

THE MAGPI SCRIBUS LAYOUT STANDARDS

This double-page article demonstrates good practice for page layouts for The MagPi Magazine

Platform & Software

We are currently using Scribus 1.4.1.svn under Debian 7 (Wheezy) for ARM on the Raspberry Pi computer. For photo editing we are using GIMP. Source Files are stored in the MagPi dropbox.

Content

Typical articles range from 400-600 words for single pages, and 700-900 words for double pages, depending on images included. The fonts are kept fairly large as it aids with reading on the screen.

Note: Scribus does not currently include spell checking, so it is highly recommended to copy and paste your text into a program with spell checking to catch anything you may have missed.

Where possible, British English spellings are preferred, and local references are fine (but obscure ones should be explained).

Page Size & Margins

Paper size is A4.

Units are set to millimeters.

Outside margins are all 10mm, inside margin (In the spine) is 20mm.

Text Styles

The style and format of each type of text should be selected from left side within the "Story Editor". Any changes made to the general formatting should be done by creating or editing the styles from the "Edit->Styles..." menu (F3). This allows the text to be changed globally by altering a style and avoids odd formatting within the text.

Paragraphs should be separated by new lines and not indented.

Article Title

The article title area is 180mm wide and 30mm deep. The font face for the title may vary - Authors choice prevails, but it must be a font that is included by default with the Operating System mentioned above. Adjust the font size to that the title is as large as possible whilst still allowing all the text of the title to fit. Adjust the line spacing accordingly. Try to avoid very long article titles.

There may also be a graphic, logo or icon to identify the article - Particularly if it is a series.

Article Intro Text

This is a maximum two-line statement describing briefly what the article is about.

FreeSans Bold Oblique 18Pt font with 22Pt line spacing.

The text area is 180mm x 20mm and positioned 45mm from the top edge of the A4 sheet.

Body Text

The text area is 70mm down from the top edge of the A4 page, 180mm wide and extending down to 15mm above the bottom edge of the A4 page.

There are 2 columns with a 10mm gap between.

The text wraps onto the right page once the left two columns are filled.

Line spacing is 14Pt.

Headings are FreeSans Bold 14Pt and underlined.

Normal text is FreeSans Regular 12Pt.

Programming code or instructions that must be typed in as part of a tutorial should be in Courier 10 Pitch Regular font 10Pt, and highlighted using a colour-filled rectangle on the background layer. Command line actions should have \$ preceding each new line, as shown here:

```
$ sudo apt-get install scribus
```

Credits & Multiple Pages

At the end of the article body text, the author should put: Article by <Authorname>, aligned to the right and in FreeSans Bold Oblique 14Pt font. If the article continues beyond a double page, put 'Continued overpage...' in the same style as just mentioned.

Page Numbers

A 10mm square text box on the bottom corner of the page. FreeSans Bold Oblique 16Pt font. Right-aligned on left page, left-aligned on right page. Generally should be black numbers unless difficult to see due to a background image.

Layers

Background - used for images and colour-filled shapes that sit under all text, images and other objects on the page.

Images - not to be used for backgrounds - only for images that do not have text overlaid.

Text - used for all text including Article Title, Article Info Text, Body Text and Headings.

PageNumbers - reserved for the page number text only.

Images

Background images can overlap any page margins or text areas but other images should align with the text columns. Large images should be reduced to at least 1024 pixels wide. This will help to keep the file size of the magazine down, as well as helping to avoid Scribus crashes or slowness.

There are standard images for 'The MagPi' header text and the image of the MagPi bird. All are .PNG files with alpha transparency. Try to use .PNG format for images when possible.

Text Justification

Use the 'Align Text Justified' option where possible in the body text and article intro text. Centered for Article titles and right aligned for 'Article by' and 'Continued over page...'

Export > Save to PDF

Make sure to embed all fonts.
Compression: Lossy JPG / Medium
EPS Graphics: 600 DPI
Resample Images: 600 DPI

Create separate PDF files of each page - Never group several pages into 1 PDF file. The pages are joined together at the end and uploaded to our mirror sites and to issuu.com.

Printing PDF

Once the Issue is completed, a print ready version of the article will be produced. The details for this are within the team dropbox/wiki pages.

Colours

Try to use standard web-safe RGB colours.

See www.visone.com/color/hexagon_800.gif for details.

These should be created using "Edit->Colors..." menu to define them for the article (names such as "outlines" or "insert-background" may be used to allow easy selection of colours for article elements).

Article by Jaseman

Updated 22nd Nov 2012 by meltwater.