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GIMP vs Photoshop

GIMP can be described as a prototype to Adobe Photoshop, but it's totally free. Although they are very different in the interface and the basic concept, we can compare them, because GIMP and Photoshop are famous bitmap editors.

GIMP has an analogue or replacement for almost every instrument which Photoshop has such as drawing tools, tools for working with color, layers and masks. Although some of the tools in GIMP may be slightly different or have individual characteristics, they are two different programs and every program developers bring in something new.

There are disadvantages of GIMP, that is, it has underdeveloped functions, that necessary for the preparation of printed materials: there are no funds for export and incorporation into the layout program of vector elements insufficiently elaborated tools for management color models, large files are processed much slower than in Photoshop.

Also GIMP has very lean tool for working with text. Text box should not be stretched, it is impossible to tilt the text and save the textual information. User loses the text if he produces any transformation of the text.

So GIMP inferior Adobe Photoshop in professional and commercial applications. If we choose GIMP for home use we get totally free highly qualitative product with a great set of features and tools.

There is plug-ins for Photoshop, designed by the famous photo brands such as Kodak, Phase One, and others. Large well-known companies are not involved in the creation of extensions for GIMP, because it is free. But GIMP is unmatched in the area of plug-ins. It provides a framework for the development of modules: programmer can use console macros, two scripting language - Scheme and Perl - in the standard package, a single interface for writing scripts and C programs. Large number of ready source is available, but the main advantage of GIMP is a special mechanism for embedding plug. As soon as you register your module in the program, it immediately becomes available as a function of all the other modules. All funds actively use, so there is the accumulated set of ready modules, and a huge number of them included in the standard GIMP. Some of them may have no analogues among commercial modules for other programs. Also there is plug-in PSPI that allows you to connect the plug-ins from Photoshop to GIMP, which greatly expands the possibilities of the latter.

Furthermore, GIMP supports native format of Photoshop - PSD, so we can edit existing PSD-files without Photoshop.

Interfaces of two programs are difficult to compare, because such comparison is mostly subjective. But in general, both interfaces are very simple and convenient.

To sum it up, we can say that GIMP is very good freeware alternative to Adobe Photoshop for people who do not require professionally editing raster images.