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
  - Ubuntu Community Council

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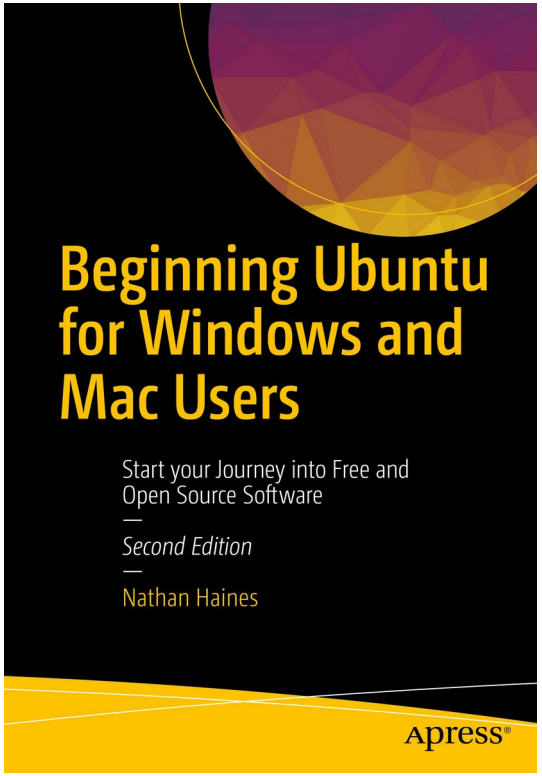


- Author
  - Beginning Ubuntu for Windows and Mac Users (Apress; November 2022)
  - Original fiction
  - English translator for Farnham's Legend and Egosoft's X-Universe series of novels

