

INKSCAPE – FREE VECTOR GRAPHICS EDITOR

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Inkscape is a cross-platform, powerful enough and in many ways competitive free vector graphics editor with open source code, and in which the SVG format is used as the main standard for work. It is convenient for creating both artistic and technical illustrations. Inkscape is an analogue of such graphic editors as Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator, Xara X and Freehand.

Intended use:

- illustrations for office circulars, presentations, creation of logos, business cards, posters;
- technical illustrations (diagrams, graphics, etc.);
- vector graphics for high-quality printing (with preliminary import of SVG into Scribus);
- web graphics – from banners to site layouts, icons for applications and website buttons,
- graphics for games.

Main characteristics of Inkscape:

- the program is free and distributed under the GNU General Public License;
- cross-platform;
- the program supports the following document formats: import – almost all popular and frequently used formats: SVG, JPEG, GIF, BMP, EPS, PDF, PNG, ICO, and many additional ones, such as SVGZ, EMF, PostScript, AI, Dia, Sketch, TIFF, XPM, WMF, WPG, GGR, ANI, CUR, PCX, PNM, RAS, TGA, WBMP, XBM, XPM; export – the main formats are PNG and SVG and many additional EPS, PostScript, PDF, Dia, AI, Sketch, POV-Ray, LaTeX, OpenDocument Draw, GPL, EMF, POV, DXF;
- there is support for layers;
- as in many programs, Inkscape supports keyboard shortcuts, which speeds up at times the development of layout or design;
- there are many built-in extensions, many of which allow you to automate a process, or simply allow you to draw a large amount of information;
- extended status bar, which contains a lot of useful information, namely – information about selected objects, hints for keyboard shortcuts;
- Inkscape has an XML editor with an object tree associated with the workspace;
- there is a function that allows you to vectorize a bitmap image;
- it is possible to write your own extensions and scripts in Perl, Python and Ruby;
- the program is available in several languages, including both Russian and Ukrainian.

Disadvantages:

- increased requirements for system resources and, consequently, sluggishness;
- «dampness» of several import filters;
- impossibility of export to SWF.

Speaking in general about the program, we can say that the program isn't only easy to use, but also convenient and multifunctional, and its capabilities will help to solve many tasks. There is also the ability to work with layers and gradients, and many other tools that are repeated in most graphic editors. Even a person with no artistic skills will be able to draw in Inkscape. In general, to understand what Inkscape is, you just need to install, run and try to do something.

References

[1] Inkscape. Overview [Electronic resource]. – Resource access mode: <https://inkscape.org/about/overview/>

[2] Wikipedia. Inkscape [Electronic resource]. – Resource access mode: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inkscape>