



Animation: Text – Scrolling Text

ANIMATION: TEXT – SCROLLING TEXT

GIMP® is all about IT (Images and Text)

DOWNLOADING THE GAP ANIMATION PACKAGE

Before you begin this text animation, you will need to download a free animation plugin for GIMP® called GAP (GIMP Animations Package). Instructions to download are included on the Animations tab of the Web site.

This will add a new Video menu item to the GIMP® Menu Bar.

ANIMATING TEXT

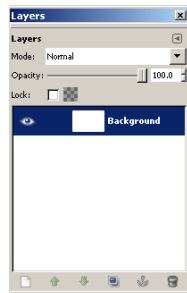
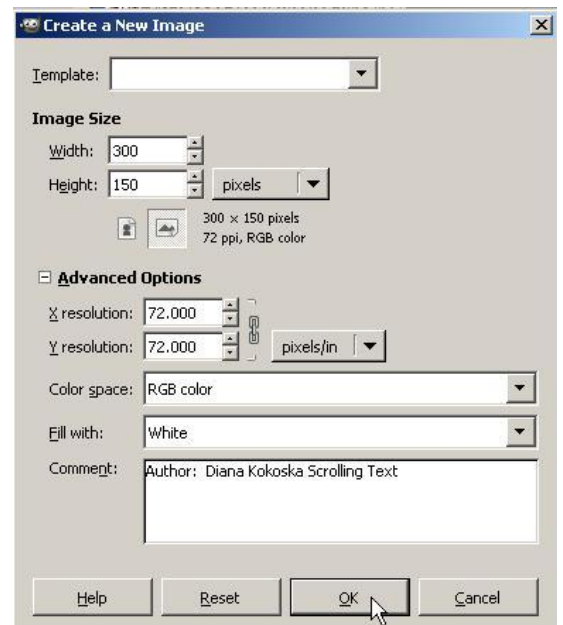
Creating animated text using the GAP tool consists of two separate image files – the background image and the text that animates.

The final animation in this tutorial will have the words *To know a geek is to love a geek!* scroll across a background container.

CREATING THE BACKGROUND

Open GIMP®

Step 1: To begin a new GIMP® project, from the Menu Bar, select File | New... At the Create a New Image dialog box and select a Width: of 300 and a Height: of 150. You will need to click the + sign beside Advanced Options to expand the menu. Click the Fill with: down arrow and select white. In the Comment text box, describe the image.



Click the OK button.

A new image canvas displays in the GIMP® workspace with image information in the Title Bar and a “Background” layer displays in the Layers palette to the

right of the image window.

Step 2: From the Toolbox, click the Foreground color icon and select blue (I selected 3e6099), click the Background color icon and select orange (I selected ea5300), and click the OK button.



From the Menu Bar, select Edit | Fill with FG color to fill the background with blue.

Step 3: From the Layers palette, click the Create a new layer and add to image icon and at the New Image dialog box, type `Container` as the Layer name: Click the OK button.

A new transparent “Container” layer displays above the “Background” layer in the Layers palette.

Step 4: From the Menu Bar, click Select All to select the current layer. Then click Select | Shrink. At the Shrink selection by text box, type 15 and click the OK button. What is now selected is what is between the *marching ants* and the outside of the image.

Click Select | Invert. (This is an important step to select what is inside the *marching ants*). The text is going to animate between the background and the container, so the container layer must show through to the text.

Step 5: From the Menu Bar, select Edit | Fill with BG color to fill the inner rectangle with blue.



Notice that the container layer does not show the inner rectangle as blue; it shows it as transparent.



From the Menu Bar, click Select | None.

Step 6: From the Menu Bar, click File | Save and at the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the `\PortableApps\GIMP\animation\anim_text\ folder` as `Background_000001.xcf`.

Note: The name is important as GAP saves all animation files as `Background_000001`, `Background_000002`, `Background_000003`, etc.

Step 7: In the new `Background.000001.xcf` image window, from the Menu Bar, select Video | Duplicate Frames...

Note: If you do not see a Video item on the Menu Bar, you have not downloaded and installed GAP.

