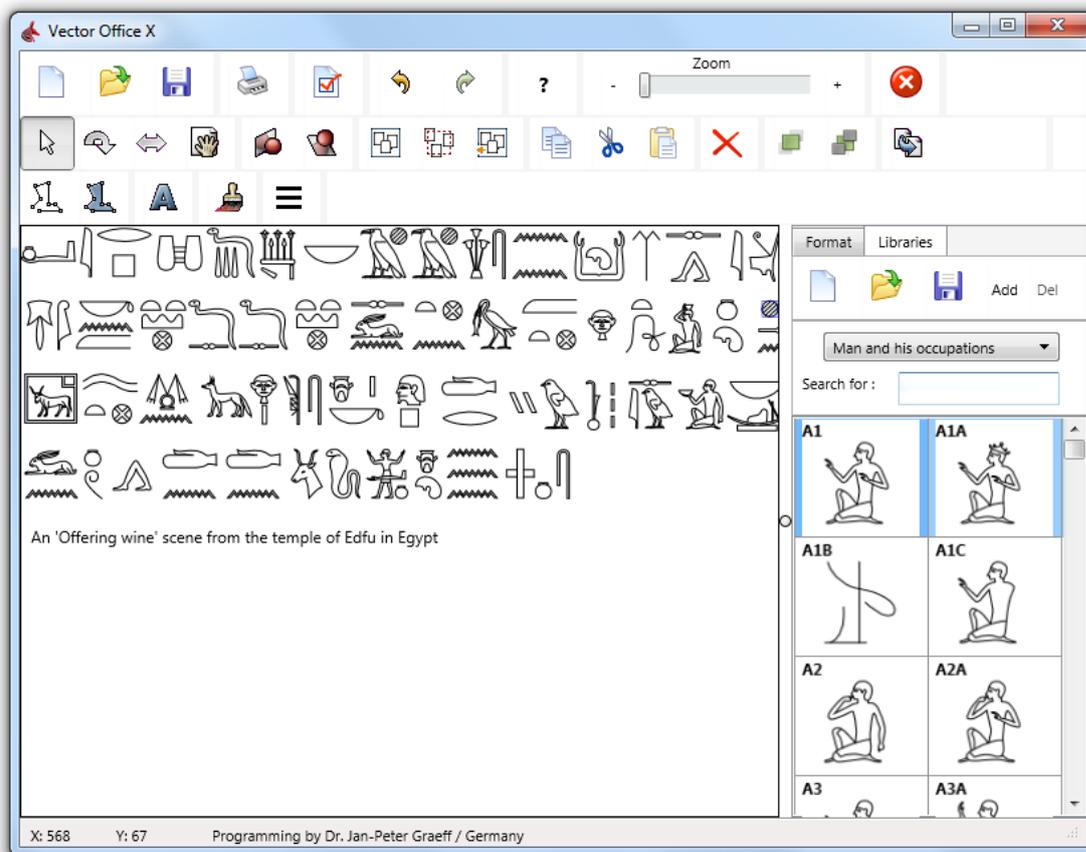




Vector Office X

Vector Office X is a text processing software for Egyptian hieroglyphs to create hieroglyphic documents for direct printing or the export to Microsoft Word, Open Office and other text processing software products. Additionally Vector Office is an editor to add new signs to the existing hieroglyphic library or to create completely new sign libraries (demotic or hieratic for example). Vector Office X is the official successor of Vector Office 5 and licensed as free software.



License

Vector Office X is licensed under a Creative Commons License:

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<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/3.0/>

The software is absolutely free to use and to share.

News

Vector Office X and 5 are completely different from each other. Vector Office X was rewritten from scratch without many features of version 5 that were never used by Egyptologists. Therefore the software is easier to use and very stable.

One mayor advantage of Vector Office X is its cross platform capability. It can be compiled for Microsoft Windows 32 bit, 64 bit and Mac OS X. Android is an option for the near future. Due to this, it is possible for all these platforms to share documents and libraries. Vector Office X files are not compatible with the files of Vector Office 5 but the latest version 5.6 can save in the new formats.

The document rendering is hardware accelerated on all platforms now. For Microsoft Windows Direct2D is used (a subset of DirectX), for all other platforms OpenGL.

As vector based file formats besides Windows Metafiles, Encapsulated Postscript (eps), Scalable Vector Graphics (svg) and Portable Document Files (pdf) are implemented now.

