



December 2011

If you are reading this on your computer display, remember that **Acrobat Reader** has a *zoom* feature (under “**View**” in your top tool bar) for enlarging or reducing text and graphics.

**Next Computer Club (BVCC)
Meeting, December 12, 2011,
7:30 PM**

**Ebook Readers—Review of Products and
Library Borrowing; Guest Speaker: Nick Slone,
Garnet A. Wilson Public Library**

**Notes from Kent
Coming in December**

For our December 12, 2011, meeting, we'll reprise our December 2010 meeting—which introduced ebook readers, except we should have a much larger variety of ereaders to demonstrate (including, again, the Apple iPad and at least one tablet running Android, the Google operating system for phones, tablets, etc.--as well as Kindles and Nooks). Nick Slone will also offer tutorials on borrowing ebooks using the various devices. For Nick's recent birthday, he received the new Kindle Fire from his wife. so he should be able to advise on the value of an ebook reader as a gift this holiday season.

Electronic Medical Records

As the end of the year approaches, it affords an excellent opportunity to clear up miscellaneous detritus from months and years gone by. Two immediate examples come to mind. The first is from articles that I wrote in the October and December 2010 issues of the newsletter, dealing with electronic medical records. At that time, two major software companies were offering free competing programs: Google and Microsoft. Google has since an-

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nounced that it is stopping support of its medical information system as of January 1, 2012. The following is extracted from a Google e-mail on November 22, 2011.

This is an important Google Health service announcement. You are receiving this email because you have an active Google Health account. As we announced earlier this year, the Google Health service will be discontinued as of January 1, 2012. After that date, you will no longer be able to access Google Health, and 3rd-party services that you have linked to your Google Health profile(s) will no longer be able to send data to or receive data from those profile(s). If you want to keep using the data you have stored in Google Health, we strongly recommend that you take action before the end of the year. . . . If you have not retrieved your Google Health data before January 1, 2012, it will remain available for download from <https://health.google.com> for an additional year, through January 1, 2013. . . . For more details on the discontinuation of Google Health, see our blog post at <http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/update-on-google-health-and-google.html>, and see answers to frequently-asked questions at <http://www.google.com/intl/en/health/faq.html>.

Interestingly, Microsoft is going in the opposite direction. The following is from a November 29, 2011, announcement.

Over the past year, we've been able to connect HealthVault to many more diabetes management sites. We hope these additions allow you to find the best tools to help you or a loved one manage diabetes. As you probably already know, diabetes is a disease characterized by abnormally high glucose (sugar) levels in the blood, so it's essential to keep tabs on your blood sugar with a blood glucose meter. HealthVault and

HealthVault-enabled sites connect with blood glucose meters from a variety of manufacturers to let you easily import and work with your data. You may even already have one that connects with HealthVault.

[See all the HealthVault-enabled diabetes management sites and devices](#)

QR Codes Revisited

The second example concerns the QR codes (QR=Quick Response), about which we offered a program in April 2011 and also discussed these codes in the April 2011 Newsletter. This Fall we are seeing warnings about malware associated with QR codes. This is worth noting (while not wanting to induce paranoia, alertness to threats in the technology realm require care and attention). It should be emphasized that the QR codes themselves cannot carry viruses or Trojan horses, but they can take your smart phone to a site than can infect it. This threat is more serious for “Android” [from Google] users than for Apple iPhones. The difference is that Apple screens apps for its products and won't approve one posing a threat while Android operates in an open market, with all the threats that may entail, hence the long standing caution, *caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware). Google has acted to prevent some infections but, like computers, it can only be reactive since it can't control what others introduce to the market.