At the Duplicate Frames (1/1) dialog box, since you only have one Background frame, you will leave the From Frame: and To Frame: values at 1.

In the N times: text box, type 599 and click the OK button. With the existing background image, you now a 600 frames in your animation.

Note: The number that you select for the N times: is really up to you. I figured that the text would take about 10 seconds to scroll and if the text scrolls at 60 frames per second ($60 \times 10 = 600$). Since you already have one frame, you will want to use 599.

You will set the frames per second (fps) rate when you preview the animation.

It may take a few minutes for GAP to duplicate the 599 frames.


Once the frames have been duplicated, you can check your `anim_images` folder and you will see that you have 600 Background files (`Background_000001.xcf` to `Background_000600.xcf`).

CREATING THE TEXT

Step 1: From the Menu Bar, select File | New... At the Create a New Image dialog box, select 800 pixels for the Width: and 100 pixels for the Height:. Click the + sign to the right of Advanced Options and click the Fill with: down arrow and select Transparent. Click the OK button.

Note: The size of the image is up to you – it just has to be wide enough to type the text you want to scroll.

A new Untitled image window displays in front of the `Background_000001.xcf` image window.

Step 2: In the new image window, from the Toolbox, click the Text Tool  and in the Text options select a font face, font size, and font color. I selected Sans Bold 36px white.

Step 3: Click in the image and type To know a geek is to love a geek!

Step 4: From the Menu Bar, select File | Save and save the text in the `\PortableApps\GIMP\Animation\anim_images\` folder as `geek_text_mm_dd_yy.xcf`.

SCROLLING THE TEXT

Step 1: With the `Background_000001.xcf` image open, select Video | Move Path... At the Move Path dialog box, follow the instructions below (step-by-step diagram follows the instructions):

- ❶ Select the Instant Apply checkbox to turn on the Live Preview. This will allow you to see the results of any setting you select).
- ❷ Select the Source Image/Layer. The Source/Image layer is the file and layer that contains the text you want to scroll.
- ❸ Click the Stepmode: down arrow and select None.
- ❹ Click the Handle: down arrow and select Center.

⑤ The Layerstack determines which layer is in front. A layer with a value of 0 is always on top. Since there are two layers in your Background_000001 .xcf file ("Background" and "Container"), GAP needs to put the text between the two layers. The "Background" layer of the background_000001.xcf image (the blue) is (by default), Layerstack 0.

The text layer will be Layerstack #1, which moves the "Container" layer to Layerstack #2, which puts the text layer between the background and the see-through container layer).

⑥ Before you enter a Current Point: (starting point) for our text, it is important to understand that X is the number of pixels across the width of the background image and Y is the number of pixels down the height of the background image.

