Writing and Publishing Books with Free Software

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Nathan Haines

- Computer enthusiast
 - Programmer
 - Gamer
 - Computer technician

Nathan Haines

- Ubuntu member
 - California Local Community Team Leader
 - Speaking engagements
 - Installfests
 - Release Parties
 - Ubuntu Local Community Council

Nathan Haines

Author

- Introductory magazine articles
- Beginning Ubuntu Linux for Windows and Mac Users
 (Apress; Fall 2015)



Ubuntu

A complete solution for your computer

Secure and up-to-date

Free and Open Source software

Why publish a book?



- Have a story to tell
- Want to connect with others
- Fame
- Fortune

Publishing a book



- Traditional Publishing
- Self-publishing

Traditional publishing



- Write a manuscript
 - Non-fiction books are sold by proposal
- Submit manuscript to agents
- Agent submits to publishers
- Publisher offers a contract

Self-publishing



- Write a book
- Hire editor(s)
- Hire cover designer
- Hire layout designer
- Publish the book

Royalties



- Traditional publishing
 - Publisher pays an advance on royalties
 - Publisher collects 45-55% of gross profit
 - Pays author 8-15% of net profit
 - Agent receives 10-15% of author's profit

Royalties



- Self-publishing
 - Author receives 100% of net profit
 - 35-70% of gross profit on ebooks

Royalties



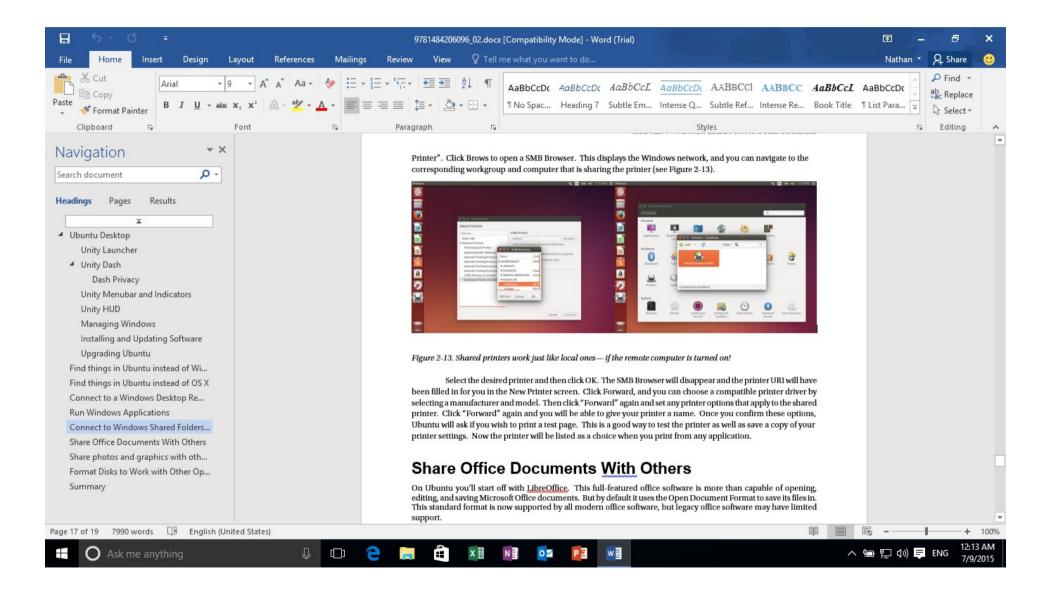
- Traditional publishing
 - Team of experts work on your book
 - Access to book stores and libraries
- Self-publishing
 - You find and hire your own team
 - Keep creative control, rights, and marketing