QR Code Sample

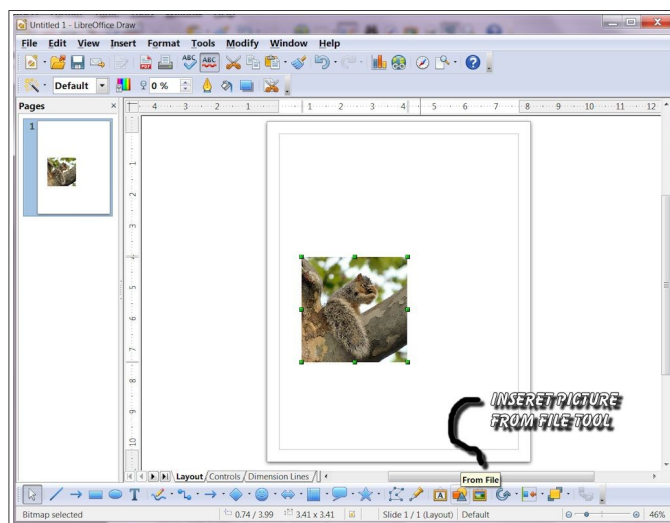
One advantage for Bristol Village users is that they are unlikely to be exploiting the bleeding edge of smart phones or QR codes. While the latter will continue to proliferate, a company such as Google will have considerable motivation (with its Android operating system) to make the experience safer for users. As one example, Amazon's new **Fire** uses a modified Android system with its **Silk** browser but limits it to a secure and circumscribed environment. For now, letting the fools rush in is advised for the rest of us.

Add a Text Balloon to a Picture

by Len

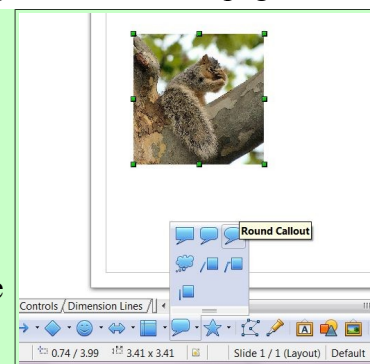
The **Drawing** program included with the free **LibreOffice** software provides an easy way to add a text balloon (referred to as a **callout**) to a picture.

- ✓ When **LibreOffice Draw** is open, select the **From File** tool from the **Drawing Menu**. (If you do not see the *Drawing Toolbar* near the bottom of the display, select **View, Toolbars, Drawing**.)
- ✓ Use the **Insert Picture** dialog box to select your picture.



Once your picture is in place and selected, you can use the grab points on the corners to change the size. You can also drag it around on the page.

- ✓ Select the small arrow on the right side of the **Callouts** drawing tool.
- ✓ Select the desired **Callout** style.
- ✓ Add a **Callout** to the page by clicking and holding the left mouse button at one corner location of the callout and

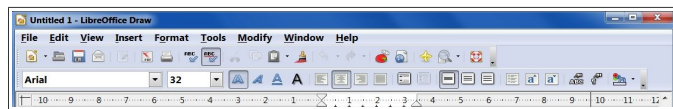


dragging the mouse cursor to the opposite corner and then release the mouse button.

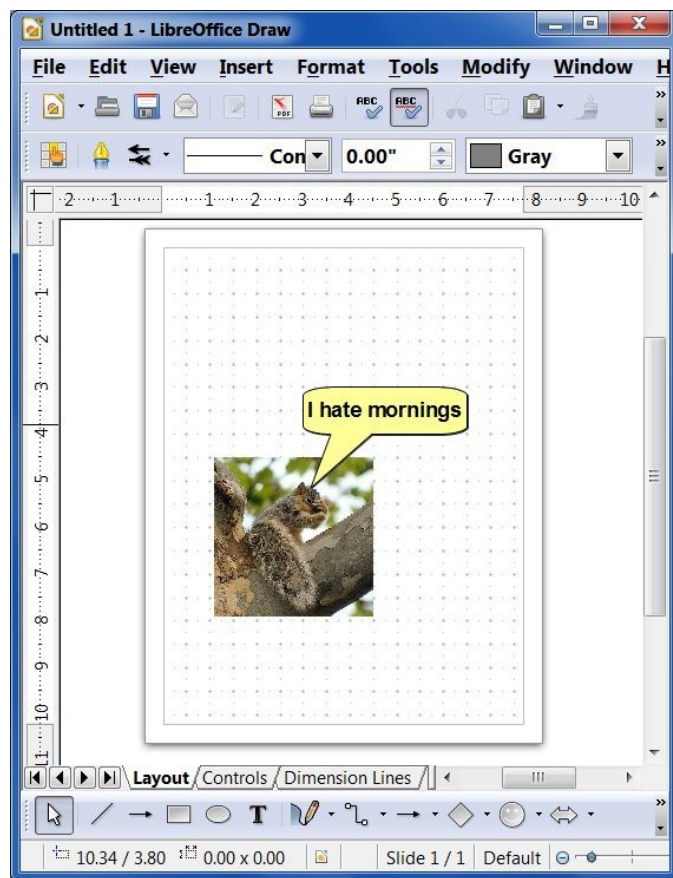
When the callout is in place, the grab points can be used to move or re-size it.