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

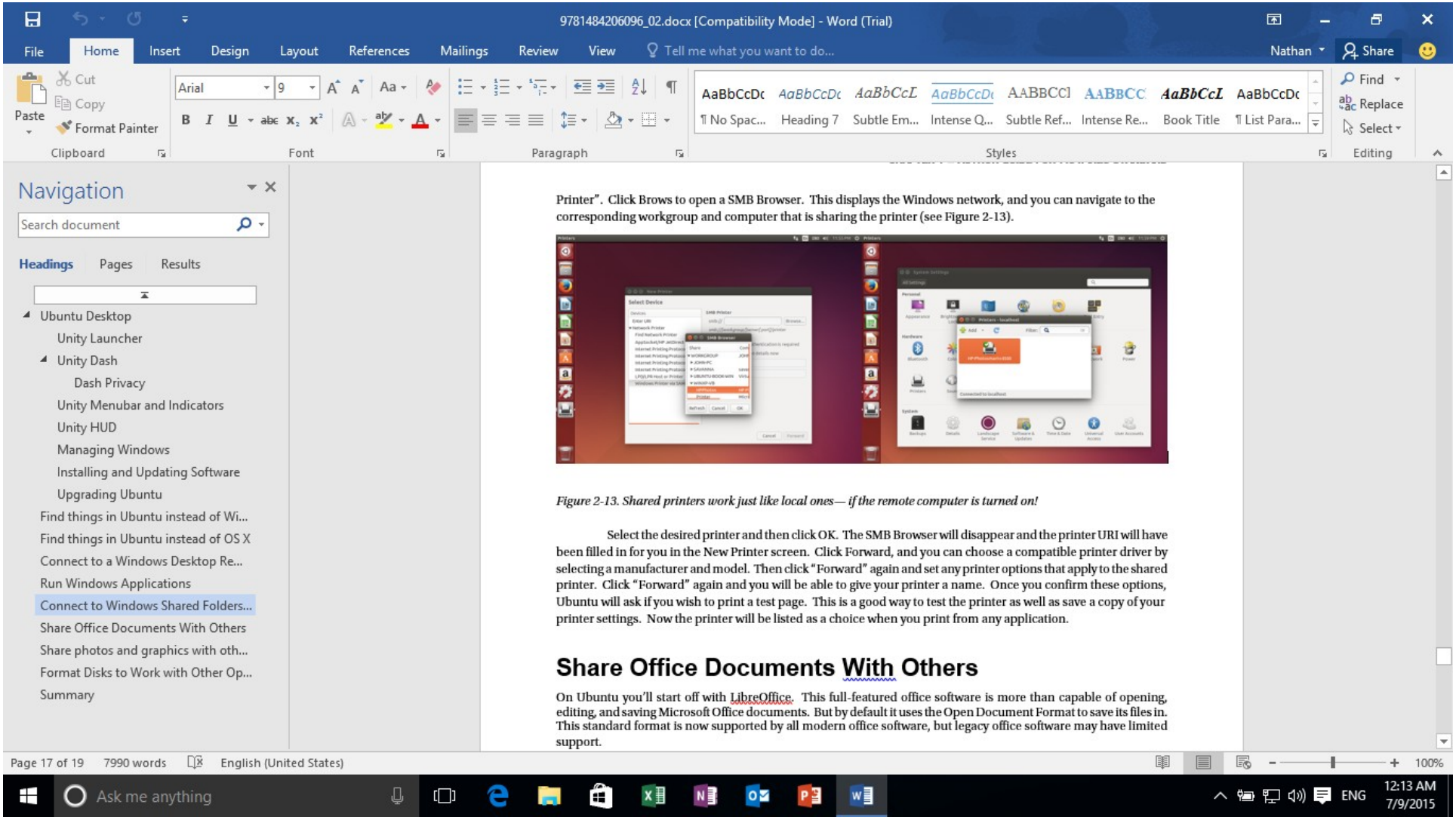
Royalties

- 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



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Editing in LibreOffice Writer

9781484206096_02.odt - LibreOffice Writer

Body Text First | Utopia | 9

CHAPTER 1 ■ AUTHOR GUIDE FOR 7.5 x 9.25 STANDARD

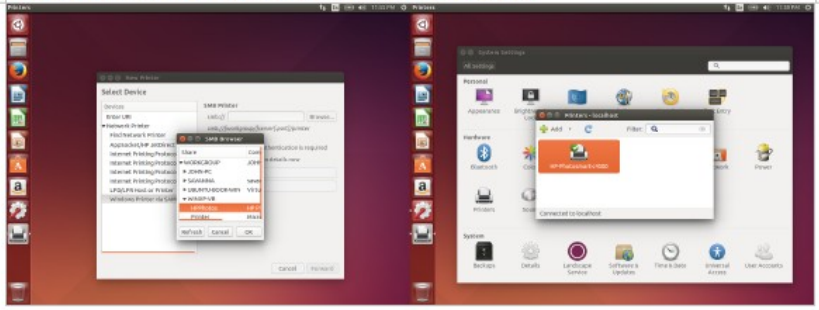

Figure 2-13. Shared printers work just like local ones—if the remote computer is turned on!

Select the desired printer and then click OK. The SMB Browser will disappear and the printer URI will have been filled in for you in the New Printer screen. Click Forward, and you can choose a compatible printer driver by selecting a manufacturer and model. Then click "Forward" again and set any printer options that apply to the shared printer. Click "Forward" again and you will be able to give your printer a name. Once you confirm these options, Ubuntu will ask if you wish to print a test page. This is a good way to test the printer as well as save a copy of your printer settings. Now the printer will be listed as a choice when you print from any application.

Share Office Documents With Others

On Ubuntu you'll start off with LibreOffice. This full-featured office software is more than capable of opening, editing, and saving Microsoft Office documents. But by default it uses the Open Document Format to save its files in. This standard format is now supported by all modern office software, but legacy office software may have limited support.

LibreOffice supports saving files in many various formats. By default, a document will be saved in its original format. However, you may find it convenient to offer files in different formats to ensure an optimal viewing experience for others.

