

User Manual for Tulip IDE

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Abstract

This manual refers to CVS version equivalent to release version 0.3 of *Tulip* available on 2004-08-09. This manual has no licence for now by lack of knowledge of the different licence types available. You can thus do whatever you like with it as long as you keep the information contained within this abstract section. For any suggestions, please send a mail to tulip-english@codigolivres.org.br (to subscribe, go here: <http://listas.codigolivres.org.br/mailman/listinfo/tulip-english>)

Version of <i>Tulip</i> :	0.3
Main developer:	Pablo Dall'Oglio
Sponsors:	Solis- Free software cooperative
Author of this document:	Yannick Warnier
Date:	2004-08-09
Origin:	https://codigolivres.org.br/docman/?group_id=739

Introduction

Tulip is an IDE (*Integrated Development Environment*). Integrated into what? Into your system. It is a very useful tool when it comes to *PHP* programming, to the same extent as the product sold by *Zend* (very active company in the *PHP* development market) and some *Eclipse* extensions and even more products. Useful but also really fastening thanks to its auto-completion function. It will spare you a lot of time by avoiding the need to check the *PHP* documentation.

But *Tulip* also offers three valuable advantages

- it is free (as in no cost)
- it is written with *PHP-GTK*
- it is free (as in freedom)

What does all this mean? Let's look at these three advantages more closely now...

Free as in no cost

Tulip is free. That means you can download it, try it, with its full fonctionnality, and then decide if you want to keep it or not. You don't like it? Just uninstall it (mainly until today you just have to erase the *Tulip* files). You want to keep it? Just do it! It's up to you to decide what you want to do, without spending a penny, whatever your choice. But keep in mind that this software is provided under the GPL licence, so you can't either pursue us if it doesn't work or didn't do what you expected.

How can that be? *Tulip* is developed by *PHP* developers just as you. By people who need this valuable tool. They have no interest in selling it because this requires a lot of time, work and knowledge that they don't have right now, for a benefit which probably isn't worth it.

The question isn't relevant whatsoever. The tool is developped by those who need it. As a matter of fact, you can help us, whether by programming with us, or by sending us bug reports, if you find some. To send us bugs, use the *codigolivre* interface here:

https://codigolivre.org.br/bugs/?group_id=739 (or on the mailing-list) so you can handle this easily and we can treat them quickly.

PHP-GTK

The fact that this application has been written with *PHP-GTK* allows you, *PHP* developer, to easily modify it to make it fit your needs. Many of you won't benefit from this opportunity, but if one day you need it, you'll understand how important and beneficial this is.

Free as in freedom

And after all, the most important thing is that code change is possible, legally and easily. The fact the application source code is free (see licence) allows you to do almost **WHATEVER YOU WANT** with it. To be sure that what you want is allowed by the licence, please read it carefully. A link to the licence (available on the internet) is in most of the files of *Tulip*, as in the starting file for the application: *tulip.php*.

Not only can you modify the source code because it is available clearly in *PHP*, but it is also legal and welcome!

The interface

When you start *Tulip* for the first time, and after you have selected your preferred language and layout, you will see a screen similar to the one on *Illustration 1*. It is a really common screen for a development environment. You will remain in this environment all the way through your *Tulip* experience.