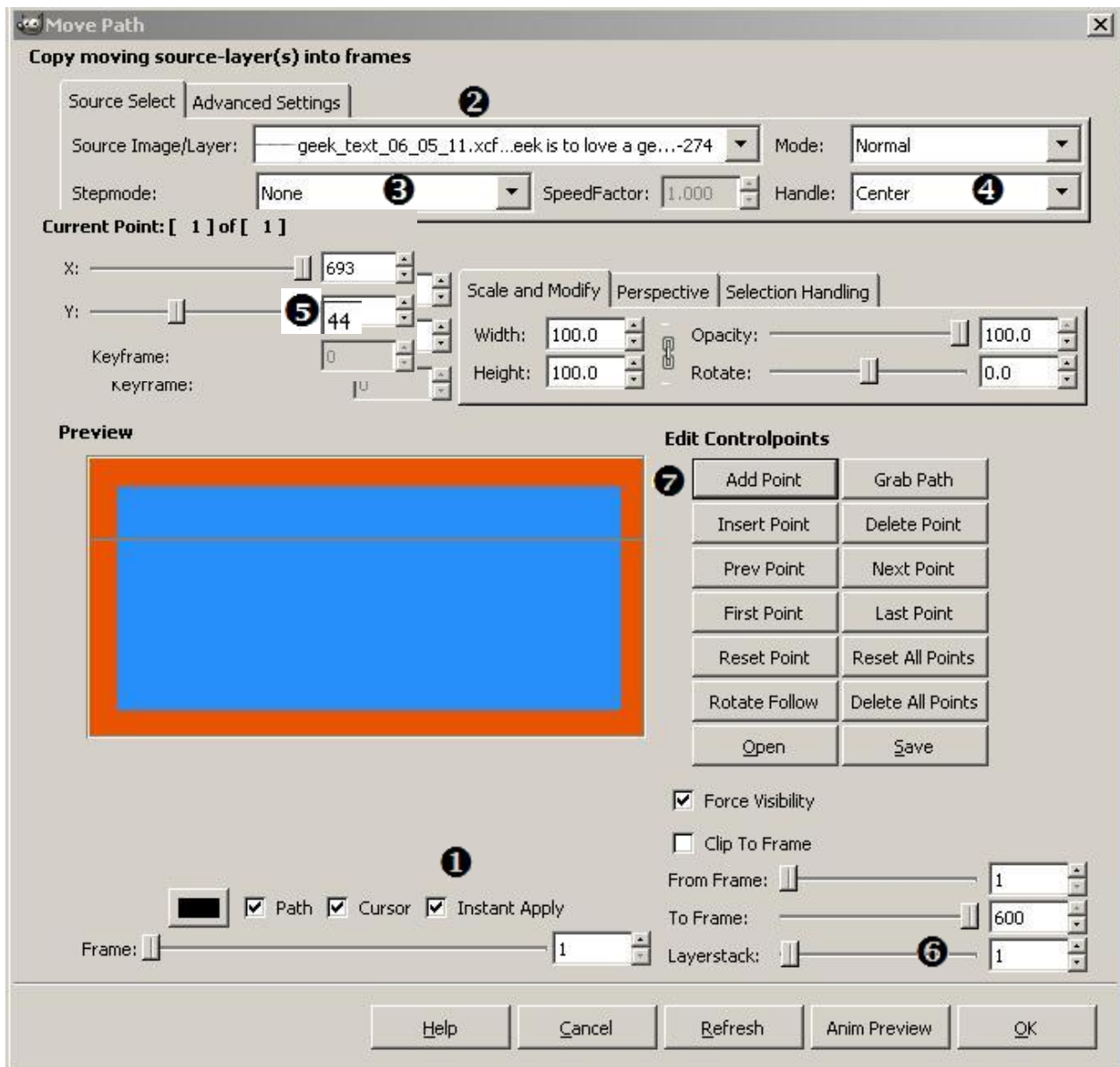
Click the Y up arrow until the text is vertically centered in the orange rectangle.

Click the X up arrow until the text scrolls all the way to the right edge of the orange rectangle – this is the starting point (the point at which you want the text to start scrolling). It is a good to move the text an extra 20 pixels to be sure it is hidden.

YOU HAVE NOW DETERMINED THE STARTING POINT FOR YOUR IMAGE.

Note: Your values for X and Y may not be exactly the same as those shown.