Properties

Character: Utopia, 9

Paragraph

Spacing: 0.08 " | 0.00 "

Indent: 0.00 " | 0.00 "

0.00 "

Page

Page 17 of 20 | 8,048 words, 47,104 characters | Default Style | English (USA) | 100%

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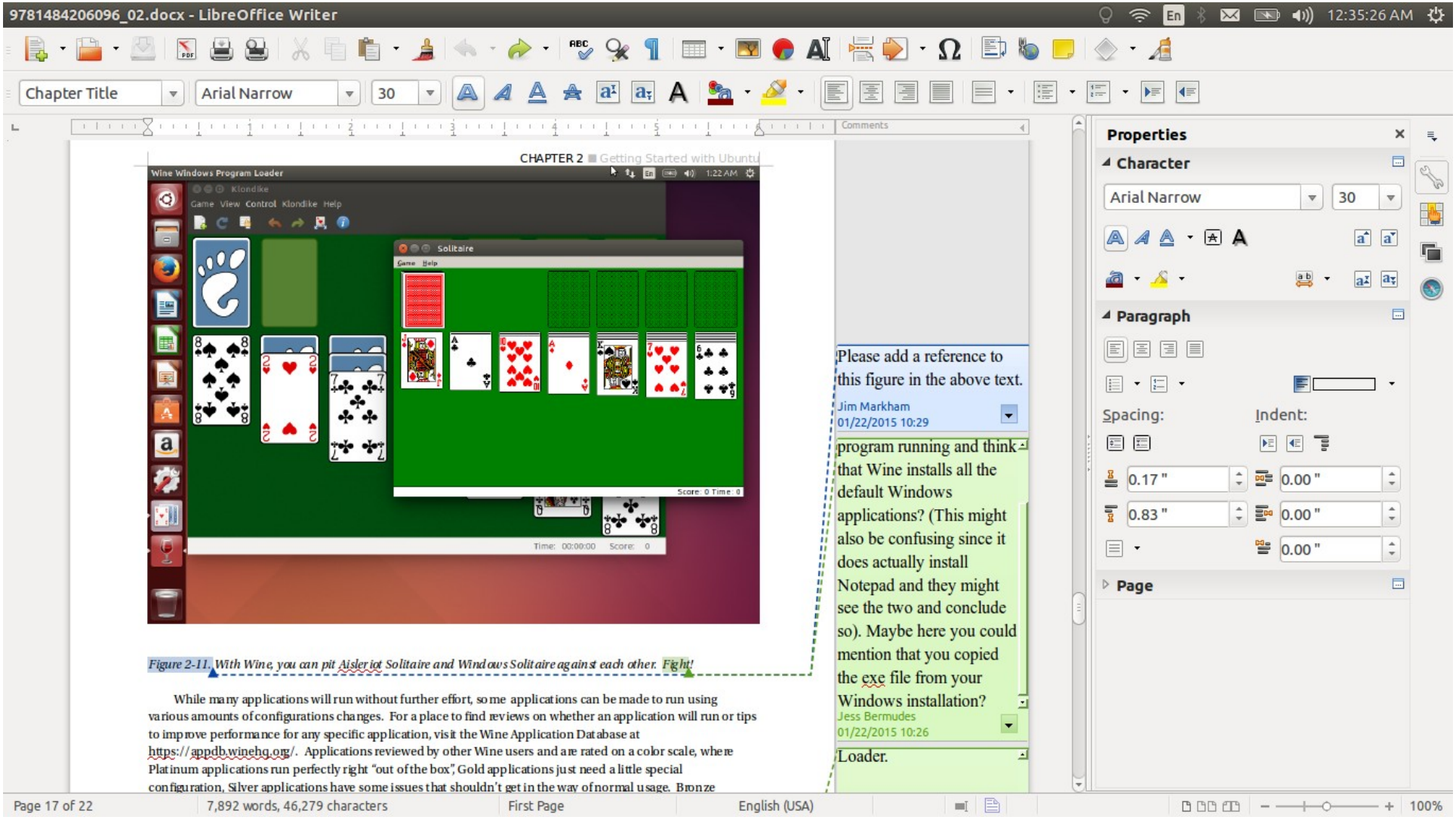
Revision

