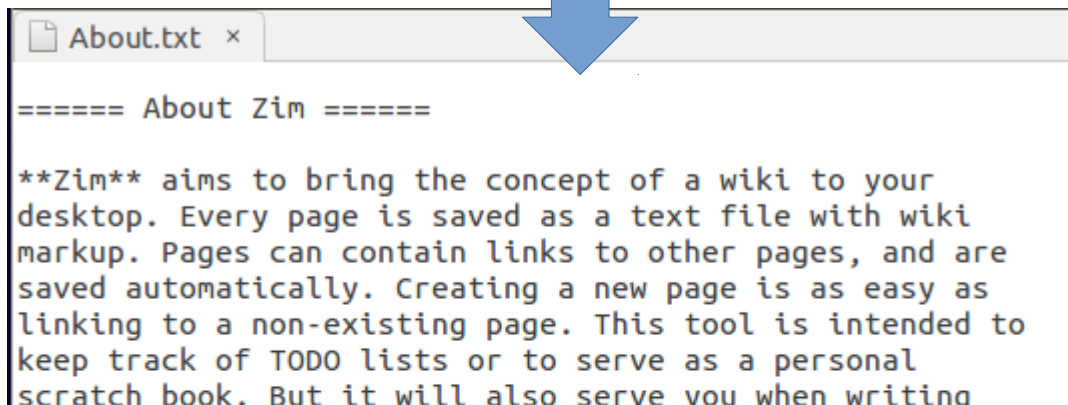
One user



Structure with multiple files and folders



Text files with simple formatting





Part 1: different ways to organize

- A notebook by topic
- A journal by day / week / month / ...
- Organizing with links, checkboxes & tags
- Complete example with project structure & GTD flow
- Back to simple: distraction free editing



Exampe 1: a notebook per topic

Demo

Start from scratch

Doesn't get much simpeler – you just create a page per (sub-)topic:

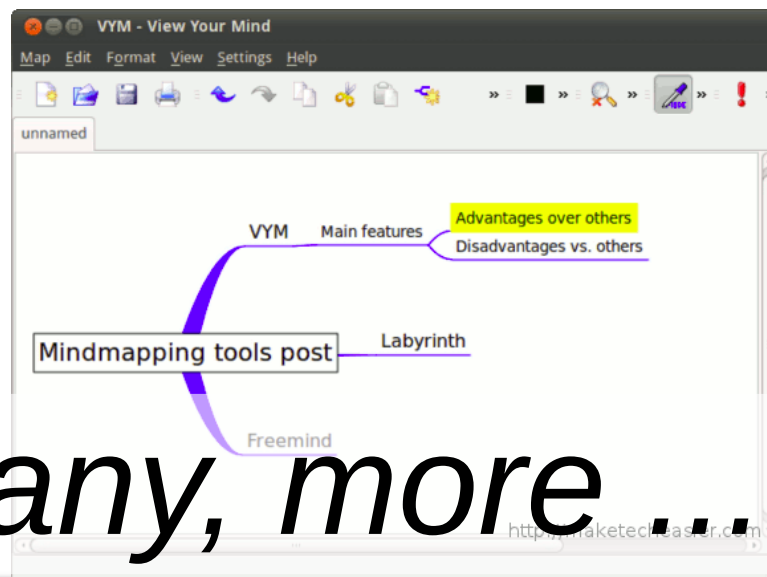
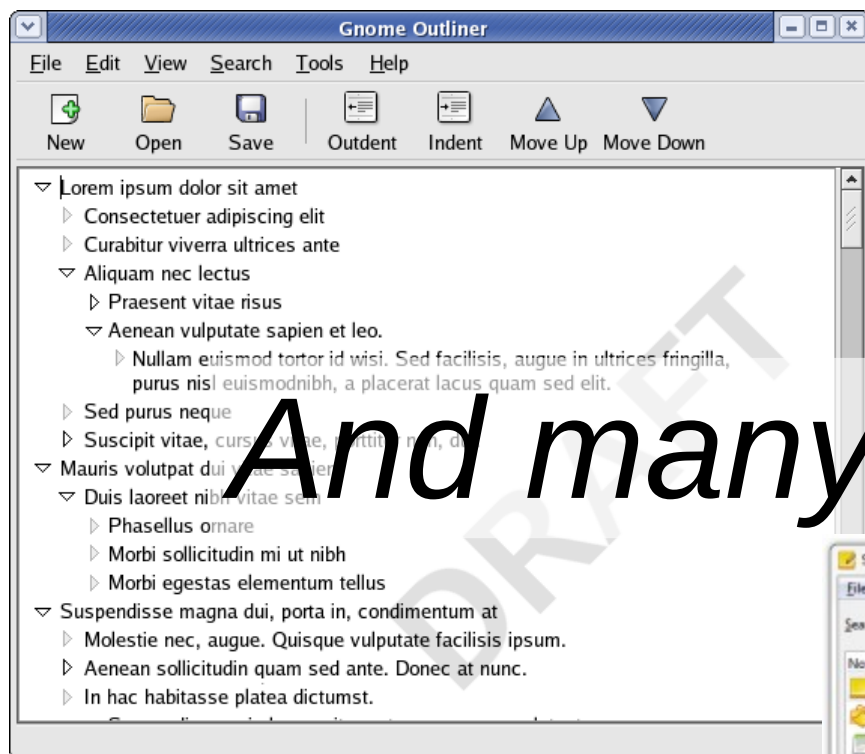
- College or work notes
- Collections
- ..

