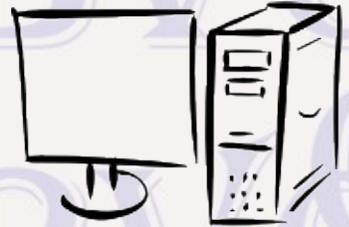# Bits & Bytes

Arkansas' Premier Computer Club

November 2022

Bella Vista Computer Club - John Ruehle Center
Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd Suite 208 (lower level), Bella Vista, AR 72715

Website: http://BVComputerClub.org   Email: editor@bvcomputerclub.org

MEETINGS

Board Meeting: November 14, 6pm, in John Ruehle Training Center, Highlands Crossing Center.

General Meeting: November 14, 7pm, "Internet Buying for the Holidays", with Ginny Vance. Ginny will be returning with more information in time for holiday shopping.

We will meet in-person in Room 1001 on the lower level of The Highlands Crossing Center, 1801 Forest Hills Blvd, Bella Vista, or you may attend the meeting on-line via Zoom. Zoom access information is published on our website.

Visitors or Guests are welcome.

Because of the continuing presence of COVID-19, we recommend observing any current guidelines that may be in effect at the time of the meeting. Consider attending by Zoom if you or others in your family are in a high risk category.

HELP CLINICS

November 5, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center
November 16, 9am - noon at John Ruehle center
Members may request Remote Help on our website at https://bvcomputerclub.org at menu path Member Benefits ►Remote Help .

MEMBERSHIP

Single membership is $25; $10 for each additional family member in the same household.

Join on our website at https://bvcomputerclub.org at menu path Get Involved ►Join/Renew, by mailing an application (from the web site) with check, or complete an application and pay in person at any meeting.

CLASSES

(At BVCC Training Center)

Wednesday, November 9, 9am-11am, "Why, When and How to Backup Your C Drive", with Pete Opland.

Tuesday, Nov 15, 2pm - 4pm, "Basic Computer Security, Part 2", with Justin Sell.

Wednesday, November 30, 9am-11am, "Slow PC? Let's Upgrade or Buy New,", with Pete Opland.

Advance sign up required for each listed class: For reservations: email to edu@bvcomputerclub.org, or sign up at the General Meeting. Classes are **free to Computer Club members.**

Check the monthly calendar and announcements for any last minute schedule changes at https://bvcomputerclub.org .

NEW OR RETURNING BVCC MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members or members returning to BVCC after an absence since last month's newsletter:

Robin Ellis   Virginia Vance   Dieter Schoreit

Leota Rowlison   Jan DeCosta   Gloria Chambers

AMAZON SMILE, A PAINLESS WAY TO DONATE TO BVCC

By Joel Ewing

With the coming holiday season, odds are many will be making online purchases and probably some of those will be at Amazon. If you have an account at Amazon, the Amazon Smile program allows you to designate one specific charity to receive a donation from Amazon of 0.5% of the price of each purchase you make at Amazon. The only requirement is that you set BVCC as your designated charity, and then use "smile.amazon.com" as your URL at some point before you authorize the purchase.

The easiest way to set, BVCC as your designated Amazon charity, is to go to the Donate page at https:bvcomputerclub.org (menu path "Get Involved ►Donations" or the "Donate" button on the home page), and then click on the large "Support The Bella Vista Computer Club Inc ... amazonsmile" button on the right side of the Donate page. That will take you to the Amazon site and set your default charity (it may ask you to logon to your Amazon account).   If you have already done this for some other charity, you will first be asked to verify that you want to change your charity designation.

You can alternatively go to https://smile.amazon.com/change" or tap "AmazonSmile" within the Settings menu in your Amazon Shopping app on your smart phone and select "change your charity", searching for the charity name "The Bella Vista Computer Club" (The "The" is part of our official IRS name).

If you make purchases using the Amazon Shopping app on your smart phone, you can set that app to default to use smile.amazon.com for all purchases.

If you make your purchases at the Amazon web site via a browser after searching for the item with one of the usual search engines, the links from the search will take you to www.amazon.com.   In order for your purchase to result in an Amazon smile donation, you must over type the "www" in the URL with "smile" at some point before you actually authorize the purchase.