Time to write

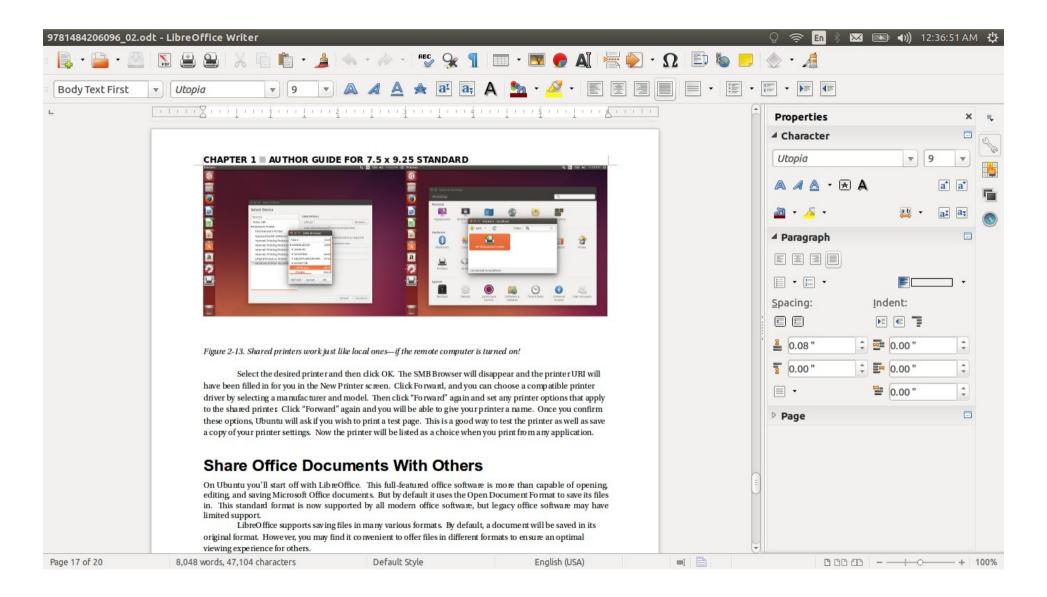


- Word processing software
 - LibreOffice Writer
 - FocusWriter
 - Your favorite text editor

Editing in Word



Editing in LibreOffice Writer

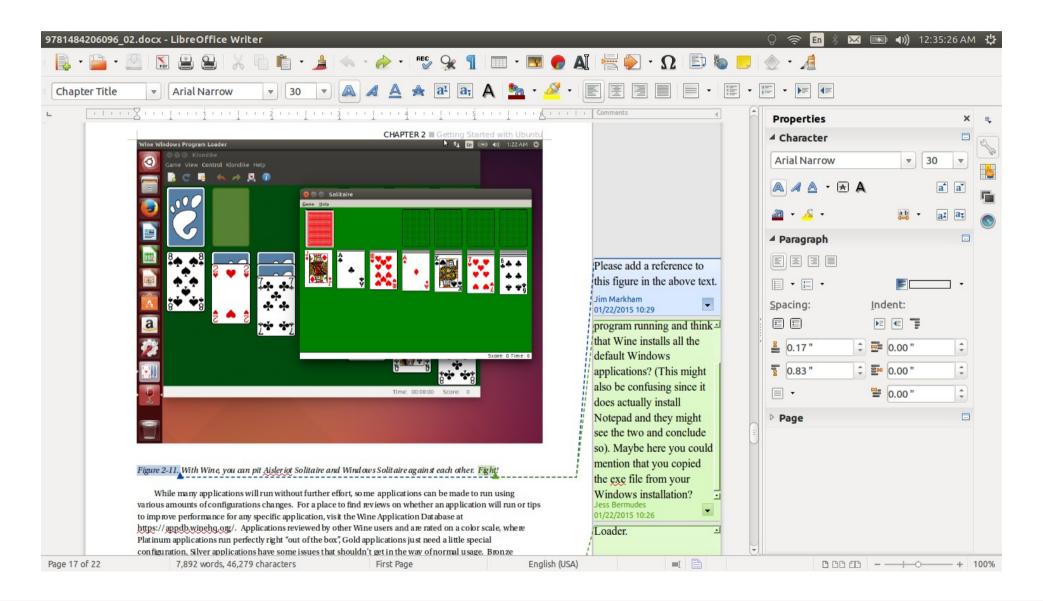


Revision



- LibreOffice Writer
 - Track changes
 - Compatible with Word tracking and comments
- Source control
 - Probably overkill
 - Good for changes, not for comments