This is how I started with zim: I got this huge load of facts to sort out from different source – how do I handle this?

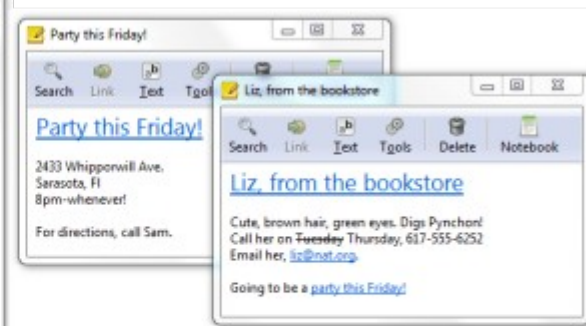
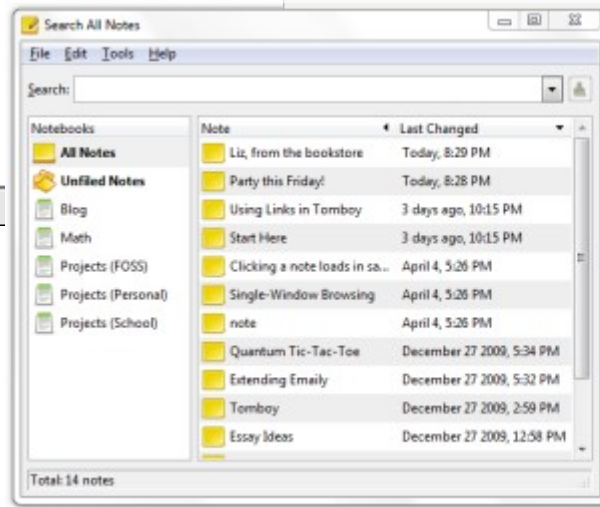


Alternatives

Graphical mindmap tools,
another kind of outliner



And many, many, more...



Outliners: great for brainstorming,
doesn't scale for longer, non-
hierarchical notes

Ideal if you love vim or emacs

TomBoy notes: didn't exist yet at
the time. The sticky notes format
is not structured enough for me.





The goal of zim: Keep it simple, only add the complexity you need

- Just a „notebook“ with text files
- No default structure you need to follow
- Functional formatting and images, but not as much as an „office“ application
- Space and tools to use your own structure and create your own work flow

Often less software is the solution, instead of more



Example 2: A journal or logbook

Demo

Add journal to
demo

Zim Demo - Zim

File Edit View Insert Format Search Tools Go Help

Sunday 10 Jan 2010

Zim
Finalizing release

- Update website
 - Take some new screenshots
- Upload sources
- Generate Ubuntu package
- Announce
 - Freshmeat
 - Launchpad
 - Mailing list