The import of raster based images (bitmaps) is very easy now. Due to the fact, that Vector Office X is intended as text processing software, the bitmap tracing algorithm is limited to black and white.

Last but not least – one important detail in the license has changed. Vector Office X can be used without registration. Not even an installation is necessary because the software is portable. Just unpack the software to the location of your choice. Even a USB-stick is possible.

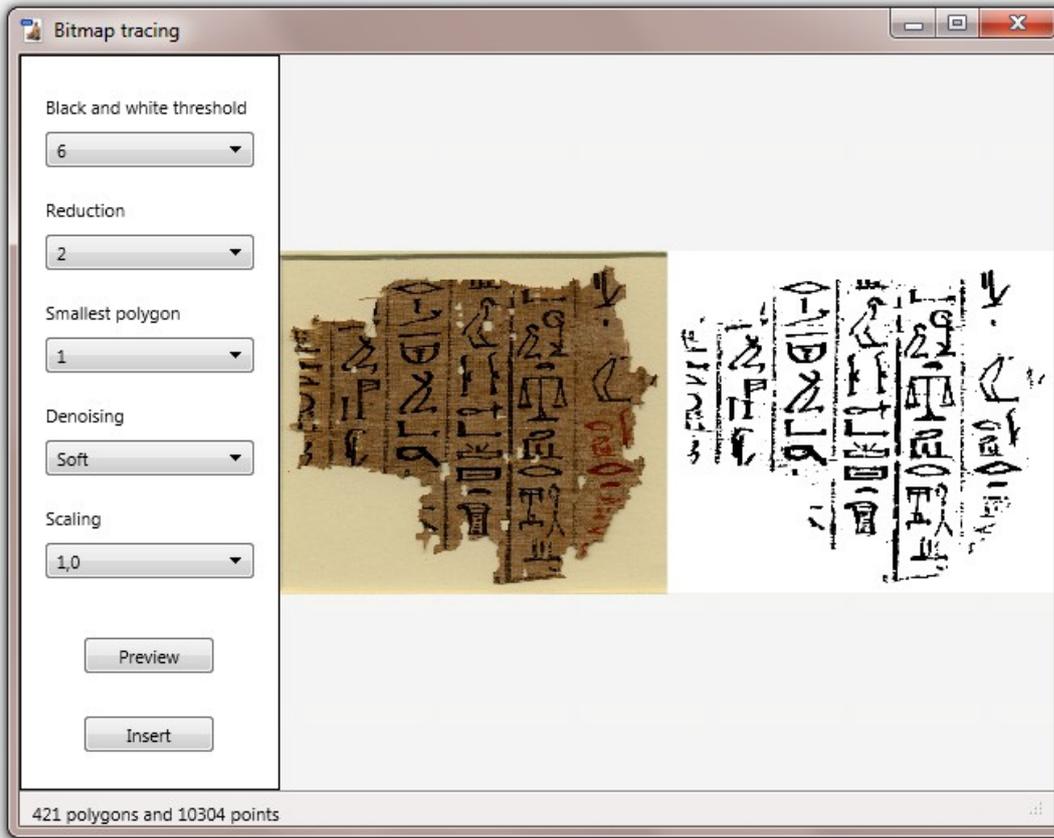
How to use

Creating a new document

Click  to create a new document.

Loading a document

Click  to load an existing document. Vector Office X documents are loaded directly. Raster images like bitmaps have to be converted into vector data. In case you load a bitmap, jpg, png or tiff file, the converter dialog opens. The following options can be used to achieve the best results depending on the picture:



Black and white threshold determines how colors are converted to black or white. The lower this value, the less black is generated.

Reduction determines how lines are simplified.

Smallest polygon determines the smallest size of polygons to be allowed.

Denoising enables various filters to suppress pixel noise.

Scaling stretches details in small pictures. For large images a small value suppresses unnecessary details.

Saving a document

Click  to save your document. These file formats are available:

1. Vector Office X Dokument (*.vox)
2. Encapsulated Postscript (*.eps)
3. Scalable Vector Graphic (*.svg)
4. Portable Document File (*.pdf)
5. Enhanced Windows Metafile (*.emf) – Microsoft Windows only
6. Bitmap (*.bmp)
7. Portable Network Graphic (*.png)
8. Tagged Image File Format (*.tif)
9. JPEG File Interchange (*.jpg)

Print a document

Click  to print your document.

