Introducing Impressive

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version 0.10.2

http://impressive.sourceforge.net/

What is Impressive?

Impressive is a PDF and image viewer optimized for presentations

- ... with some eye candy ;)
- uses OpenGL for display
- uses Xpdf or GhostScript to render PDF files
- written in Python
- available for Unix-like and Windows operating systems
- Open Source (GPLv2)

Software Requirements

Impressive requires a few libraries and helper applications:

- Python 2.3 or newer
- PyGame (SDL port for Python)
- PyOpenGL
- Python Imaging Library (PIL)
- Xpdf or GhostScript
- pdftk *(optional, but recommended)*

Packages for these dependencies should be available for almost every operating system.

For Windows, there's a convenient self-contained archive with everything needed.

Hardware Requirements

- hardware accelerated OpenGL
  - every post-2000 graphics chip should do
  - Linux/BSD users need a driver that actually implements hardware acceleration!
- a fast CPU
  - some transitions are quite CPU-intensive
  - rule of thumb: the faster the better!
  - absolute minimum is at about 700 MHz

How does it work?

1. create slides with the presentation software of your choice
2. export them to a PDF file
3. `impressive MySlides.pdf`
   - left mouse button, [PageDown] or [Space]: next slide
   - right mouse button, [PageUp] or [Backspace]: previous slide
   - [Q] or [Esc]: quit

Emphasis

Impressive offers multiple ways of emphasizing parts of a page.

Option 1: „Spotlight"

- toggle with [Enter]
- a bright circular spot follows the mouse cursor
- everything else gets dark and blurry
- spot size adjustable with [+]/[-] or the mouse wheel

Highlight Boxes and Zoom

Option 2: Highlight Boxes

- drag a box with the left mouse button
- any number of boxes per page
- delete a box by clicking it with the right mouse button
- boxes stay even after leaving and re-entering the page

Option 3: Zoom

- [Z] key toggles 2x zoom
- visible image can be moved around with the right mouse button

Overview Page

- press the [Tab] key
- Impressive zooms back to an overview screen showing all pages of the presentation
- new page can be selected with mouse or keyboard
- left mouse button or [Enter] zooms into selected page
- right mouse button or [Tab] cancels and returns to the previously shown page

Customization

- command line parameters (lots of them!)
- „Info Scripts"
  - same name as the input file, but suffix `.info`, e.g.
    `slides.pdf` → `slides.pdf.info`
  - real Python scripts, executed before the presentation starts
  - can be used to set the document title or other settings
  - can be used to set up per-page settings: „Page Properties"
    - title
    - transition effect
    - ...

Info Script Example

```
# -*- coding: iso8859-1 -*-

DocumentTitle = "Example Presentation"

PageProps = {
    1: { 'title': 'Title Page',
         'transition': PagePeel },
    2: { 'title': 'Introduction' },
    5: { 'timeout': 3500 },
    8: { 'overview': False }
}
```

Other Features

- support for PDF hyperlinks inside the document
- page cache in RAM or on disk, temporary (default) or persistent
- background rendering
- fade to black or white
- hide specific pages from the overview page
- page bookmarks (keyboard shortcuts)
- only show a subset of the presentation
- rotation in 90-degree steps
- time display and measurement

Rarely Used Features

- automatic, timed presentations
- customization of almost every timing or OSD parameter
- automatic reloading of the input file(s) on change
- permanent storage of the highlight boxes
- playing sounds or videos or executing arbitrary Python code when entering a page
- „Render Mode": doesn't show the presentation, but renders the input PDF file into a directory with one PNG file per page

Missing Features

- painting and annotations
- multi-monitor support
- support for embedded videos
- integration into (or cooperation with) latex-beamer and OpenOffice.org Impress
- *your feature here*

Questions, Suggestions, Comments?
just write to
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Try Impressive!
packages are available at
http://impressive.sourceforge.net/