✓ To add text to the callout, double click in it and type.

When text is selected, the **Format Toolbar** will appear. This is similar to text formatting in most word processing programs.



✓ Save and print your LibreOffice Draw files the same way you would any word processing document.



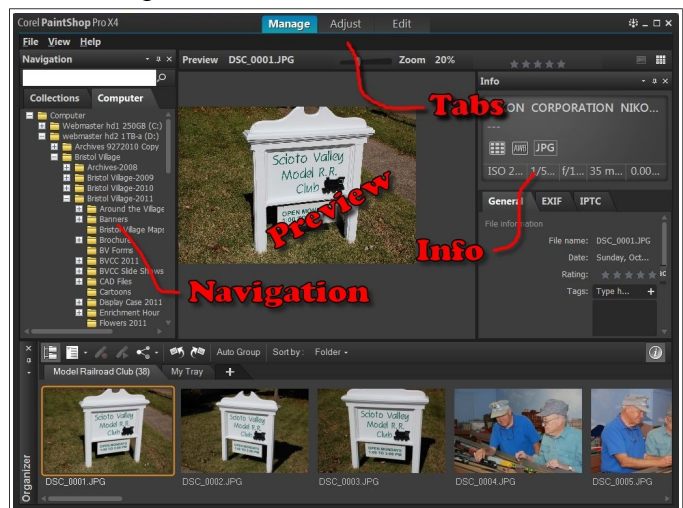
Paint Shop Pro X4

by Len

I have been a Paint Shop Pro (PSP) user since version 4 by JASC. When I was writing and illustrating books on how to use Computer Aided Design software, PSP became an important tool in my collection. I used PSP to capture screens from the CAD software and add notes for inserting into books. I also used PSP for editing digital camera pictures and other general computer painting tasks.

I kept following updates until version 10, when the Corel company took over the program and, in my opinion, spoiled many of the features I enjoyed. I stayed with version 9 until recently when my new 'Louie the Laptop 2' arrived with PSP X3 installed. PSP X3 fixed most of my complaints and when I saw version X4 (X4=version 14) come out, I decided to give it a try. Corel markets PSP as a Photo Enhancement program, and has added many image improvement features for use with digital photos. However, all of the original paint functions are still available.

Here is a quick look at PSP X4.