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

By Dick Maybach, Brookdale Computer User Group
www.bcug.com
n2nd (at) att.net

Modern word processors have extensive formatting capabilities, but if you produce posters, newsletters, or brochures, you may need a competent desktop publishing program such as Scribus, https://www.scribus.net/. You begin with the text, created by a word processor, and graphics, created by a graphics program, and use the desktop publisher to organize them into a poster, leaflet, or newsletter. Scribus is open source and free; you can easily experiment with it to see if it fits your needs. Regardless of your desktop publishing software, you will still need a good word processor for its spelling, grammar, style checking, and graphics programs to generate artwork and edit images. A desktop publisher is strictly for layout; it provides little help in developing content.
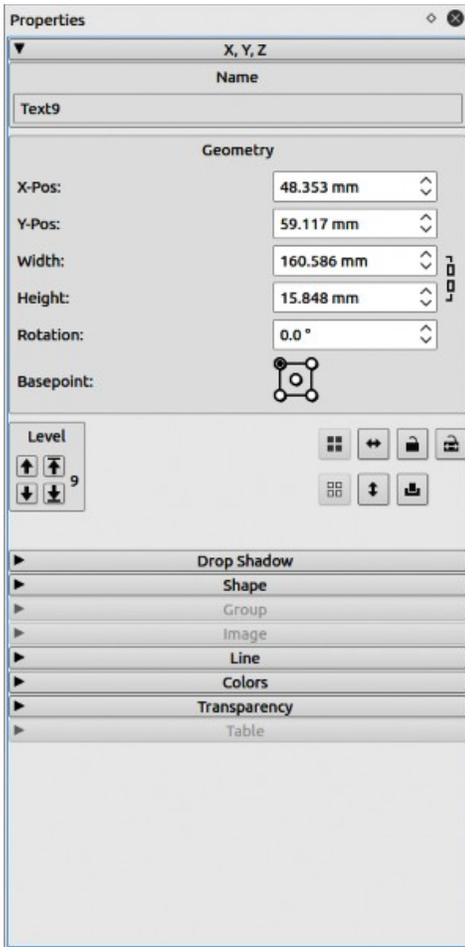
Figure 1. Scribus Poster.

Desktop publishing is a complex process, and learning to do it well requires considerable effort. So here, I'll only introduce Scribus to help you decide if you need such a tool. The first example is a poster, shown in Figure 1; the detailed directions are in the Scribus Quick Start Guide section of its help document or at https://wiki.scribus.net/canvas/Help:Manual_Quickstart.

Figure 2. Scribus Window for the Poster.

Figure 2 shows the Scribus window for the same poster. Note the black rectangles, called "frames," that enclose its elements. Selecting one will highlight it and allow you to make changes, for example editing its content, adjusting its size, or moving it. Each frame also has a level. Here the lowest level frame is the gray background, and the next higher is the portrait. As a result, the portrait hides the portion of the background that it covers.

Learning to use Scribus can be challenging since you must unlearn some word-processor habits you've used for years. If you look carefully at the menu bars, you'll see that they resemble those of an image processor, such as GIMP, more closely than those of a word processor, such as LibreOffice. This isn't surprising, given the tasks performed by a desktop publisher. It takes text and images created by other tools, modifies their properties (sizes, fonts, colors), and places them on a canvas.

Figure 3. Properties of the "Painting the Dutch Golden Century" Frame.

Many tools are accessed from auxiliary windows such as the one shown in Figure 3, which shows the frame's properties that contain "Painting the Dutch Golden Century." Frames can be sized and placed by dragging, but it's more accurate, if slower, to enter the numbers in the property window, where you can also define other attributes.

Scribus has a simple text editor called a story editor, Figure 4, with similar but simpler tools as in your word processor. However, it's not quite WYSIWYG, as text effects don't appear in the editor window but only on the main display. You will import most text from a word processor document and use the story editor only for very short items, such as titles.

Figure 4. Scribus Text Editor.

This poster could also have been created with a photo editor, such as GIMP. You would probably crop and touch up the image as a first step, and adding some text using the same tool wouldn't be difficult. Someone familiar with both tools would probably find it easier to use a desktop publishing program for the latter, but you could obtain comparable results using only GIMP.