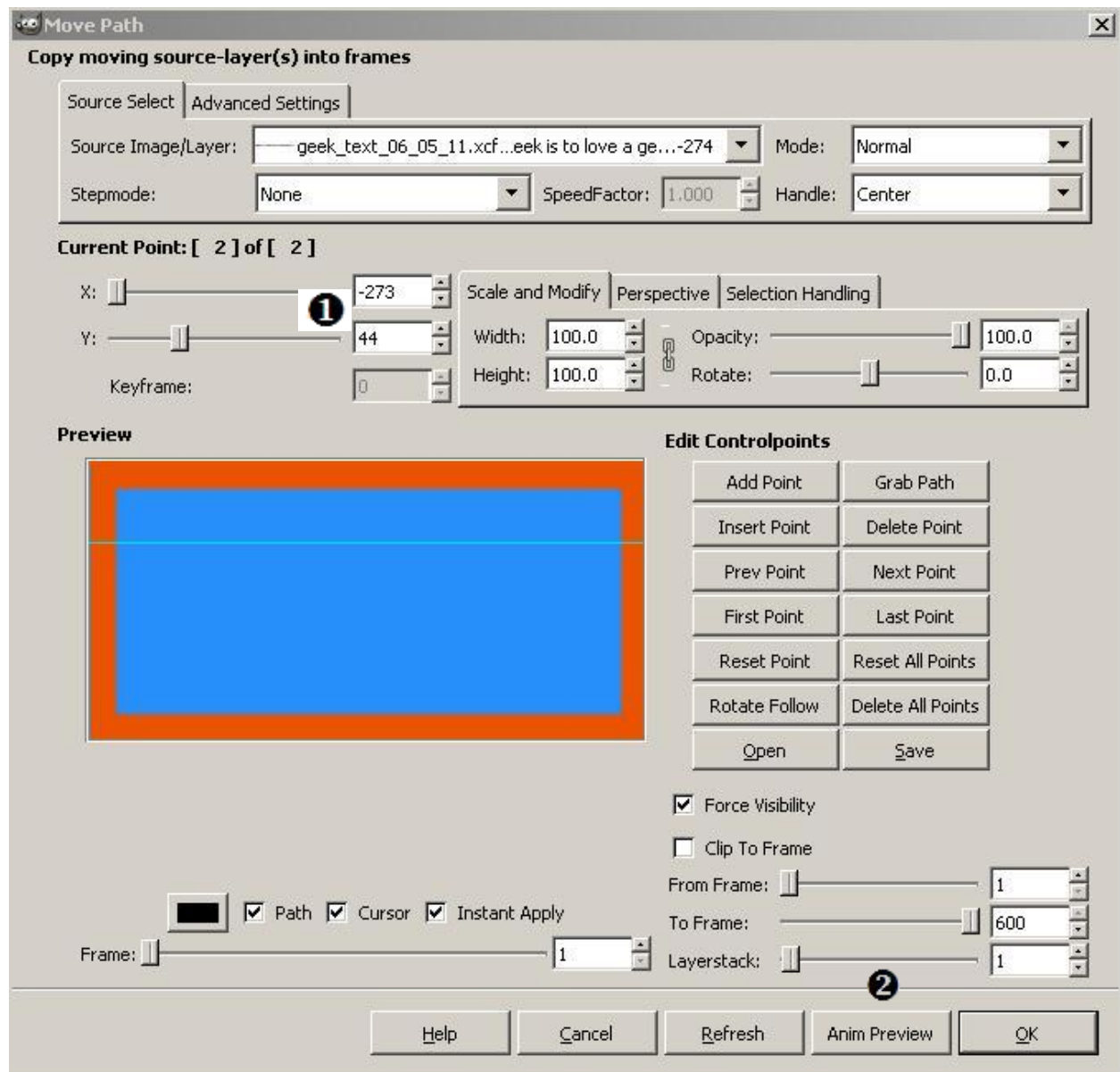
7 Under Edit Controlpoints, click the Add Point button.



Step 2: You are now ready to specify the ending point for your animation.

1 Since you want your image to move horizontally from the right edge of the orange rectangle to the left edge of the orange

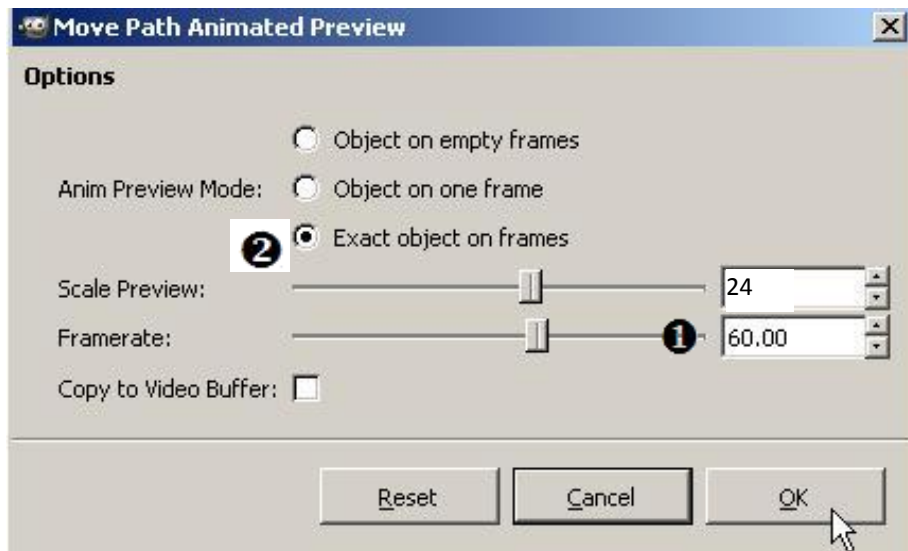
rectangle, you will click the X down arrow until the text scrolls to the left edge of the orange rectangle, and then add 20 more.