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

Revising in LibreOffice Writer



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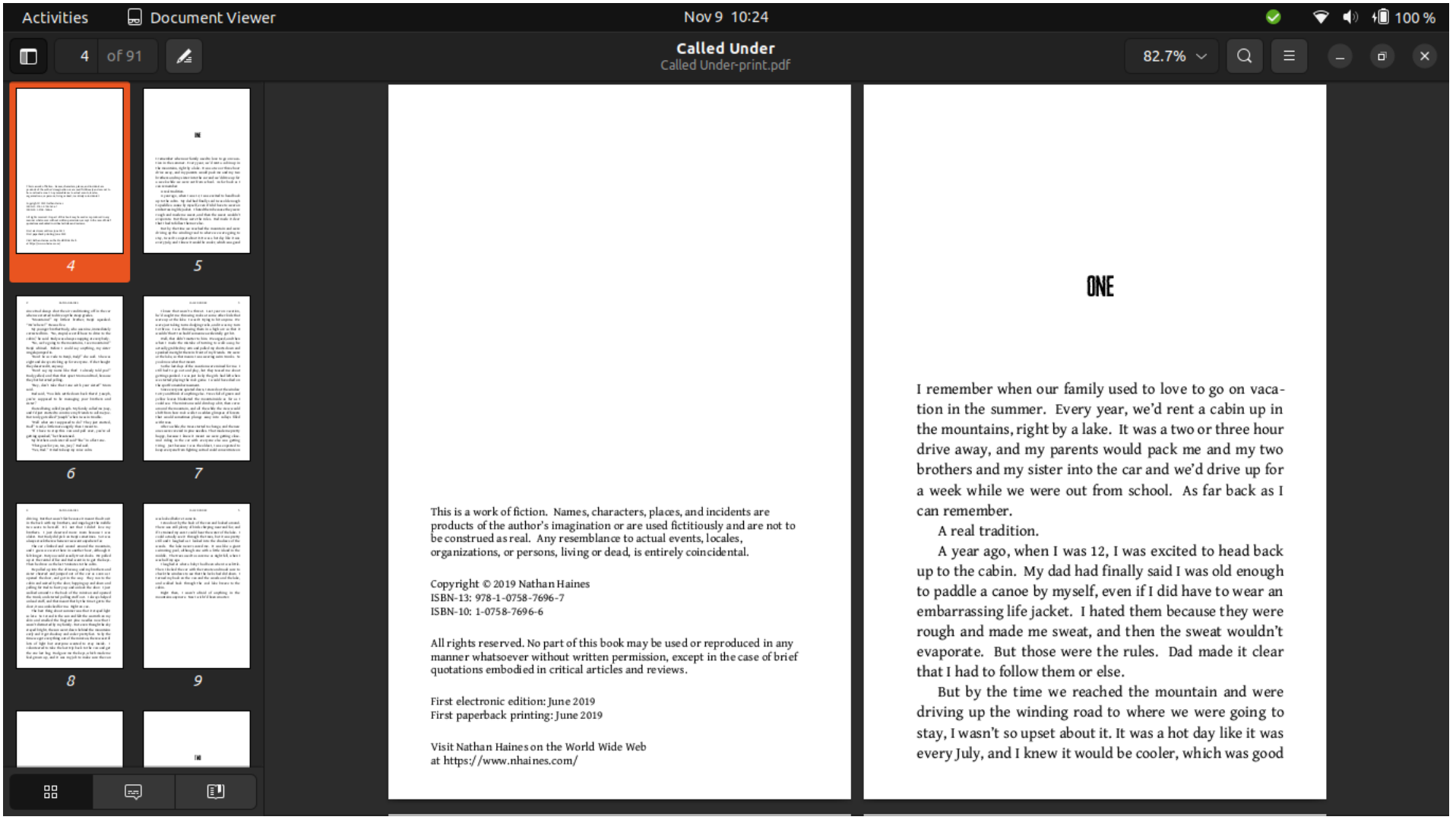
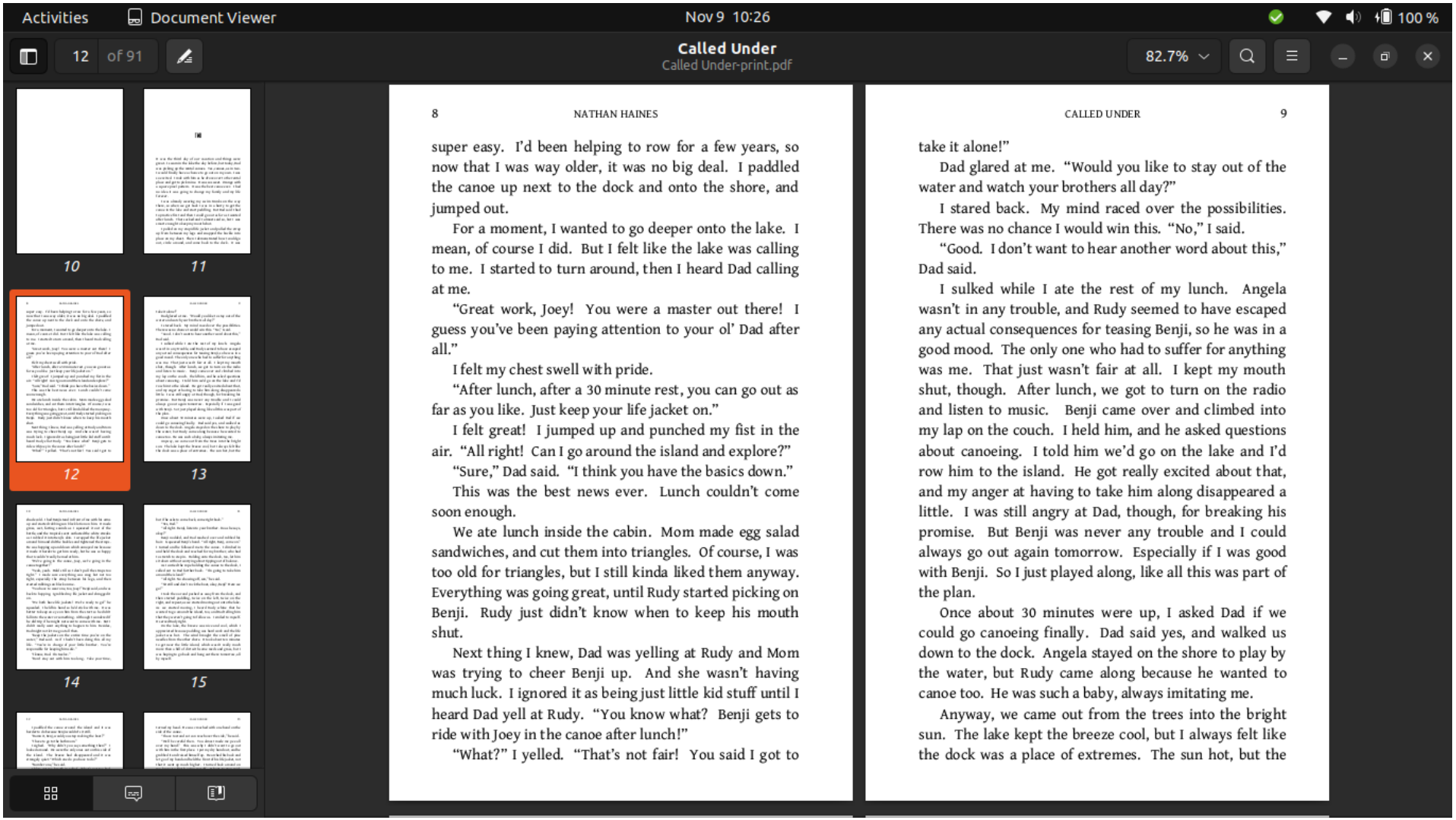
Interior Layout