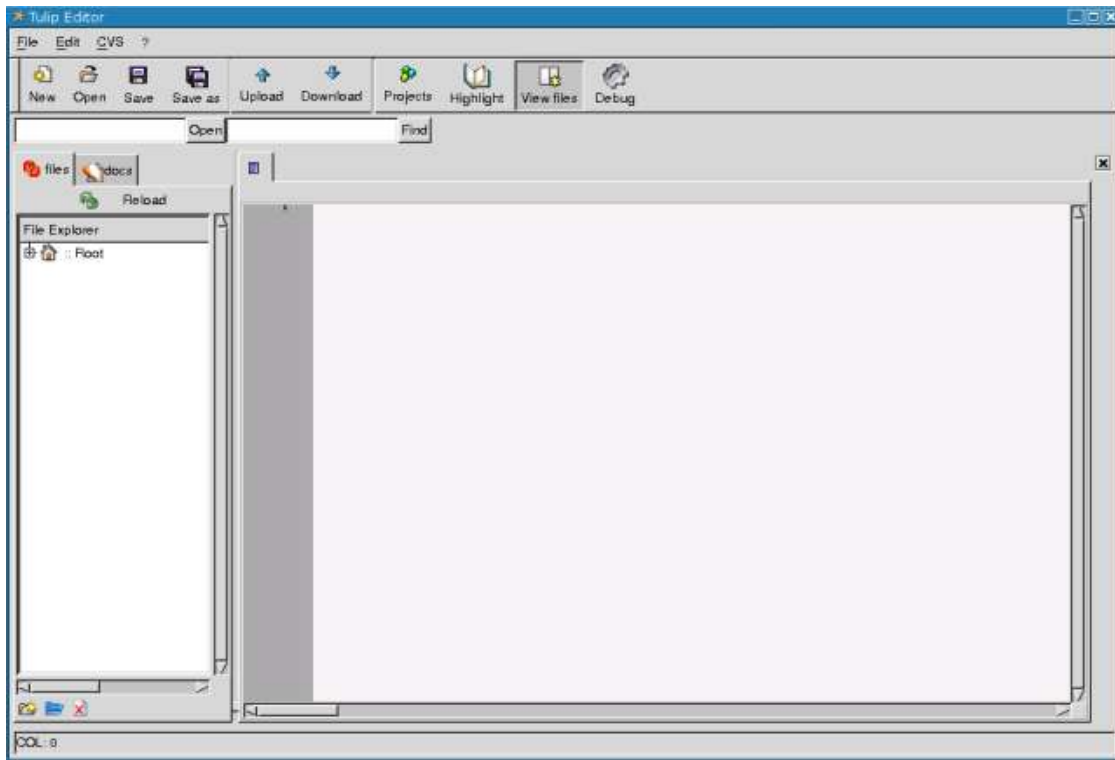


Illustration 1 - Main screen

As you can see by yourself, the interface is split into five distinct parts. From top-left to bottom-right you will find the *menus*, the *toolbar*, the *search bar*, the *file tree* and finally the *edition zone*. There is a last part remaining at the bottom, which is a *status bar*. We will not see this one in much detail. All you need to know is that it sometimes displays information on your position in the *edition zone*.

The menus

File Menu

It offers you classical options, but let's go through them quickly...

<i>New</i>	Opens a new file in the <i>edition zone</i> .
<i>Open</i>	Opens an existing file in the <i>edition zone</i> .
<i>Open Recent</i>	Opens files which have been opened recently within <i>Tulip</i> .
<i>Save</i>	Saves changes in the file open in <i>edition zone</i> .
<i>Save as</i>	Saves changes in the current file under another file name.
<i>Save Workspace</i>	Saves all files currently open in the <i>edition zone</i> .
<i>Reload</i>	Refreshes the content of the currently opened file, to get a more up-to-date version if it has been modified from outside.
<i>Close</i>	Closes the file currently open in the <i>edition zone</i> .
<i>Quit</i>	Quits <i>Tulip</i> . This action is associated with the saving of changes in all open files.

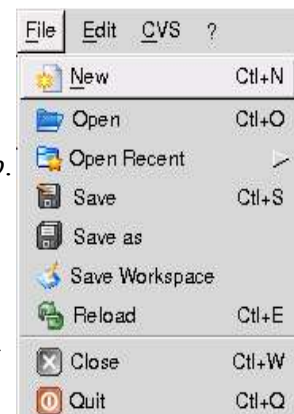


Illustration 2 - File Menu

Edition Menu

This menu contains many features since version 0.3.