Our following example is a brochure, described at http://archive.flossmanuals.net/_booki/scribus-2/scribus-2.pdf. Again, this is a single sheet, printed on the front and back, and folded into thirds, so that you see a cover with a title and a graphic, which you open to see three columns of text, with a fourth on the back, Figure 5.

All that has been written to me about that marvelous man seen at Frankfurt [sic] is true. I have not seen complete Bibles but only a number of quires of various books of the Bible. The script was very neat and legible, not at all difficult to follow—your grace would be able to read it without effort, and indeed without glasses.

Future pope Pius II in a letter to Cardinal Carvajal, March 1455

Johannes Gutenberg

Gutenberg was born in the German city of Mainz, Rhine-Main area, the youngest son of the patrician merchant Friele Gensfleisch zur Laden, and his second wife, Else Wyrich, who was the daughter of a shopkeeper. It is assumed that he was baptized in the area close to his birthplace of St. Christoph.[16] According to some accounts, Friele was a goldsmith for the bishop at Mainz, but most likely, he was involved in the cloth trade.[17] Gutenberg's year of birth is not precisely known, but it was sometime between the years of 1394 and 1404. In the 1890s the city of Mainz declared his official and symbolic date of birth to be June 24, 1400.[18]

John Lienhard, technology historian, says "Most of Gutenberg's early life is a mystery. His father worked with the ecclesiastic mint. Gutenberg grew up knowing the trade of goldsmithing."[19] This is supported by historian Heinrich Wallau, who adds, "In the 14th and 15th centuries his [ancestors] claimed a hereditary position as ... retainers of the household of the master of the archiepiscopal mint. In this capacity, they doubtless acquired considerable knowledge and technical skill in metal working. They supplied the mint with the metal to be coined, changed the various species of coins, and had a

seat at the assizes in forgery cases."[20]

Wallau adds, "His surname was derived from the house inhabited by his father and his paternal ancestors 'zu Laden, zu Gutenberg'. The house of Gänsfleisch was one of the patrician families of the town, tracing its lineage back to the thirteenth century."[20] Patricians (the wealthy and political elite) in Mainz were often named after houses they owned. Around 1427, the name zu Gutenberg, after the family house in Mainz, is documented to have been used for the first time.[17]

In 1411, there was an uprising in Mainz against the patricians, and more than a hundred families were forced to leave. As a result, the Gutenbergs are thought to have moved to Eltville am Rhein (Alta Villa), where his mother had an inherited estate. According to historian Heinrich Wallau, "All that is known of his youth is that he was not in Mainz in 1430. It is presumed that he migrated for political reasons to Strasbourg, where the family probably had connections."[20] He is assumed to have studied at the University of Erfurt, where there is a record of the enrolment of a student called Johannes de Altavilla in 1418—Altavilla is the Latin form of Eltville am Rhein.[21][22]

Nothing is now known of Gutenberg's life for the next fifteen years, but in March 1434, a letter by him indicates that he was living in Strasbourg, where he had some relatives on his mother's side. He also appears to have been a goldsmith member enrolled in the Strasbourg militia. In 1437, there is evidence that he was instructing a wealthy tradesman on polishing gems, but where he had acquired this knowledge is unknown. In 1436/37 his name also comes up in court in connection with a broken promise of marriage to a woman from Strasbourg, Ennelin.[23] Whether the marriage actually took place is not recorded. Following his father's death in 1419, he is mentioned in the inheritance proceedings.

Figure 5. Brochure.

