(Approx. 1259)

## E-books

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Although still small in comparison to print versions, the market share of e-books is growing, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-book>. In particular, the printed technical manual is disappearing, and when you purchase equipment, the printed material covers little more than its power switch and the URL where you can download detailed information. If open-source software has a manual, it’s available only on-line or as a downloadable e-book. Not surprisingly, the largest commercial e-book vendor is Amazon, and Barnes & Noble also has a substantial stock. Many print magazines are also available in lower-cost electronic form.

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Figure 1. Calibre Opening Screen.

Figure 2 shows an EPUB book open, with its table of contents displayed on the left. You click on the “X” icon at the top right of the panel to close it.



Figure 2. EPUB Book Open for Reading.

You can right-click any time on a page to display the menu shown in Figure 3. This is available only for books in EPUB or similar formats; in particular, it’s not available for PDF books.



Figure 3. EPUB Book Menu.

One of the advantages of EPUB and similar formats is that you can change the font size to suit your screen size and vision. Figures 4 and 5 show the same passage with different font sizes. Note that the line lengths have adapted, and you don’t have to scroll horizontally.



Figure 4. Passage in Normal Font.



Figure 5. Same Passage in Larger Font.

Calibre uses your default PDF viewer for such files, and this may provide some advantages. For example, Figure 6 shows an e-book with a note I’ve attached (highlighted with yellow). Normally you see only the small icon to the upper left of the note and display the note by selecting the icon. (Selecting the “x” at the note’s upper right hides it.) This feature is not available in Calibre when reading books with EPUB and similar formats.



Figure 6. Note Added to a PDF Document.

Also note the page thumbnails displayed in the left panel, which help you navigate through the book. Some PDF books have a table of contents, but you normally have to scroll to their starts to see it. Fortunately, you can make a bookmark to return to your reading.

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