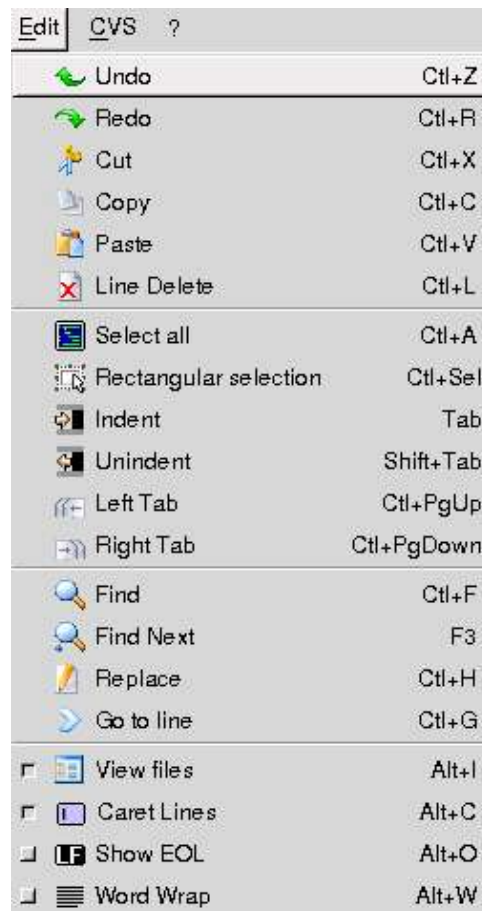


Illustration 3 - Edition Menu

<i>Undo</i>	Cancels the last change in the changes stack on the files open in <i>edition</i> zone.
<i>Redo</i>	Cancels last cancelling.
<i>Cut</i>	Cuts a piece of text and places it in memory buffer for later use.
<i>Copy</i>	Copies a piece of text to memory buffer for later use.
<i>Paste</i>	Pastes the buffered text where the cursor is now.
<i>Line Delete</i>	Deletes the current line (that is the line on which the cursor is).
<i>Select all</i>	Selects all text in the current open file.
<i>Rectangular selection</i>	Selects a rectangular zone defined by the user by dragging the mouse from upper left to bottom right.
<i>Indent</i>	Indents (moves right) the current line or the selection of one small tabulation.
<i>Unindent</i>	Unindents (moves left) the current line or the selection of one small tabulation.
<i>Left tab</i>	Focuses on the nearest left tab (file) in the <i>edition</i> zone.
<i>Right tab</i>	Focuses on the nearest right tab (file) in the <i>edition</i> zone.
<i>Find</i>	Opens a search window for text search in the current text.
<i>Find next</i>	Looks for the next occurrence of the text input with the <i>Find</i> option.
<i>Replace</i>	Replaces all occurrences of a string by a new string (window opening). Doesn't ask for confirmation (but you can undo), does all the replacements in one step.
<i>Go to line</i>	Gets you straight to the specified line (number).
<i>View files</i>	Activate/deactivate the <i>filetree</i> zone display.
<i>Caret lines</i>	Activate/deactivate the current line highlighting
<i>Show EOL</i>	Activate/deactivate special formatting characters (End Of Line) display.
<i>Word wrap</i>	Activate/deactivate word wrapping (passing to the next line on the screen when the

line is longer than the screen width allows.

CVS Menu

The *CVS* menu offers you options reserved for *CVS* (discussed later).

- New* Create a new entry in the *CVS* repository set for the current project.
- Update (will be changed to Commit soon)* Commits the current file to *CVS*.
- Delete* Deletes the current file from *CVS*.

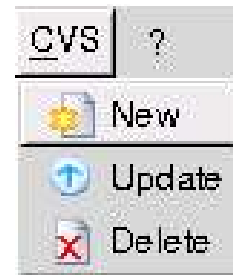


Illustration 4 - CVS Menu

Help menu



Illustration 5 - Help menu

The *Help* menu gives you two options...

- About* Displays the information relative to *Tulip* development.
- View Docs* Displays the documentation of a *PHP* function (window opening to enter function name).

Toolbar

The first part of this buttons zone (toolbar) are shortcuts for menu commands. Let's have a better look at the others.