Figure 6 shows Scribus with the brochure open. Note the arrows linking the text frames, which means that the overflow continues in the next frame when a window fills.
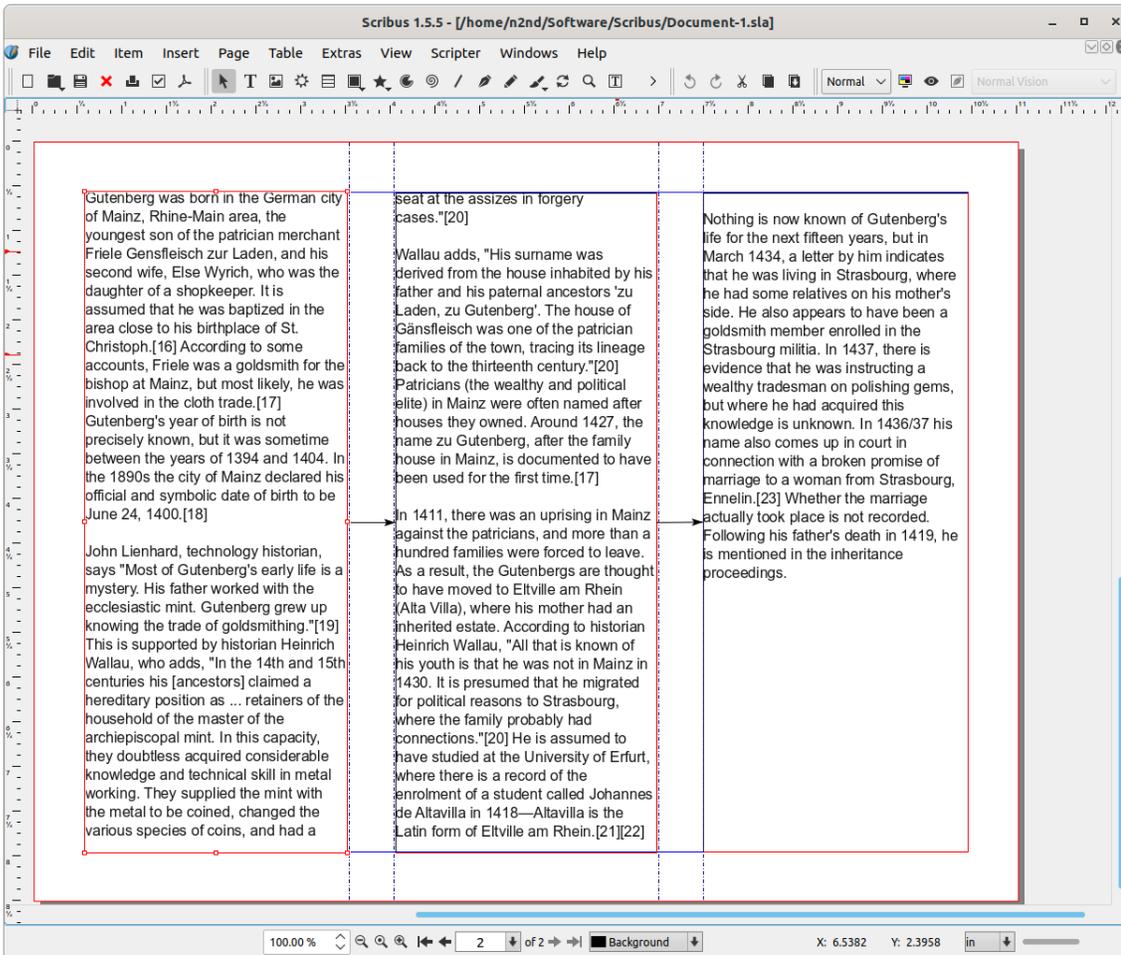
Figure 6. Scribus Editing a Brochure.

You could create this using a capable word processor, such as LibreOffice, although formatting the pages would be a bit tricky. Someone comfortable with both programs would probably choose to format the brochure using desktop publishing.

The above two examples could have been developed using an image and a word processor. However, let's now look at one that requires desktop publishing, described at https://wiki.scribus.net/canvas/Get_Started_with_Scribus. This is a six-page brochure with a complex mix of images, text, and graphics, Figure 7.

Figure 7. Six-page Brochure.