② Click the Anim Preview button to preview the animation.

Step 3: At the Move Path Animated Preview dialog box, click the Framerate: up arrow and select 60.

Click the radio button to the left of Exact object on frames and click the OK button.



Step 4: At the Animation Playback:Untitled window that displays, click the  button to preview the animation.

The text scrolls from the right side of the container to the left side of the container and loops.

Step 5: Close the Animation Playback:Untitled... window and close the small *Untitled window and click the Don't Save button.

Step 6: Click the OK button on the Move Path screen.

The GAP processes the animation.

Step 7: From the Background_00001.xcf Menu Bar, select Video | Frames to Image... and at the Frames to Image dialog box, accept the defaults and click the OK button.

Step 8: At the new *Untitled image window, from the Menu Bar, select Filters | Animation | Optimize (for GIF).

Since an animation consists of multiple layers, the size can become quite large. In an animation, many of the elements are shared by all layers, and optimizing an image saves the shared elements only once and the modified elements with each layer.

Step 9: At the new *Untitled image window, from the Menu Bar select File | Save. At the Save Image dialog box, save the image in the `\PortableApps\GIMP\Animation\anim_text\` folder as `scrolling_text_mm_dd_yy.gif` (replacing the `mm_dd_yy` with the current month, day, and year).

Click the + sign to the left of Select File Type (By Extension) and select GIF image. Click the Save button.

At the Export File dialog box, select the Save as Animation option and click the Export button.

At the Save as GIF dialog box, add a comment and click the Save button.

Step 10: Close all open windows. Do not Save the *Untitled image window.

TEST THE GIF ANIMATION

Step 1: Navigate to the

`\PortableApps\GIMP\Animation\anim_text\ folder.`

Step 2: Right click on the `scrolling_text_mm_dd_yy.gif` file and select Open With | Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox.

The text “To know a geek is to love a geek” moves right to left across background image.

CONDENSED STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Create a new image the size of the container in which you want to scroll the text. Fill the background with a color.

Step 2: Add a transparent layer and shrink the layer the number of pixels you want for a border. Click Select | Invert and fill with the border color.

Step 3: Save the image in a folder with the name `Background_000001.xcf`.

Step 4: From the Background image select Video | Duplicate Frames and select a number of frames for the animation.

Step 5: Create a new image with a transparent background and width long enough to hold the text you want to scroll with a height larger than the font pixel size.

Step 6: Select a font type, font size, and font color for the text and click on the canvas and type the text.

You can save the image, but it is not required.

Step 7: From the Background image, select Video | Move Image, and at the Move Image screen

- ① Select the Instant Apply button
- ② Select a Source (text layer to animate)
- ③ Select a Step Mode (usually none)
- ④ Select a Handle (usually center)
- ⑤ Select the attributes for the **starting point** for the image
- ⑥ Change the Layerstack: value to 1.
- ⑦ Click the Add Point button
- ⑧ Select the attributes for the **ending point** for the image
- ⑨ Click the View Anim button.

Step 8: Click the Play button to preview the animation. Close the preview and the new window without saving.

Step 9: Edit the Move Animation settings and/or click the OK button.

Step 10: After the images processes, select Video | Frames to Image.

Step 11: In the new Image window, select Filter_ | An_i_mation | Optimize for G_I_F.

Step 12: At the new window, click F_i_l_e | S_a_v_e and save as an animated GIF image.

Step 13: Close all open windows.

Step 14: View the .gif file in a browser.