Date:2010:01:10

0 B

Today

Zim Demo - Zim

File Edit View Insert Format Search Tools Go Help

Monday 01 February 2010

< February > < 2010 >

Sunday 10 Jan 2010

Zim
Finalizing release

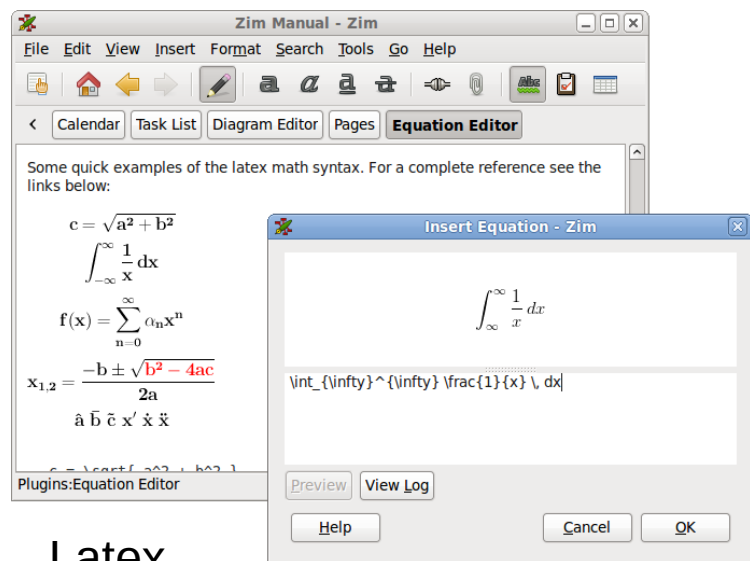
- Update website
 - Take some new screenshots
- Upload sources
- Generate Ubuntu package
- Announce
 - Freshmeat
 - Launchpad
 - Mailing list

Calendar:2010:01:10

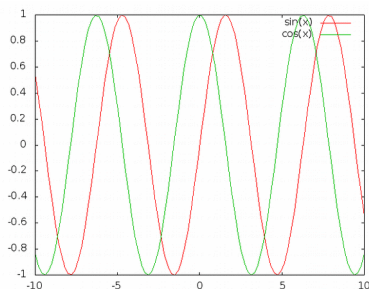
0 Backlinks... INS None



For some information just text is not enough

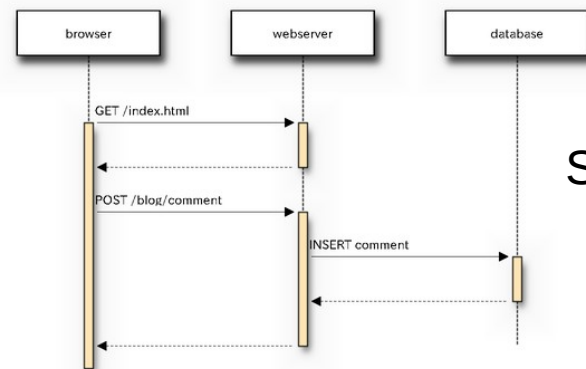
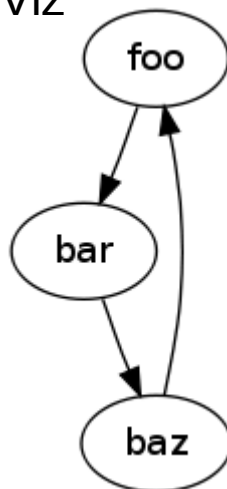