Figure 8 shows the Scribus view of page 4, which has several text boxes. Note the arrow coming into the two-column box on the right, showing its text continued from a previous page. The page header is a text box overlaying a second one filled with red. The lower left box forces the one on its right to wrap around it. It uses different styles than the others. The upper left box also has its own style. The page could be formatted with a word processor, but it's much easier with desktop publishing.
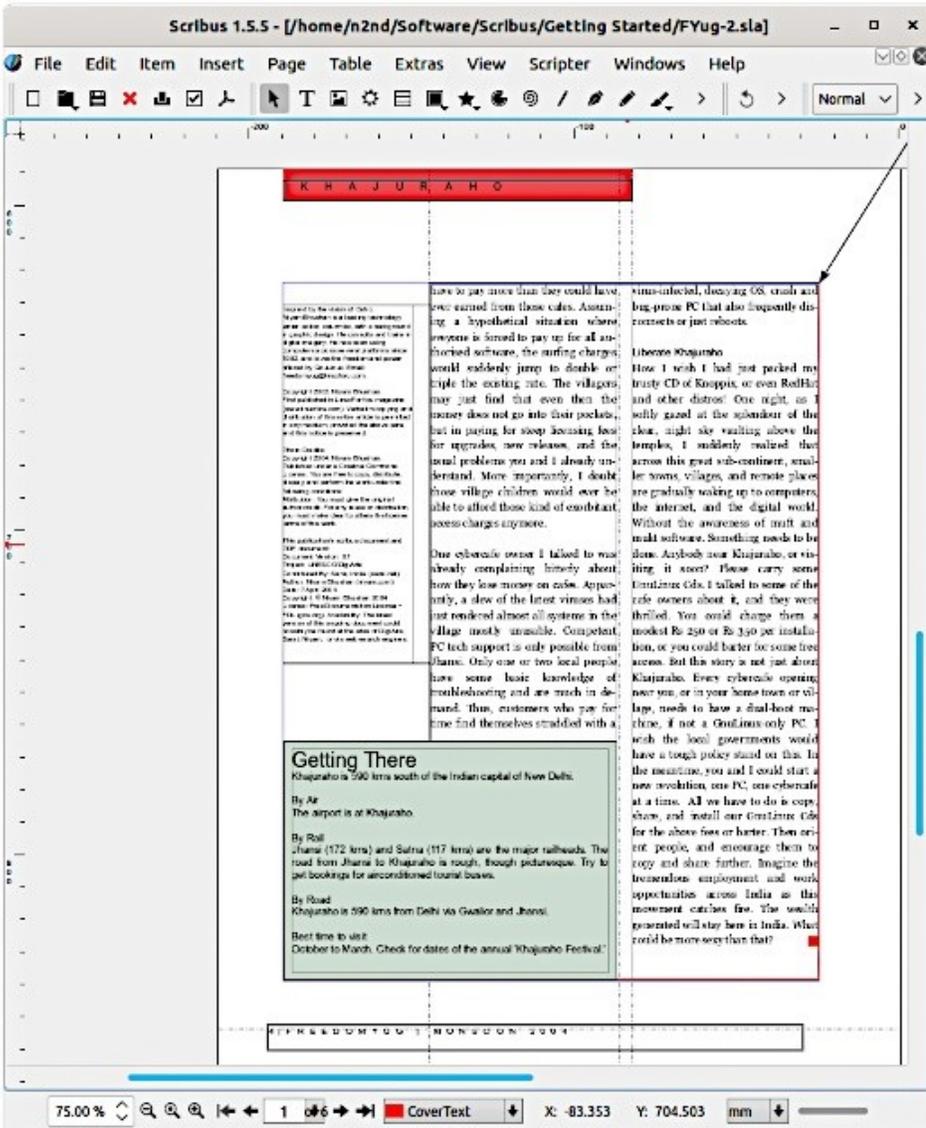
Figure 8. Brochure, Page Four.

The "Getting There" box at the bottom left illustrates another difference between Scribus and a word processor. Text in a Scribus text box has no margin space. So this is really two boxes, a rectangle with a tinted background and a slightly smaller text box to set the margins. The same technique was used on page three to set the white space around the graphic at the bottom right, which a slightly larger box behind it to create some space.