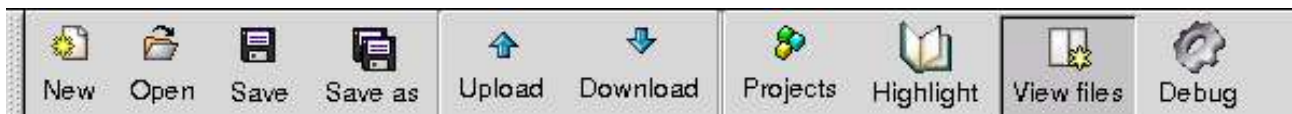


Illustration 6 - Toolbar

- Upload* Send the current file on the *FTP* server set up for the current project.
- Download* Download a file from the *FTP* server set up for the current project.
- Projects* Open the project parameters window.
- Highlight* Send the current code to visualise in a browser window.
- View Files* Activate/deactivate the *Filetree* zone.
- Debug* Execute the current file with *PHP* command line interpreter, to allow for quick debugging.

Text zone

The text zone is the one where the files are displayed to allow editing. Remember that once the text file has been opened in *Tulip*, a new file is created at the same place as the original file, with a *.tulip.lock* header. That means if you opened *myfile.php*, there will be a new *.tulip.lock.myfile.php* file created temporarily until you close the file in the *edition* zone. This file is used to know whether a file is already open by you or by someone else using *Tulip*.

```

1  Tulip Editor
2  Copyright (c) 2003 Solis Lajeado/RS - Brasil
3  Licensed under GPL: www.gsf.org for further details
4  Site: http://tulip.solis.coop.br
5  Abstract: A PHP coding editor
6
7  Started in January 1, 2004
8  Author: Pablo Dall'Oglio (pablo@solis.coop.br; pablo@php.net)
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Illustration 7 - Edition zone

We distinguish several useful parts within this zone, parts which's usage seem pretty straightforward.

Tabs

The tabs define the set of files currently open. When a file has been modified since its opening; it is ended by a *, so as to remind you that it must be saved. The little 'x' at the right end enables focused file (tab) closing.

Under the tab bar, we can also see, written right in the middle, the complete path of the current file.

Margin

The margin indicates the line number of every line in the file.

Edition zone

The *edition* zone is the one in which you can modify the text. Please note the syntax colourisation due to the *PHP* code interpreter (I think this is the job of *Scintilla*), and the highlighted line that indicates where is your cursor.

The filetree zone

Finally, the *filetree* zone (on the left when it's activated) allows the rapid location of the files in use.

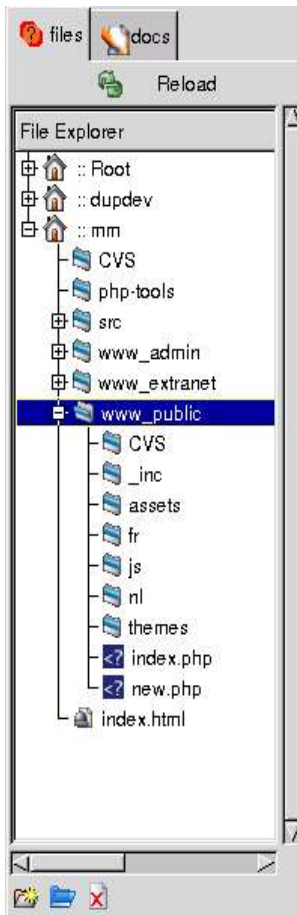


Illustration 8 - File tree

It uses the projects definitions to display parallel trees. You will then have a tree starting from *Root*, that is the root of your file system (*/* under UNIX/Linux and generally *C:* under *Microsoft Windows*), and other trees of which the root is the base directory containing the project you defined. The names of these trees are the same as the corresponding projects names.

When you click a file in the tree, it will automatically open in the *edition* zone on the right (and thus open a new tab). A *reload* button at the top of the tree zone allows to refresh the filetree content. Be aware, however, that this operation as for version 0.4 closes all trees.

