

An introduction to the project and Quickshot

The Ubuntu Manual Project

- What the project is about
- Who it's for
- What we want to achieve
- How we will achieve that
- Who the key people are
- Quickshot
- How you can help UMP!

What the project is about

- "Getting Started with Ubuntu 10.04" should be a complete beginners manual for Ubuntu, featuring comprehensive guides, How Tos and information on anything you need to know after first installing Ubuntu.
- Designed to be as user-friendly and easy to follow as possible, it should provide the first point of reference to any Ubuntu newcomer with lots of information in one easy to access PDF file. Plus, every six months there will be a new revision released to coincide with each new release of Ubuntu.

Who it's for

- Pragmatic novice computer users.
- Readers must be able to get to our document, so the most basic computer skills can and have to be expected (being handed a printout made by someone else is unlikely to become a common case).
- Prior exposure to Windows is likely. To Mac OS much less so.
- Might start without knowing much or anything about Linux and Ubuntu.
- Likely to not have a good conceptual model of the computer and software, e.g. not differentiating between a browser and the Internet or being aware of specific pieces of hardware.
- Just get things done, using the computer is no end in itself.
- Assume a peak of potential users in the range of 30 to 60 years of age.
- Poll on age at <http://ubuntuforums.org/showthread.php?p=8113928>. Overlap between forum users and potential readers is unclear.

What we want to achieve

- To create and deploy a document that is suitable as first point of reference regarding the use of Ubuntu by beginner-level users.
- In addition to the system software, it shall also discuss a few selected applications that are part of the default installation, as there is assumed to be a common interest among beginner-level users. It will also give detail on installation, hardware, security, a background on FOSS and Ubuntu and give an introduction to using the command line.
- The document shall be ready for the upcoming Ubuntu 10.04 release and be updated for every following release (6 month cycle).

How we will achieve that

Combination of:

- LaTeX (TexLive 2009) - our own document format, styles, fonts
- Launchpad - blueprints, questions, bugs, milestones
- Bazaar - version control
- Rosetta - Launchpad translations
- po4a - easily translate .tex files from LaTeX
- IRC, Wiki, mailing list, weekly meetings - team communication
- Developing our own tools - Quickshot
- Good leadership, motivation and hard work
- Social media sites, blog posts and events to generate hype and publicity

Who the key people are

- Benjamin Humphrey (humphreybc) - project leader. Experience in project management, organization, programming and Ubuntu. humphreybc@gmail.com
- Josh Holland (dutchie) - project maintenance. Experience with code languages, works on maintaining translations. jrh@joshh.co.uk
- Kevin Godby (godbyk) - LaTeX coder. Writes the code for our style, spacing etc, creates commands for the authors to use. Experienced with publishing documents. godbyk@gmail.com
- Ilya Hayksinson (IlyaHaykinson) - Author, editor, feedback and general tasks to help the project. Experience with Ubuntu and Linux. haykinson@gmail.com
- Jamin Day (JaminDay) - Head of Editing. jaminday@gmail.com
- Thorsten Wilms (thorwil) - Artwork. Experience with inkscape to create icons, artwork and design experience. t_w_@freenet.de



Quickshot

- Quickshot is a program designed for capturing a large number of screenshots in different languages. It's principally designed for use with the Ubuntu Manual Project, but should be able to be tweaked for different projects and uses.
- For the Ubuntu Manual Project, we have around 30 screenshots in our publication. That publication is translated into over 40 different languages, and we need the screenshots to also be translated. $30 \times 40 = 1200$ screenshots that would otherwise manually have to be captured, cropped, resized and set to the correct dpi - then uploaded into some sort of consistent and organized structure.
- Also, due to the tight timeframe that our project has, we need to get these screenshots in around two months - which means there will be a lot of people getting screenshots. The more people working on it, the less efficient it is. It becomes harder to teach them all the correct way of doing things, and the likelihood of errors increases.
- Quickshot is designed to simplify and automate a lot of this process.
- Written in Python using Quickly development framework and Glade for UI design.

Quickshot UI



How you can help UMP!

We need:

- Authors
 - Editors
 - Programmers (specifically Python or Tex) and UI designers for Quickshot
 - Designers (icons or title page)
 - Maintainers for social media sites
 - Event organizers and ideas people
 - Testers, readers, feedback!
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- To help - visit <http://wiki.ubuntu.com/ubuntu-manual#Contributions>
 - Join #ubuntu-manual on irc.freenode.net and ask what you can do
 - Or email the mailing list: ubuntu-manual@lists.launchpad.net