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

First page layout



Interior page layout



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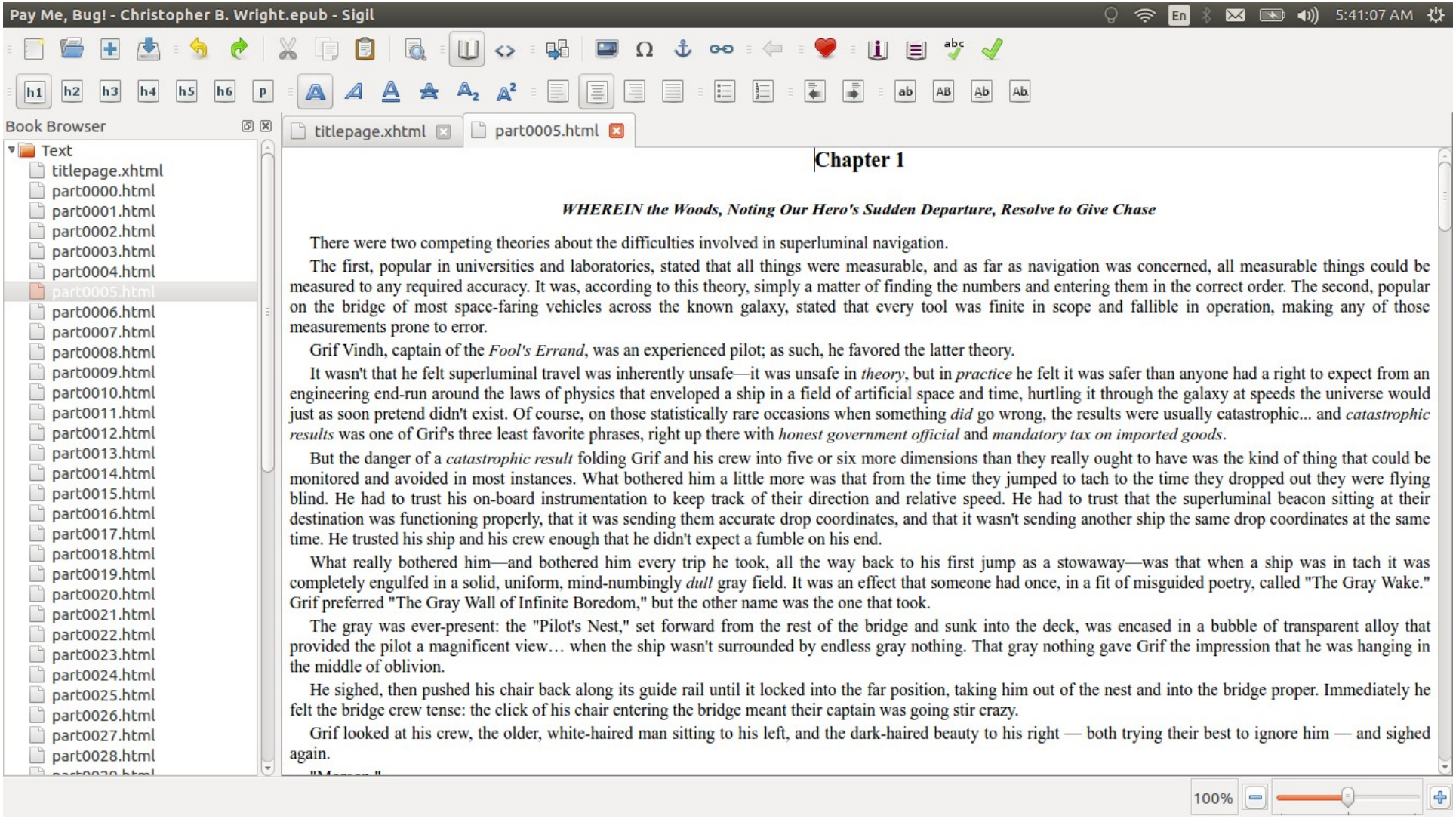
Ebook interior layout