Latex

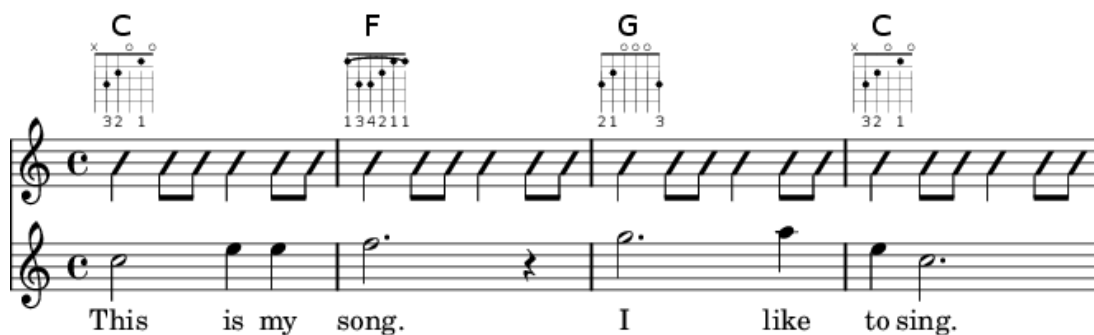


Gnuplot

GraphViz



SeqDiag



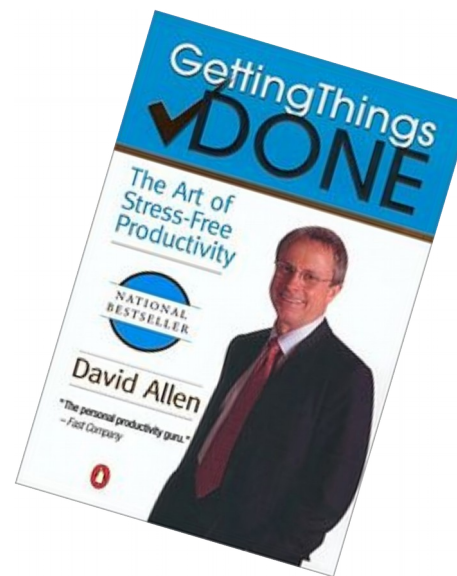
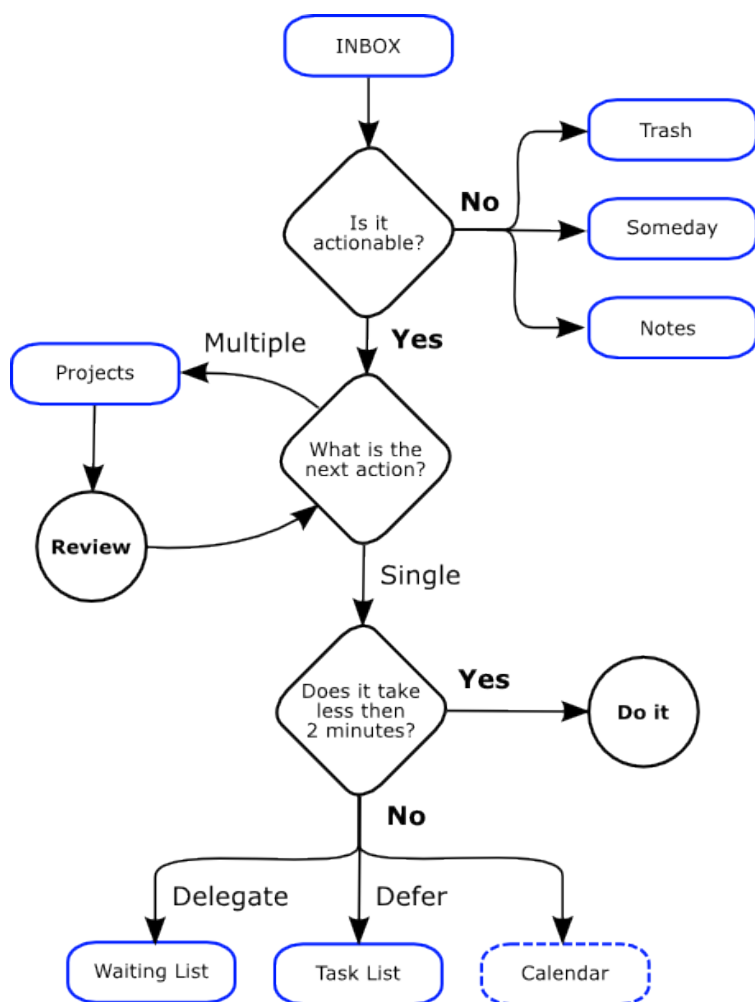
Lilypond

All these images are generated with external tools based on text input – output embedded in zim pages



Intermezzo: Getting Things Done (GTD)

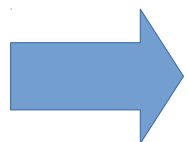
- A popular „self management“ method
- Helps you think about tasks, action lists and priorities





Key elements of GTD

- Task lists
 - „I've got 10 minutes behind my computer, what can I do?“
 - „I'm going shopping tomorrow, anything I forgot last time?“
- „Trigger“ lists
 - „remind me of this in about 6 months“
- Lists with projects and long term goals
 - „which things are important to me?“
 - Lead to new simple („actionable“) tasks



Lists, lists and more lists



There must be software for that!

„GTD software“ gives more than 800.000 hits on google
(By comparison: „Mindmap software“ about 1.100.000)

However, this is how the paper version looks:

What is the minimal you need to create a GTD work flow in zim?



The „hipster PDA“



Organizing with links, checkboxes & tags

Demo

Working with task lists

Choose what seems useful:

- Links – and back-links !
- Checkbox for tasks, dialog with total overview per notebook
- Tags to group pages by topic, person, place, ...