Options

Click  to open the options window. These options are available:

1. The export of normal texts can be activated/deactivated. This option is deactivated by default, because unknown fonts have to be embedded into pdf which is not implemented so far. In Windows the export as metafile to Word deactivates the anti-aliasing of Word (which is actually a bug of Word, though printing is not affected).
2. Snap-to-grid can be activated/deactivated. This feature can be used to move lines and hieroglyphs in 5 or 10 px steps.

Undo

Click  to undo your last actions.

Redo

Click  to redo your last undos.

Zooming the document

Use the trackbar or the buttons left and right of it to zoom the document.

Close Vector Office

Click  to close Vector Office X. Unsaved documents will get lost.

Move hieroglyphs

Click  to move hieroglyphs and other objects by mouse. All marked objects can be moved with the left mouse-button while  is active.

Rotate hieroglyphs

Click  to rotate hieroglyphs and other objects by mouse. All marked objects can be rotated with the left mouse-button while  is active.

Scale hieroglyphs

Click  to scale hieroglyphs and other objects by mouse. All marked objects can be scaled with the left mouse-button while  is active.

Working with large documents

Vector Office can handle documents that are larger than the screen. Click  to move to any position within the document with the left mouse button.

Move back to the start position of the document with the right mouse button on the document and select 'Clear offset' ( must be activated before).

Mirror hieroglyphs vertically

Click  to mirror all marked hieroglyphs vertically.

Mirror hieroglyphs horizontally

Click  to mirror all marked hieroglyphs horizontally.

Mark all hieroglyphs

Click  to mark all hieroglyphs.

Inverse selected hieroglyphs

Click  to inverse the selection of marked hieroglyphs and objects.

Deselect all hieroglyphs

Click  to deselect all hieroglyphs and objects of the document.

Copy hieroglyphs

Click  to copy all marked hieroglyphs and objects to the clipboard.

Cut hieroglyphs

Click  to cut all marked hieroglyphs and objects to the clipboard.

Paste hieroglyphs

Click  to paste the contents of the clipboard to the document.

Delete hieroglyphs

Click  to delete all marked hieroglyphs and objects.

Working with layers

Vector Office uses a layer model to render the document's objects. This means each object is rendered in a fixed order. In case two objects are on the same position, object no. 1 is rendered first, then object no. 2, which will cover the first object whole or in parts. This system can be used to achieve the following effect:



Click  to set the marked object to the foreground.

Click  to set the marked object to the background.

Export the document to Word, OpenOffice etc.

Click  to export the document. For Windows a Metafile is generated and copied to the clipboard. This can be used by most text processing softwares.

For Mac OS X a png is generated and copied to the clipboard. In case an OS X user prefers a vector based file format, the document can be [saved](#) as pdf to load it as graphic file.

Hint: Right-click on the export button to export only marked hieroglyphs.

Draw lines

Click  to draw own lines. Each left-click generates a new point. A right-click ends the line.

Draw surfaces

Click  to draw own surfaces. Each left-click generates a new point. A right-click ends the surface. You need at least three points for a surface.

Insert text

Click  to insert a text. Then click with the left mouse button on the document and the text box will open. Type your text and press 'Enter'.