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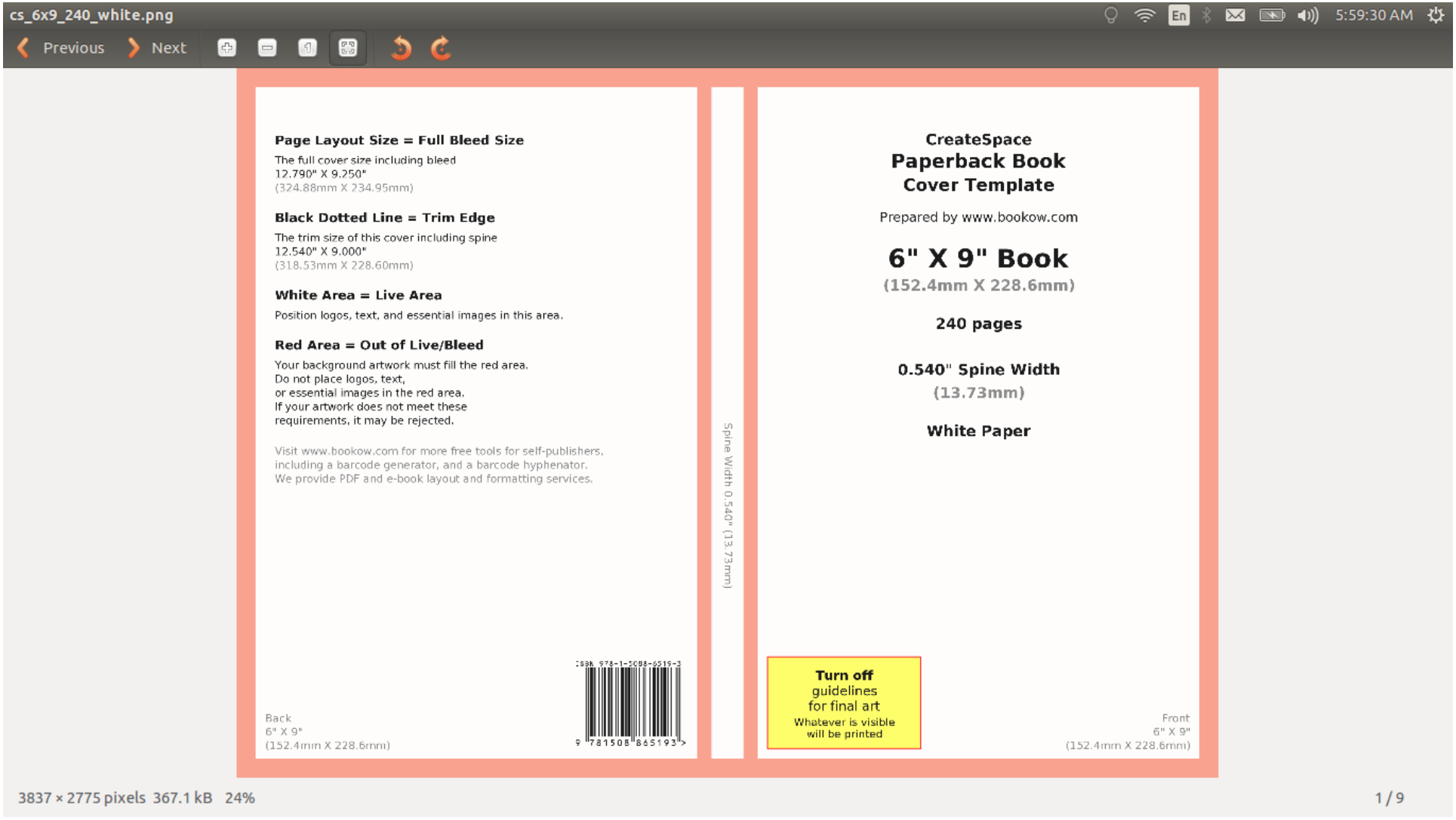
Cover Design

