

# Ascii-Diagram v0.1

## User Manual

### Aim

Ascii Diagram is an editor for drawing diagrams inside text file.

Its main feature is the ability to modify diagrams which have been saved as text files.

The current version is usable, but more a proof of concept than anything else.

### Main Features

- Copy/Paste to and from plain text
- Attach lines to squares
- Usual features: Open/Save using internal format, Undo/Redo, Resize, Move...
- Swing and SWT versions

### Quick how to

#### ***Export / Import from plain text***

To save the diagram as a text file, select all the elements and copy them into the clipboard. Then open a text editor and paste. The diagram will appear as normal text, and you can modify it.

To edit the diagram contained in a text file, open your text file, select all the area containing the diagrams and copy it into the clipboard. open ascii-diagram, and paste the clipboard. Ascii-diagram will parse the text and attempt to recognize the elements, and you edit them.

#### ***Attach Line to square***

Resize or move a line close to a square, so one of the end of the arrow touches the square border, i.e. the green square should be on the square border.

Click on the green square, a red # appears, which indicate that the line is attached. Now move or resize the square. The line will be resized automatically so that it stays glued to the square.

Note: when creating a new line, the program will attach automatically each end of the line if it is on the edge of a square.

#### ***Add text in the square***

Simply doubleclick on the square

# A complete example

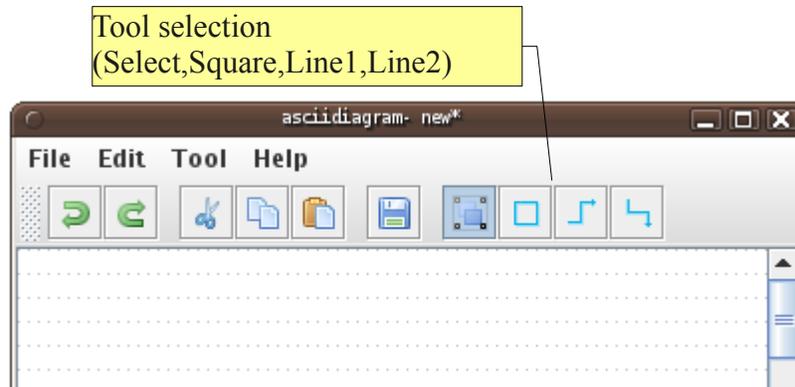
## Launch the program

You need java installed to run this program.

Double click on the jar file: `ascii-diagram-0.1.jar`

Alternatively from the command line do

```
java -jar /...path../ascii-diagram-0.1.jar
```



This will launch the Swing interface. (To launch the SWT interface, which has the exact same features, download the source code).

## Create a rectangle with text

First, click on the Square tool,



Drag an area on the canvas to create a square



Double click on the square, a dialog box for editing the text will appear.

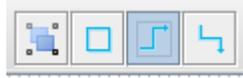
To move the square, click on the select tool, and drag the square from its center area.

To resize the square, click on the select tool, and drag the square from one of its connector (the green squares)

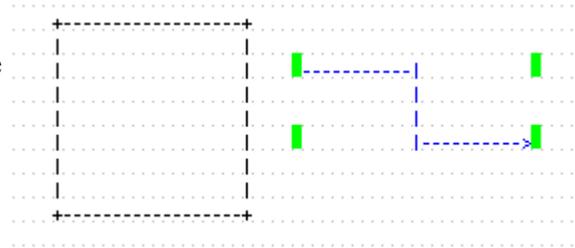
Note: you can also resize and move items without having to switch to the select tool. Simply click once before on the item you would like to move/resize.

## Create a line

Click on one of the Line tools,



As for squares, drag an area on the canvas to create a line

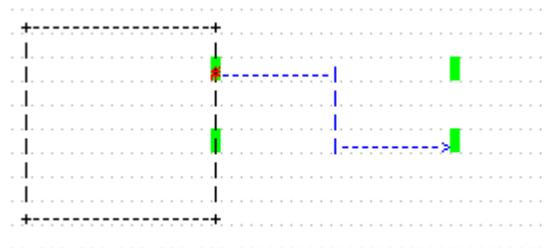


## Attach the line

Now click on the center area of the line (i.e. anywhere but the corners) and drag the line so it touches the square

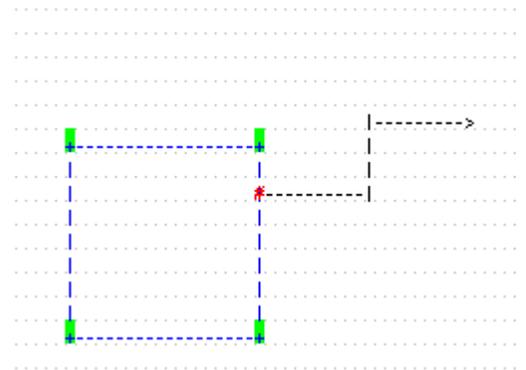


Click on the green corner where the line is in contact with the square



Now the line is attached to the square. To demonstrate it, click on the square to select it, and then drag the square somewhere else. (Or click on the select tool, and then drag the square away)

When you release the drag, the line will be automatically resized.