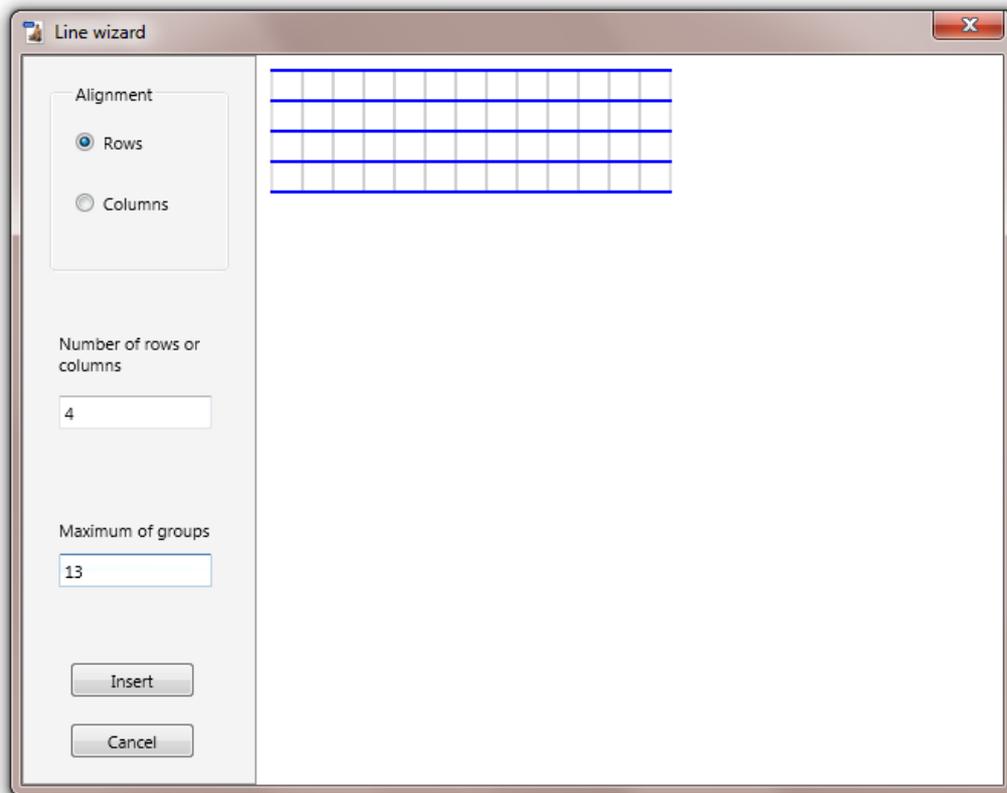
Insert hatched areas

Click  to insert a hatched area to your document. Vector Office generates a small grey rectangle at the upper left corner. This rectangle can be scaled and moved to the right position now. The [layer system](#) can be used to set the hatched area on top or below the hieroglyphs.

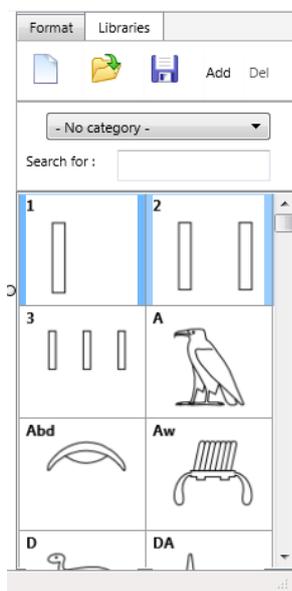
Hint: Very precise hatchings can be achieved by [setting the brush color](#) to a grey tone and [drawing an own surface](#)!

Insert column lines

Click  to open the line wizard. This window is pretty self-explaining...



Insert hieroglyphs from the library

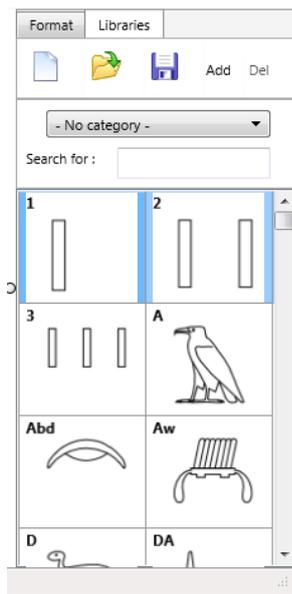


Vector Office offers a hieroglyphic library of approx. 7000 hieroglyphs. The library is automatically loaded when Vector Office starts.

Just select the category and double-click on a hieroglyph to insert it into the document. Then care for the right position of the sign.

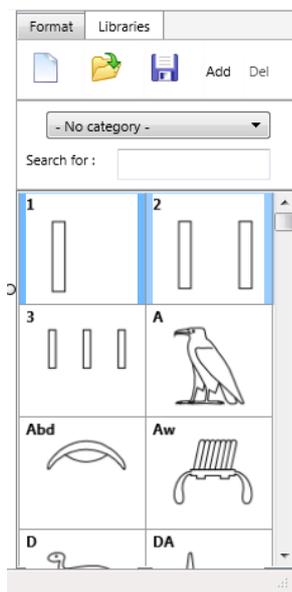
You can also use 'Search for' + double-click in case you know the Gardiner value of a sign.