- Gimp
- Inkscape

- Front cover for ebooks
- Wraparound cover for print

Print cover template



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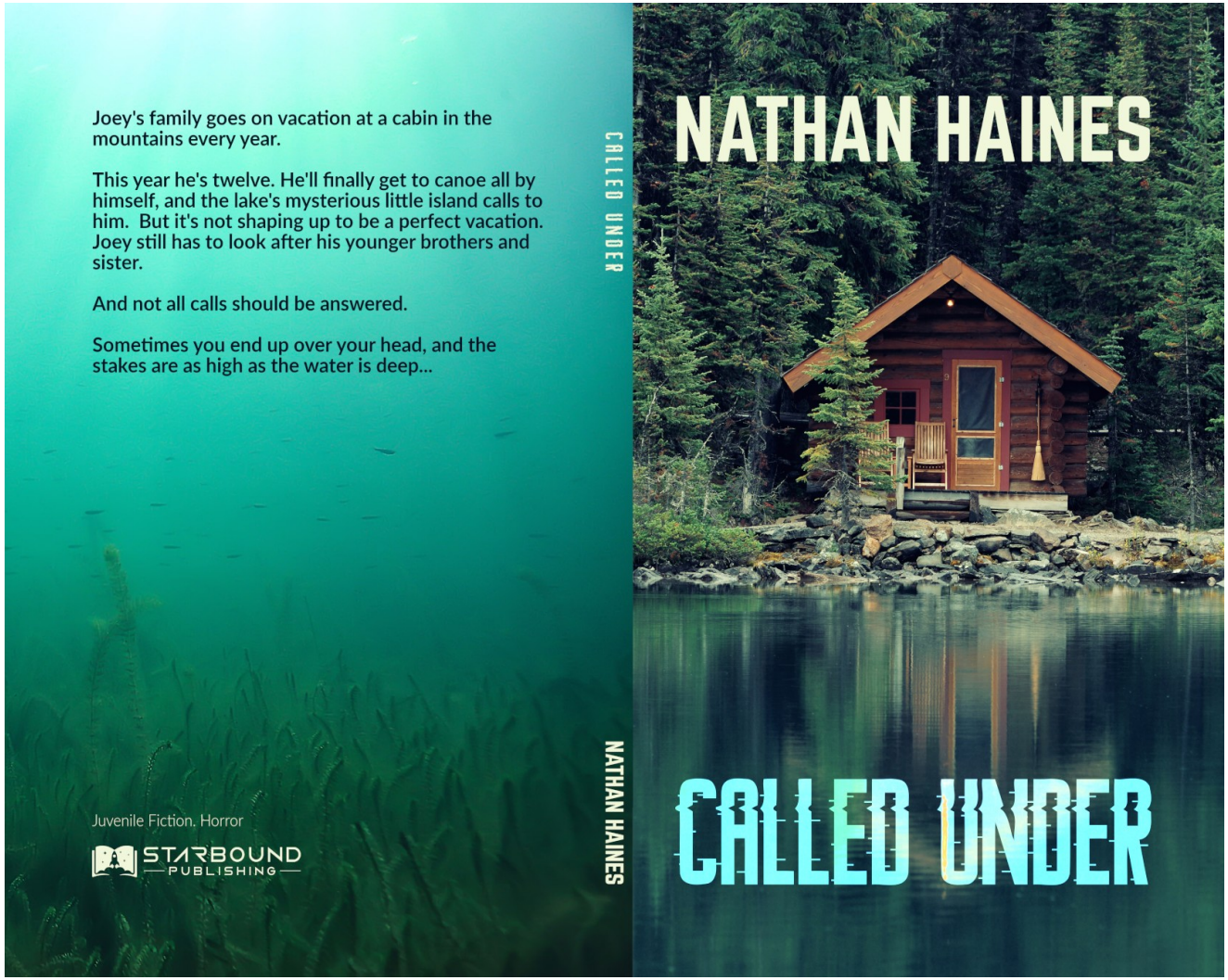
Finished cover



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Publishing a print book

- Publisher takes care of this step
- Print-On-Demand prints PDF files
  - Amazon KDP Print
  - IngramSpark
  - Draft2Digital Print?

Publishing an ebook

- Most ebook stores accept Word or EPUB
  - Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing
  - Nook Press
  - Apple Books
  - Draft2Digital

Digital Rights Management

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

Questions?