The screenshot shows the Zim Demo application interface. The main window has a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Search, Tools, Go, Help) and a toolbar. Below the toolbar is a navigation bar with tabs: Equations, Equations, Images, Checkboxes, 2010, 01, 10, Notes, and Task List. The Task List tab is active, showing a list of tasks with checkboxes and tags. A dialog box titled 'Task List - Zim' is open, showing a filtered view of the tasks. The dialog has a 'Filter' field and a 'Filter' button. It displays a table with columns: Tags, Prio, Task, Date, and Page. The table lists several tasks, including 'Don't forget to set the alarm clock !', 'And an open item @test', 'Take some new screenshots @zim', 'Upload sources @zim', 'Generate Ubuntu package @zim', 'Announce new zim release @zim', and 'Do gracery shoping @shopping'. The dates for the last two tasks are highlighted in red and orange respectively.

Tags	Prio	Task	Date	Page
All	1	Don't forget to set the alarm clock !		Test:Task List
shopping	0	And an open item @test		Notes
test	0	Take some new screenshots @zim		Test:Task List
zim	0	Upload sources @zim		Test:Task List
	0	Generate Ubuntu package @zim		Test:Task List
	0	Announce new zim release @zim	2010-01-10	Test:Task List
	0	Do gracery shoping @shopping	2010-01-11	Test:Task List

It is up to you how you combine these components!



Complete example of project structure & GTD flow

Best practices:

- Use the tasklist plugin for actionable tasks
- Use the journal plugin for daily or weekly overviews, minutes, etc.
- Use several pages for lists of reminders, topics for routine meetings, etc.
- If you work on multiple projects: create a section „projects“ with materials per project

Demo



Back to simple: distraction free editing

Distraction Free Editing

Created vrijdag 18 september 2015

Voor als je even een wilt werken met een no-nonsens scherm ...|



Zim as scrapbook just try something

Pages & notebooks are „cheap“ – use as many as you need to try something – delete them when done.

For example use zim for brainstorming – before you know it a structure starts to emerge

Or just to write something – when a real document structure emerges you can always export the content and continue with other tools





Part 2: customize zim to your own work flow

- The possibilities of „free software“
- Working with files
- Sharing notebooks with others
- Custom scripts & Plugins



The Unix way, „Software Libre“ & „Data libre“

The Unix way

- Do *one* thing and do it well
- Re-use other tools
- Text files as common ground