The buttons at the bottom edge allow respectively to create a new directory, open a directory (you can do that on clicking on it) and delete a file or a directory.

A confirmation window will make sure your request is not an error before deleting a file (you delete it for real, not only in the project definition).

Projects

Projects, what for?

What is the use of a project? Why not edit the files in the base filetree directly?

There are multiple answers.

First, a project enables the isolation of a limited number of files to make them easily accessible in the filetree. But this answer is far from being a good one.

Second, and this is the major advantage, a project enables the setup for a particular directory (the minimal project unit in *Tulip*) of an *FTP* and/or database and/or *CVS* server connection. Those pre-defined connections will allow you to use the shortcut buttons to synchronise your files or look at the database.

Opening a new project

To open a new project, click on the *Projects* button in the toolbar. A new window pops up. Fill the fields you are interested in (you have to fill at least a name and a base directory) and click *Save*.

Close the window and go back to the filetree... you have a new project there!

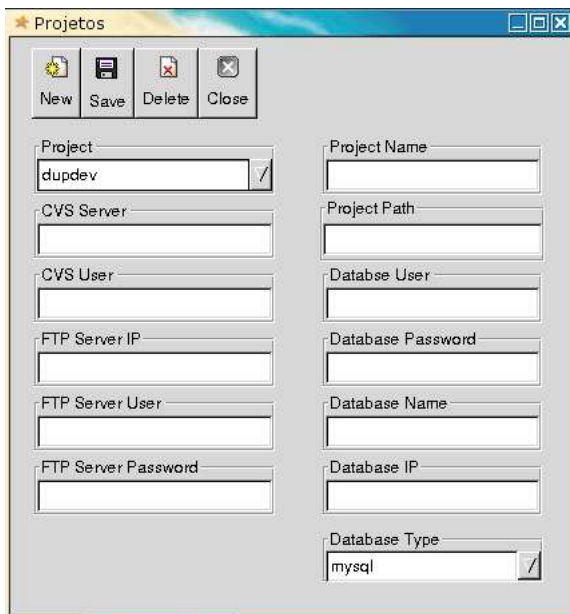


Illustration 9 - Projects window

Change active project

To change the current project, simply click on another project in the filetree. Or if you don't have any, just create a new one.

Save a project

To save a project (save all modifications on the files), there is no real solution currently. You have to save every file before closing it (or else it will ask you what to do) or you can save the whole set of files by using the *Save Workspace* option in the *File* menu.

Close a project

To close a project, simply change the active project. To remove it from the setup go to the *Projects* window, select the project and click *Delete*.

CVS

CVS is an application versionning management tool. It allows to work on the same development with other people, keeping a modifications history. If you don't know *CVS* but want to use it, it is necessary that you read the documentation to understand its behaviour. You also need a server (that currently needs to be configured as *pserver* to work with *Tulip*). For more information, please read <http://www.gnu.org/software/cvs/manual/>.

Setup CVS

To setup *CVS* in *Tulip* is done at the *projects* level. That means you need to have a project setup to be able to configure its *CVS* connection parameters. In the *Projects* window, fill in the different fields needed (server address, login, password). You should be able to use the option in the *CVS* menu right away...