Creating the page of Figure 9 with either an image or a word processor would be very tedious. Of course, it was developed more to show some desktop publishing capabilities than to communicate effectively. Actually, constructing this is simple. There is a single large graphic, a number seven, with some rectangular text boxes layered on top of it, plus a number of text boxes with various shapes, connected by red lines, and finally, the header and footer. This page's layout is different from the others, and it has a separate template.
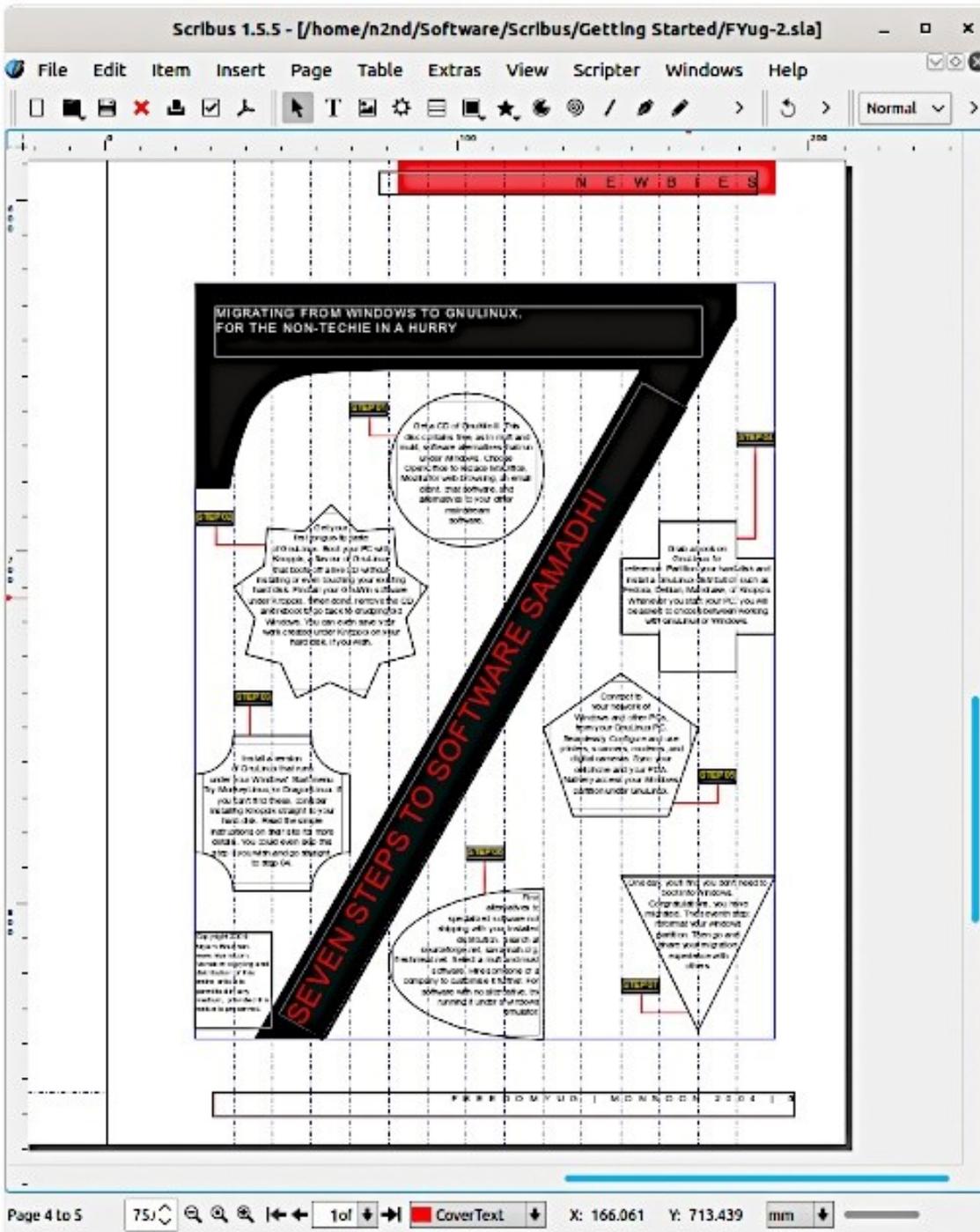
Figure 9. Brochure, Page Five.

Like most desktop publishing software, Scribus is complex and requires learning time and effort. In this short article, I can only introduce it enough to help you to decide if it's worth your time to investigate. The program is available from the website listed at the beginning of this article. Be sure you get the stable version, currently 1.4.8, as it will best match the available documentation. (The examples in this article used 1.5.5, a development version, which added some adventure to its writing.) Working through the three examples above will get you started, provided you download the source material and create the documents. Stay flexible, as most tutorials are fairly old, and you will find some differences between them and the current program.