Free software, free as in freedom

- Open source code that can be changed
- Open data that is not locked in

Software should work for you, not the other way around

To achieve this you need „seams“ in the software that allow modifications



„Seam“in zim

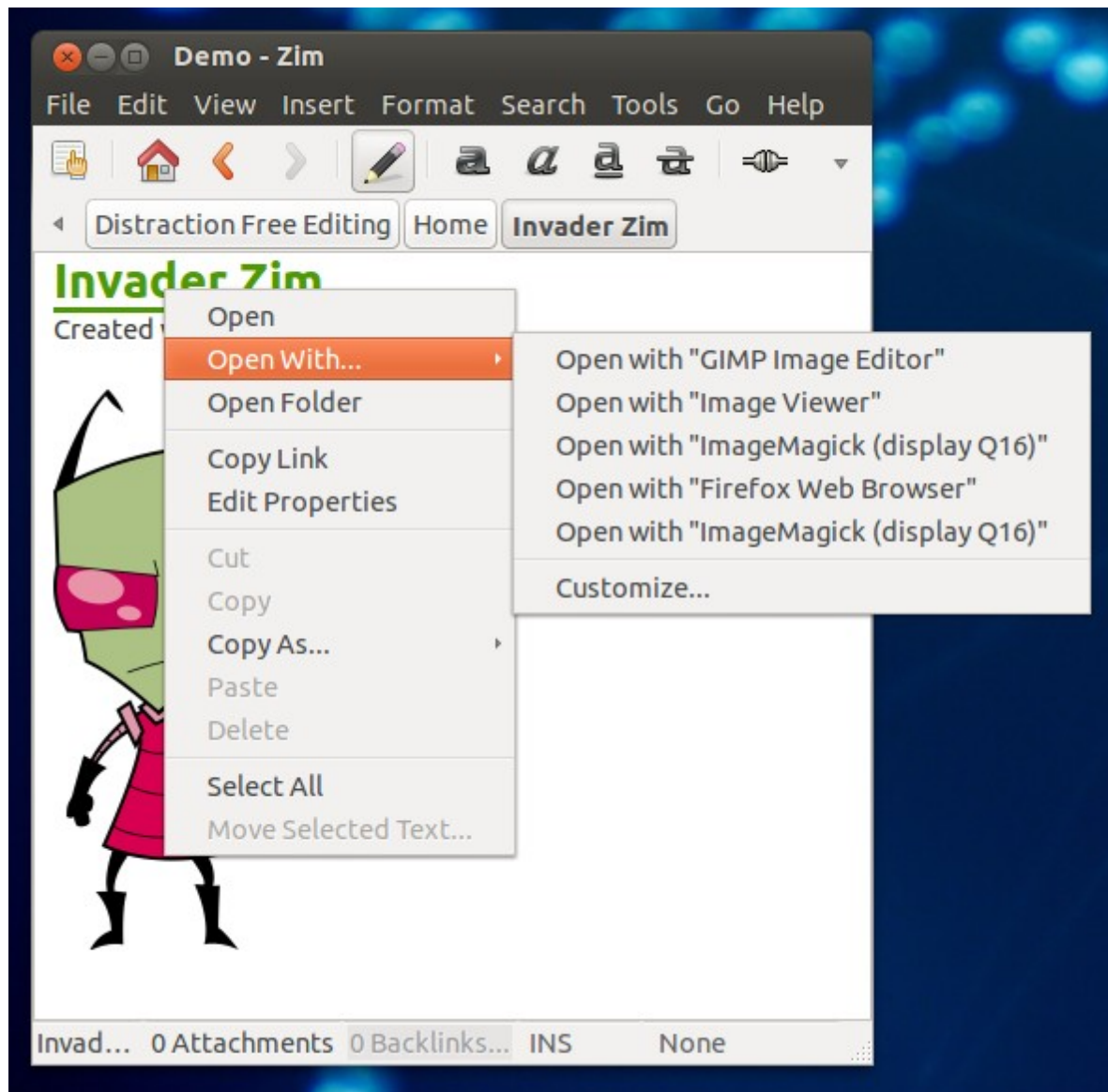
There are 3 ways to change zim

- Directly modify the text sources of the notebook – zim will notice the changes and happily continue
- Through „custom tools“ – scripts or other applications that are called from within zim
- Through plugins – python modules that change the internals of zim



Example of files as a „seam“

Use the rest of your applications





From one to multiple users

Possibilities to work together:

- Completely synchronized: ~~DropBox~~ Owncloud
- Controlled: Version control, Git and others
- Static: export as a website or latex document



Synchronizing notes

Because zim notes are just texts files, you can use any of the standard solutions:

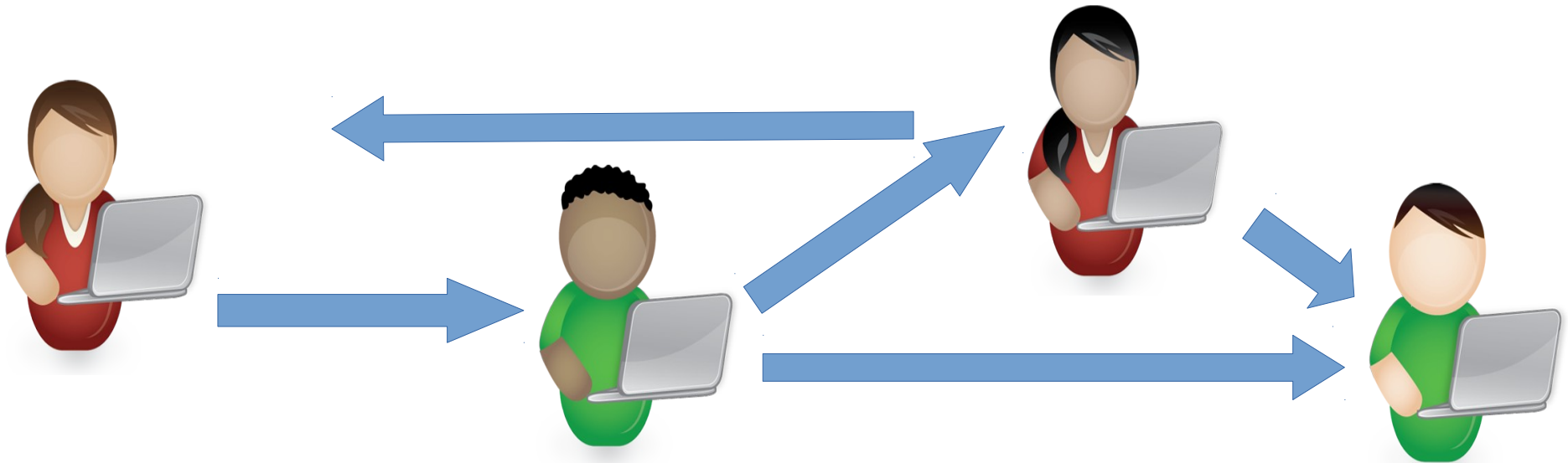
- DropBox – *not a „free“ solution, but convenient ...*
- OwnCloud
- *Your backup program of choice here*