As for version 0.4, you cannot use all the *CVS* commands from within *Tulip* (like tag the current version or use *cvs update* to get newer version of the files on *CVS*).

Databases

Databases form an important part of the dynamical websites nowadays. To ease the development that use a database, *Tulip* comes with a feature allowing a connection to a database. You have to set it up in the *Projects* window, and then the database is added to your project's filetree. As for now, only two database management systems are handled by *Tulip*. They are both free (with a slight licence limitation for *MySQL*), their names are *MySQL* and *PostgreSQL*.

If *MySQL* is much more aimed at being a professional database management system, *MySQL* is nevertheless far more popular (mainly because it was once much easier to get hands on it for newbies).

Tulip allows you to configure one database connection by project and then to use the tables right from *Tulip* itself. There are numerous features and its power is not limited as you can execute any kind of *SQL* statements directly on those tables.

Database connection

The connection to a database is done at the project activation. The database then appears in the projects hierarchy, as if it was a new directory. Clicking on it will deploy the tables list.

Management interface

As shown in the following illustration, the database interface is quite flexible and allows an extended use of this database.

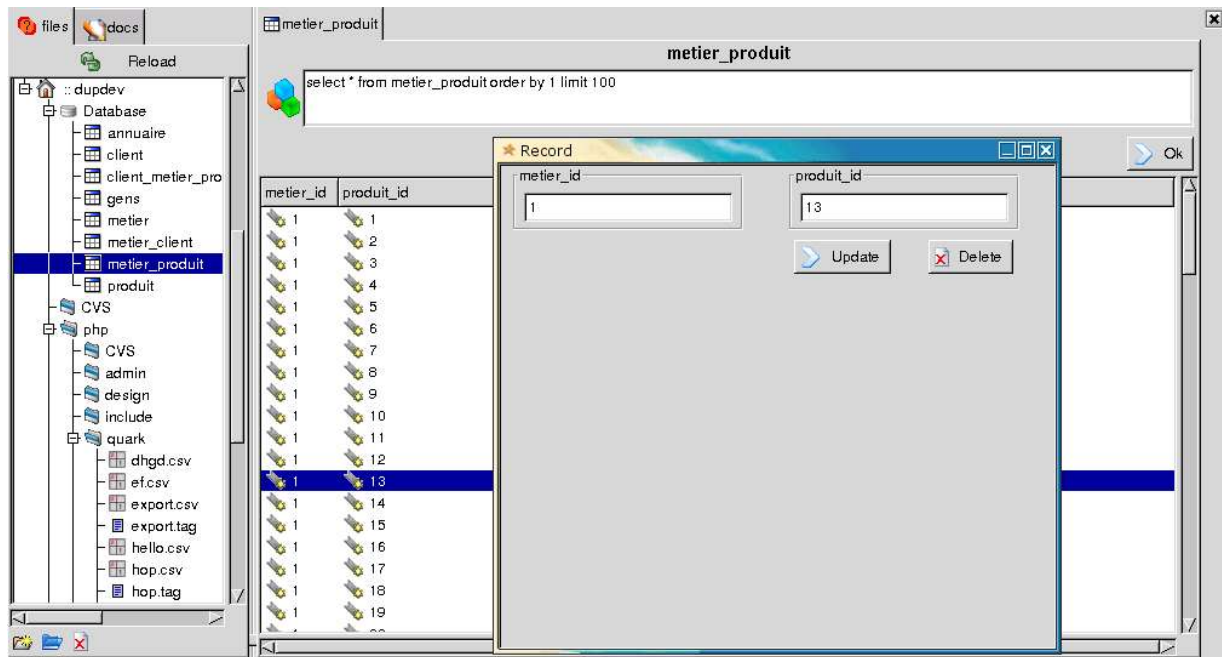


Illustration 10 - Database window

When clicking on a table, its details are being displayed in a new tab in the *edition* zone. You can launch an *SQL* request from there at once.

When clicking on a table line, a new window pops up with details about the row that has been clicked. You can modify the row values if you like.

The changes are really done to the database. It is important to be sure of what you're gonna do before doing it. There is no need to save the changes, those changes are made in the database so they don't need no save or any other operation to take effect.

FAQ

- Q: Where may I find a documentation more up-to-date (for a newer *Tulip* version) ?
- R: Always check here https://codigolivres.org.br/docman/?group_id=739 or on the *Tulip* website (<http://tulip.solis.coop.br/us/index.php>) if there is no newer manual. The english version is more likely to be more up-to-date than the others, as it is the base to other translations.
- Q: Some features explained here don't work on my system. How is this possible?
- R: This manual is made for *Tulip* version as on the CVS server on 13th August 2004. It is possible that the official version is not 100% fonctionnal. If you like to do things by yourself, go take the last version here https://codigolivres.org.br/cvs/?group_id=739. Otherwise, just be patient, the next release won't be long...