Revising in LibreOffice Writer

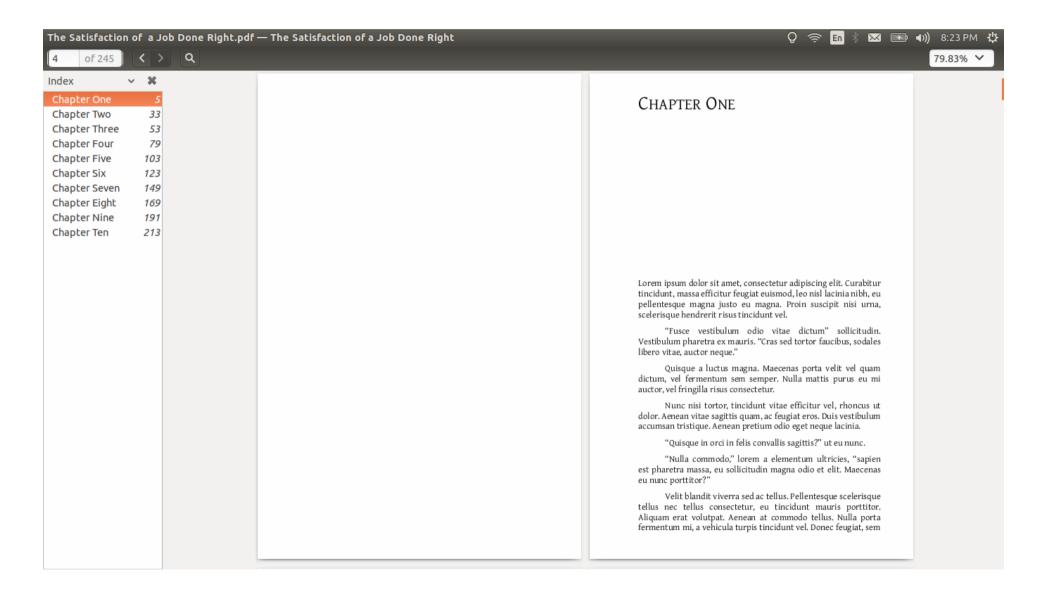


Interior Layout

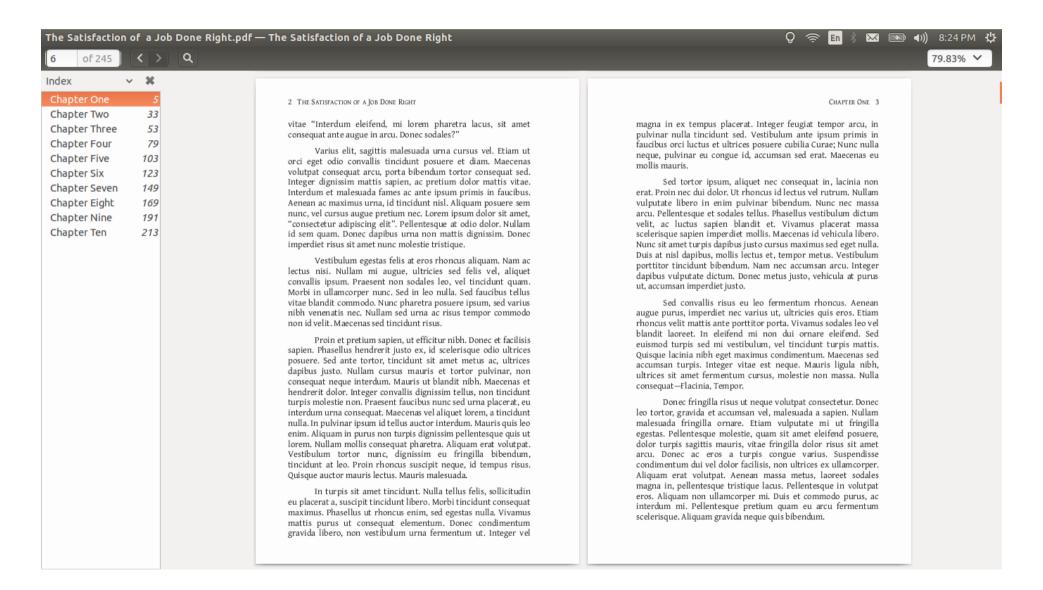


- LibreOffice
 - Styles and page formatting
- Scribus
 - Full desktop publishing solution
- Sigil
 - EPUB formatting for ebooks