Zim is build in the assumption that files can change in the background – however it will not handle the conflicts of multiple users editing the same page



Controlled sharing with version control

The latest generation of version control tools (like Git) are decentralized: copies can be distributed and merged back as you like without the need of a central main version



This is ideal for software source code, but also for notebooks

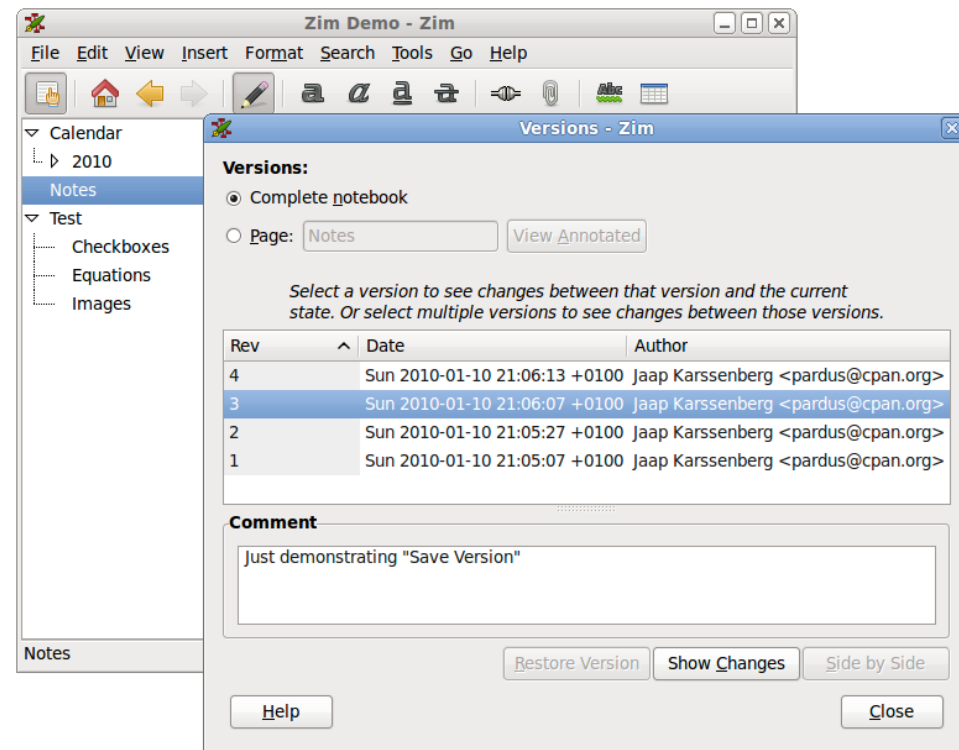
- Old versions of pages remain available in the archive
- Changed by different people are easily merged



Controlled sharing with version control

The version control plugin can work with:

- Git
- Bazaar
- Fossil
- Mercurial



Dialog with version information

Any other version control system will work as well ! The plugin is just for convenience



Sharing a notebook as a website

Demo

Also here there are different options:

- Static HTML exported from zim
- Live server from zim
- CGI-BIN wrapper in webserver

In all cases you can use templates for export

When you re-build a static website with some frequency „the Unix way“ would be to write a „make“ script that calls zim instead of using the dialog..



Custom tools

<https://github.com/jaap-karssenb/erg/zim-wiki/wiki/Text2mindmap-custom-tool>

„Custom tools“ are scripts or applications that act directly on the text files but are called from within zim. I kind of shortcut in the toolbar.