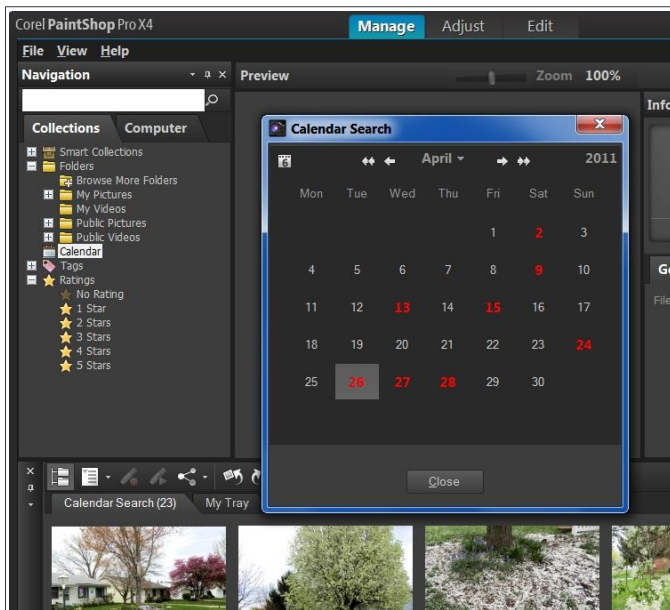


PSP X4 is organized in to 3 different areas, Manage, Adjust, and Edit. These are accessed through tabs near the top of the display.

The Manage area provides for finding, reviewing, and managing your images. Images are located by using the Windows Explorer-like navigation section

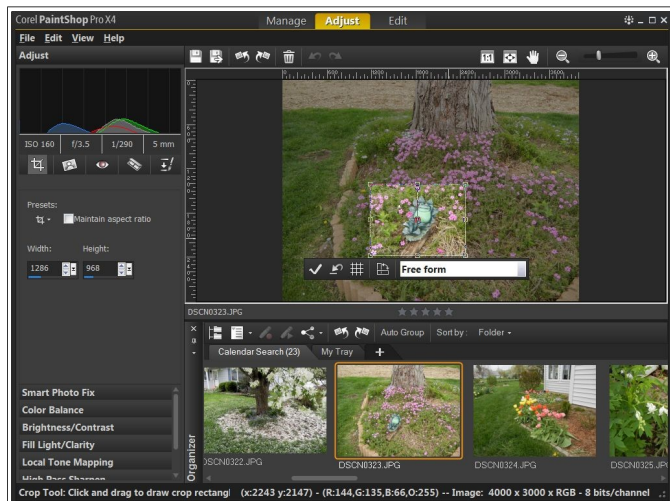
of the display. Once a folder is selected, thumbnail images from that folder are displayed in an organizer bar across the bottom of the display. There is a search box near the upper left corner of the display and, if you know the name of an image, this will help locate it.

OK, suppose you don't remember the name of your picture but you know about when you took it. There is a calendar option in PSP X4 that will display the picture files from a selected date.



When you click on a date in the calendar, the pictures with that date appear in the organizer panel of PSP X4. Note in the illustration that only dates shown in red have pictures associated with them. This can be a big help in finding pictures.

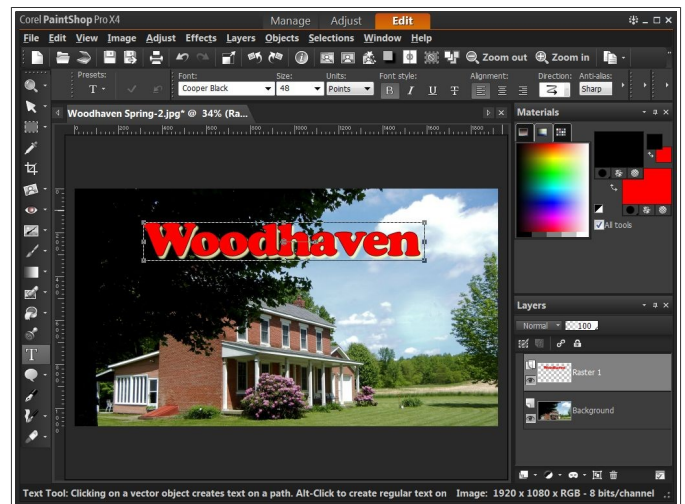
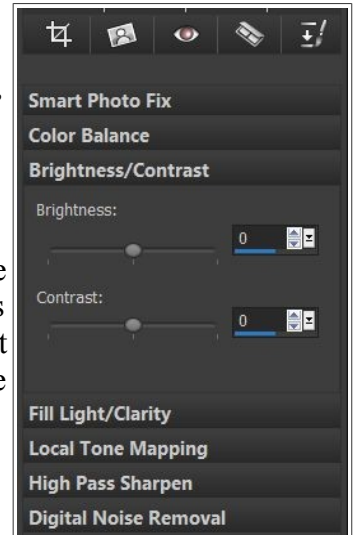
Once you have located a picture, you may want to modify it. This is where the Adjust option is used.