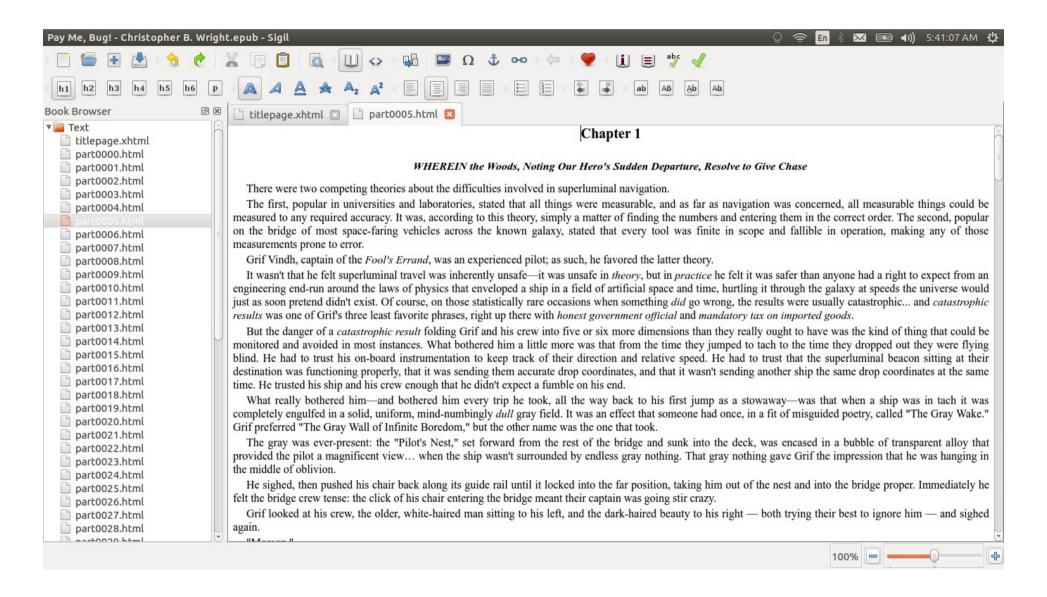
First page layout



Interior page layout



Ebook interior layout



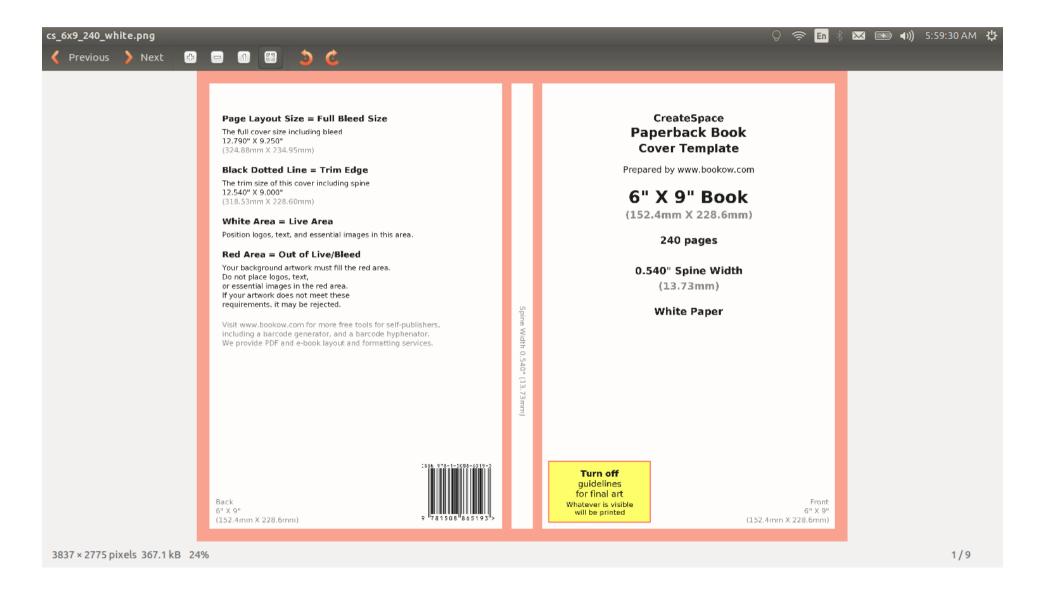
Cover Design



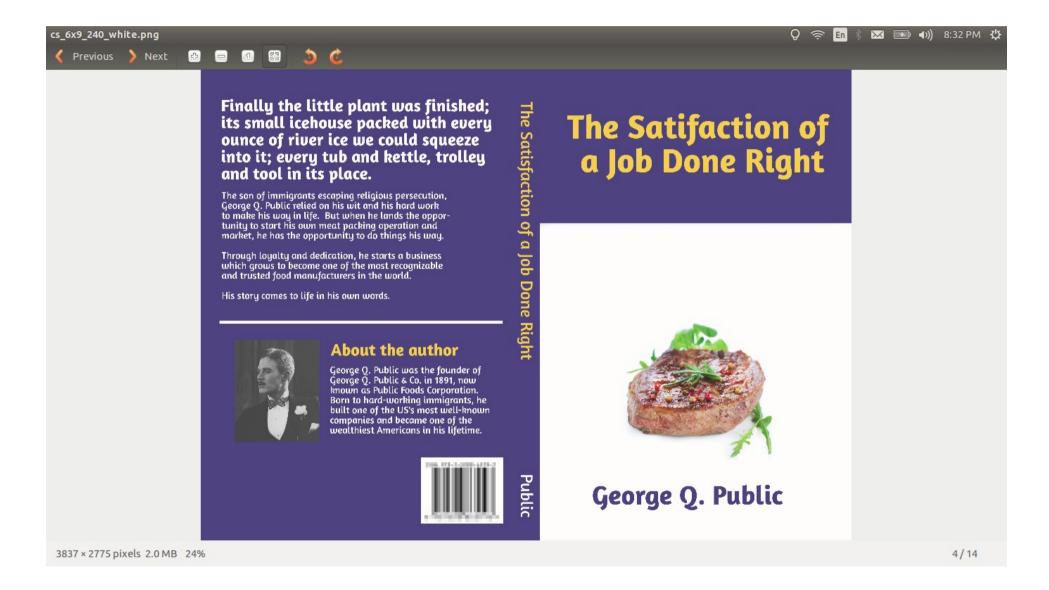
- Gimp
- Inkscape

- Front cover for ebooks
- Wraparound cover for print

Print cover template



Finished cover



Publishing a print book



- Publisher takes care of this step
- Print-On-Demand prints PDF files
 - CreateSpace
 - IngramSpark
 - Lulu Press

Publishing an ebook



- Most ebook stores accept Word or EPUB
 - Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing
 - Nook Press
 - Smashwords
 - iTunes
 - Google Play Books

Digital Rights Management



- Digital Restrictions Management?
 - Only affects paying customers
 - Can be automatically stripped in seconds

Questions?

