Graffikon

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http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graffikon.html

Introduction

Graffikon lets you create your own custom pdf files containing text and graphics objects.

The difference between Graffikon and the typical graphics program is that Graffikon lets you precisely specify where put position each object using numbers for the locations, rather than draging objects around until they look right.

The objects that can be drawn include lines, rectangles, circles, and text. You can also create repeating lines, where you specifiy the number of lines you'd like, and the spacing between them, which can be easier if you have a large number of lines to draw in a fixed pattern. The color and thickness of the objects can also be controlled.

How to use Graffikon

First, select the paper size you wish to use. Most users will want to use the default setting letter size. If you select custom, then you can enter in the dimensions for the resulting pdf file. Likewise, select the orientation for the paper, either portrait or landscape.

The X and Y scaling values are used to adjust the horizontal and vertical scaling, if needed, otherwise they can be left at the default 100 percent values.

To add an object to the drawing, click on one of the object buttons on the right side of the window. A window will pop up, allowing you to specify the parameters for that object. All positions are referenced from the upper left corner of the drawing, in the units you have selected. To change a color, click on the color rectangle, and a new window will appear, with a color wheel, allowing the color to be changed.

Line:

Specify the starting and ending locations of the line, as well as the weight (thickness) of the line and the color.

Circle:

Specify the center location of the circle, as well as the weight (thickness), radius, and the color.

Rectangle:

Specify the center location of the rectangle, as well as the width, height, weight (thickness) of the line and the color.

Text:

Specify the text to draw, the starting location of the text, as well as the size, font, and color. The font is chosen from the popup menu, and includes all of the standard fonts than can be displayed in a pdf file without the need to embed fonts.

Repeating Line:

This is useful if you need to display a large number of lines, that have a fixed relationship between them, such as grid lines or lines in a table.

First, you specify the starting and ending locations of the first line, as well as the weight (thickness) of the line and the color.

Then, you need to specify the spacing between each line. That is, for each subsequent line drawn, how much the starting and ending locations should change. This allows you to not just draw parallel lines, but you can also change the angle of subsequent lines, allowing for some very interesting effects. You may need to play around with this feature, to see how it works.

Finally specify the number of repeated lines you wish to draw.

Now that you have set up your drawing, click the Generate button, and a pdf file will be produced. If you have the Auto View Graph option checked, it will also be opened in your pdf viewer. Make sure that you don't already have the same pdf file already opened in a pdf viewer, or Graffikon won't be able to generate a new one.

Since Graffikon produces pdf files, you can easily print them whenever you wish. You can also save and load your Graffikon configuration files, as well.

Obtaining Graffikon

You can download the latest copy of Graffikon from this URL:
http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graffikon.html

Please feel free to write to us with any questions or comments you may have: info@blackcatsystems.com

Buying Graffikon

Until you buy (register) your copy of Graffikon, it will print a watermark on the pdf files. You can visit the Graffikon website to buy your copy, the URL is http://www.blackcatsystems.com/software/graffikon.html

Graffikon Version History

0.7.0 January 25, 2007
First public beta release

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