Suppose you want to crop a section out of a picture. The example shows the Crop tool selected from the Adjust tab option. Although it is a little small in this example, the cropping area is centered over a frog in the middle of the flower bed. When the ✓ tool is selected from the cropping area, a new cropped picture will be created.

There are a lot of other adjustments that can be made. Selecting Color Balance, Smart Photo Fix, Brightness/Contrast, Fill Light, Tone Mapping, Sharpen, or Digital Noise Removal opens a set of adjustment controls. These tools provide ways to improve pictures or even save pictures that might have not otherwise been usable.

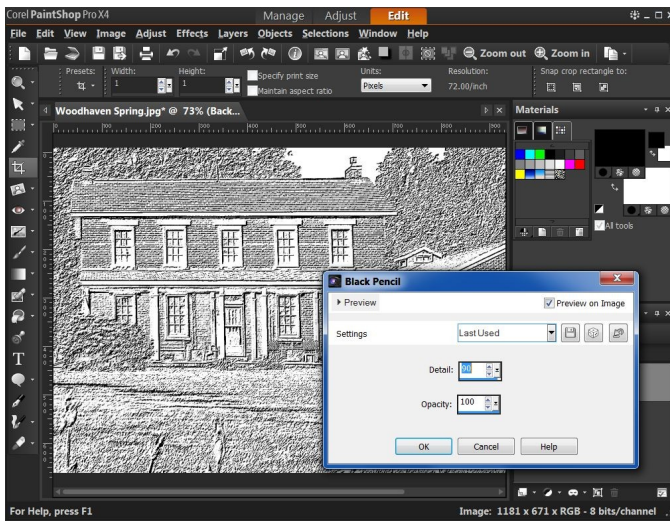
The third PSP X4 option is the Edit tab. The Edit tools allow you to add text or draw on top of pictures.



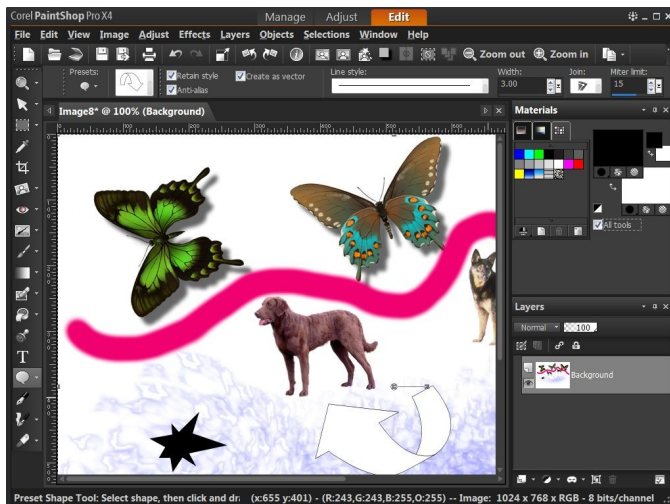
Another option is to apply effects to pictures. With a little effort you can make a photo look like a painting or etching.

Learn More!

Our January Club Meeting will feature a live introduction to these and other features of PSP X4.



The Edit area of PSP X4 also provides a full complement of drawing and painting tools. You can open a new blank image and draw with various paint brushes, insert clip art images, or mess with a seemingly endless variety of image effects.



Paint Shop Pro X4 includes many of the features of the several hundred dollar version of Photo Shop, but is priced below \$100 with some places offering it for as low as \$40.

Paint Shop Pro X4 is a very useful tool for organizing and enhancing your photos and also provides all of the basic tools required for digital painting.