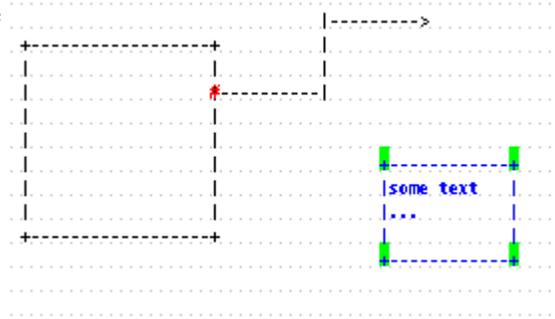


To detach the line, simply click on the attached end of the line.

Note: when a new line is created, the program will attempt to attach it automatically.

## Adding text

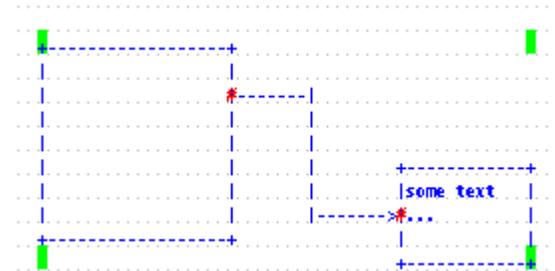
Now click on the Square tool, create another square, double click on the square and enter some text



Now click on the line and bring its free end to touch the new square, and attach it as described above.

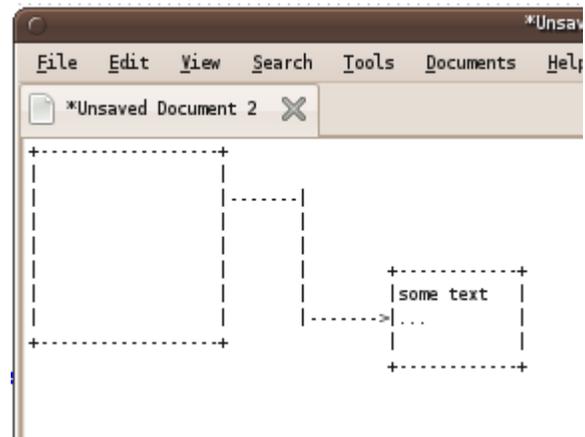
## Export to plain text

Select all the items. You can do this by either clicking on the select tool and dragging an area that contains all the items, or clicking on all items while holding down the SHIFT key.



Click on the Copy tool or press Ctrl-C.

Now open a plain text editor (e.g. gedit or notepad), and paste from the clipboard.



## Import from plain text

First of all we will modify the diagram in the text editor. This is just to demonstrate that the import works correctly.

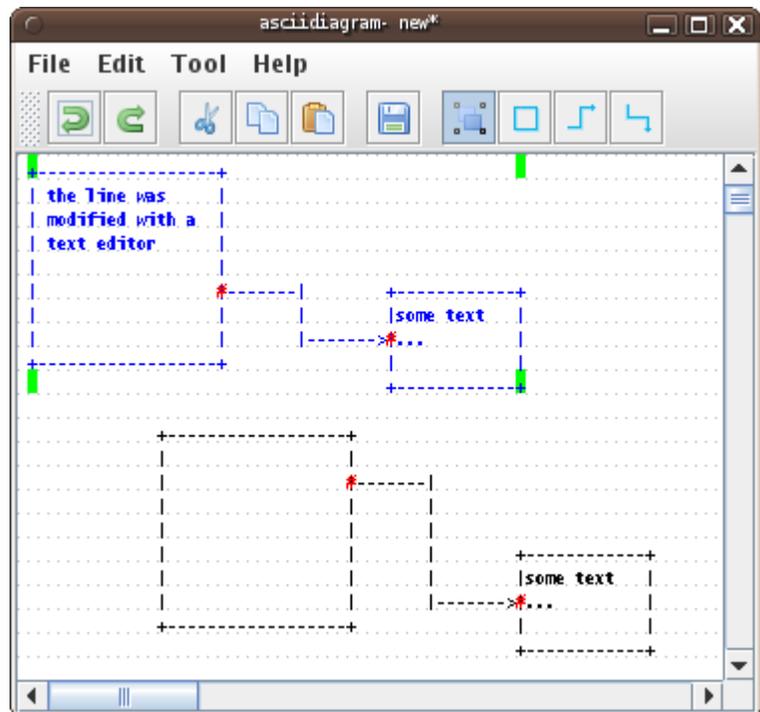
For example add some text in the main square or move the line.



Now select all the text from the text editor and copy into the clipboard

Back in the Ascii-Diagram program, click on the Paste tool, or press CTRL-V

The contents of the clipboard will appear on the top left corner, and you can manipulate them like the original items.



## **Todo**

- Eclipse plugin
- More arrow styles
- Parsing crossed arrows
- Free text

## **License**

GPL v3