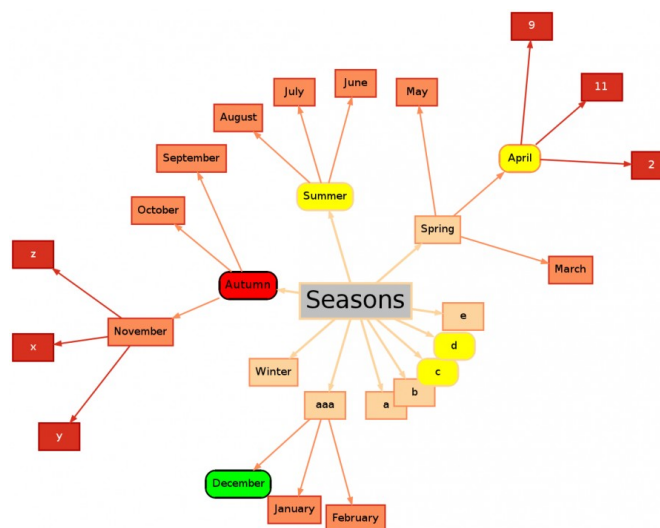
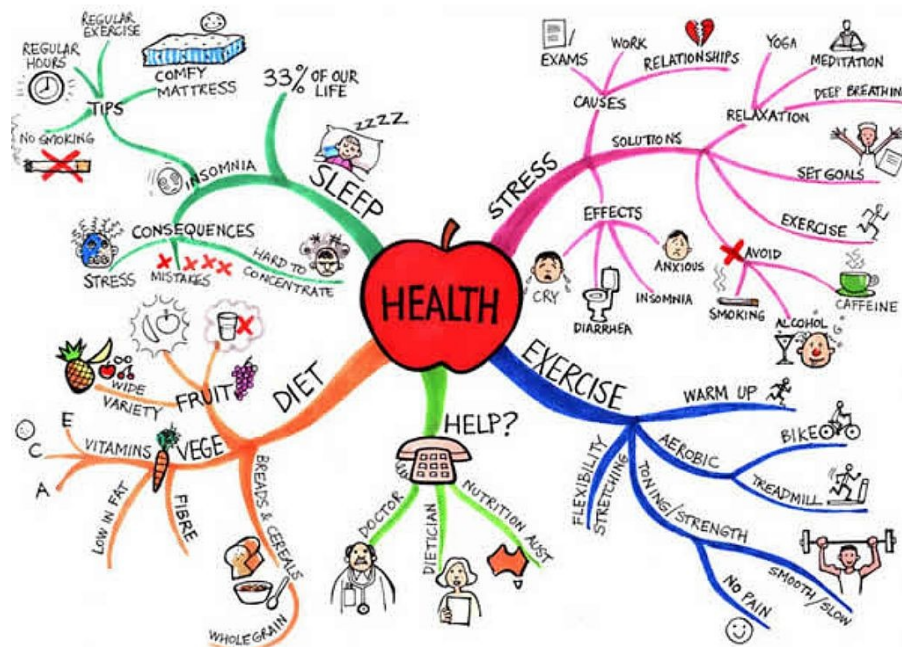
Examples of tools can be found in the [wiki](#)

- A “mindmap” creation tool
- Text „re-flow“ by removing line breaks – to be used for example after copy-pasting an email
- Download a linked website
- Move tasks from the current page to tomorrow's journal page
- Count words by notebook sections – useful when drafting documents like short stories



Intermezzo: What is a mindmap ?

- Common technique to map information
- Useful for brainstorming
- Useful to map your own knowledge of a topic
- Uses visual memory: colors, drawings, etc.
- Manual: use a whiteboard
- Software: to many choices, try freemind as an example





Plugins

Demo

Laat standaard plugins zien
Any cool ideas?

Plugins are one step further, especially useful to add functions that need to modify the user interface

- Plugins are always python modules
- In principle they can access and change any object in zim
- A few „entry points“ are defined like the window, dialogs, and the notebook object

A long list of plugins is already included in the package, ideas for new plugins can be found in the wiki



What if you don't like computer code ?

- 1) Write down and clarify your own work flow
 - What is the goal, what are you trying to do?
 - What are the logical steps to get there?
 - What overviews would you need?
 - Is it really personal, or more generally useful?
- 2) Discuss with others – how do they organize things?
- 3) Describe what you are missing step by step

Zim is a hobby for me – the more precise you describe what you want, the easier for me to write some quick code

- 4) Help out with translations and documentation



Questions ?

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Software should work for you, not the other way around

Often less software is a better solution than more software

Free software has „seams“ that allow you to watch behind the screen