Create a new library



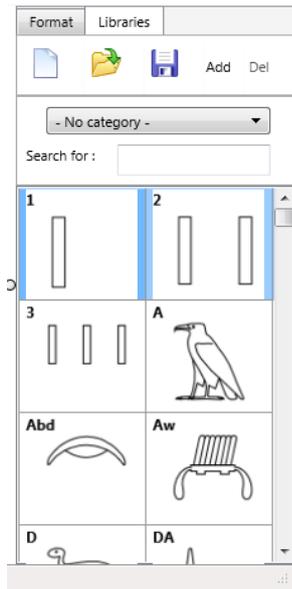
Click  on the **library panel** to create a new library. Each time Vector Office starts, this library has to be loaded manually.

Load a library



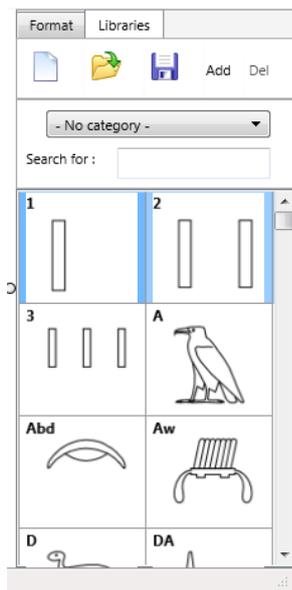
Click  on the **library panel** to load a library.

Save a modified library



Click  on the **library panel** to save the library.

Add a new sign to the library

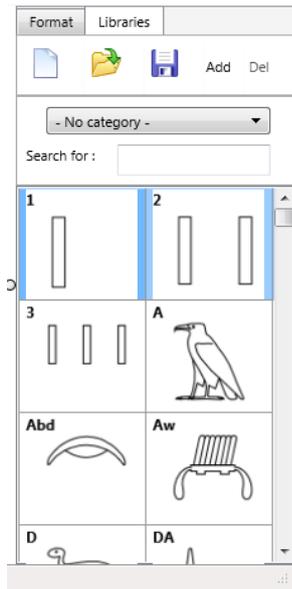


Click '**Add**' on the **library panel** to insert the actual document as a sign to the library. A dialog opens to give this new sign a name and a category.



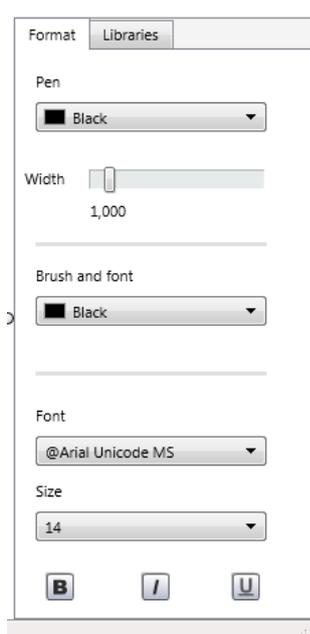
Please keep in mind: The sign is part of the library now but the library itself has to be saved now!

Delete a sign from the library



Call a sign with 'Search for' on the **library panel**, then click **Del**.
Please keep in mind: The sign was removed from the library but the library itself has to be [saved](#) now!

Format hieroglyphs and other objects



Click on the **format panel**. This panel is quite self-explaining but keep in mind that changes will only affect marked hieroglyphs and objects!

Changing existing hieroglyphs

Existing hieroglyphs can be manipulated easily. Just right-click on a hieroglyph and select '**Activate edit mode**'. Now you have access to the lines and points of the hieroglyph. You can [add new lines](#), [delete marked ones](#), delete points (mark them, right-click on the line and select 'Delete points'), or add new points (mark two points, right-click on the line and select 'Add new points').

Important: Don't forget to disable the edit mode by right-clicking on a line and select 'Deactivate edit mode'.

Please keep in mind: The concept of the [layer system](#) is also used for the edit mode. So don't be surprised in case you click on a line and another one is reacting. In this case, the bounding box of the second line covers the one of the first line. Just use the layer system to switch their position.

Some tricks:

Insert a background picture to draw new hieroglyphs

Right-click on the document and select 'Load background picture'. Now you can easily trace the lines of the hieroglyph by drawing on the picture. In some cases it is recommended to select a [wider pen width](#) and an eye-catching color while drawing.

To remove the background picture just right-click on the document and select 'Clear background picture'.

Scale a hieroglyphic group automatically

To scale a group of hieroglyphs automatically just move the signs to their position within the group. Mark them and right-click on one of them. Select 'Hieroglyphic group' and Vector Office calculates the scaling.

