
Editorial Comments

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T_EX Live: a CD-ROM for Unix

Through the efforts of Sebastian Rahtz and many others, sponsored by TUG, the UK T_EX Users Group and GUTenberg (the French T_EX users), with help from NTG (the Dutch T_EX users), the CD *T_EX Live* was launched in Paris at the end of May.

This CD contains a ready-to-run T_EX setup — Thomas Esser's *teTeX*, based on Karl Berry's *Web2c*. There are binaries for ten different Unix platforms, plus archived packages of the GUTenberg Mac, DOS and Windows distributions, as well as the sources and a comprehensive (and carefully catalogued) set of macro packages and documentation.

The CD is arranged according to the T_EX Directory Structure layout, as described in the report from the TUG TDS Working Group (*TUGboat* 16 (4), pp. 401–413).

More details, and ordering information, can be found at <http://www.tug.org/tex-live.html>. If you don't have WWW access, get in touch with the TUG office for details (e-mail to tug@tug.org, other contact information inside the front cover of this issue). The price is very modest, and all profits from sales go back to fund new versions of the CD, and to TeX-related development projects.

teTeX has been getting excellent reviews from users writing to `comp.text.tex`, and the *T_EX Live* packaging provides a most convenient format.

CTAN update

After various trials and tribulations, the CTAN maintenance crew has removed the contents of the T_EX archive from `ftp.shsu.edu` and removed that address from the list of maintained CTAN sites. (A current list can be had by requesting

```
finger ctan@ftp.dante.de
or finger ctan@ftp.tex.ac.uk
```

At present, the recommended site in the U.S. is `ftp.cdrom.com` on the West Coast. This site is a full mirror of the Cambridge site in the U.K. The root directory of the T_EX portion of this archive is `/pub/tex/ctan`. This site does not currently support the “quote site index” option to search for particular file names, but for frequent users of the archive, the file `FILES.byname` in the T_EX root area can be retrieved and searched for specific locations. This file is refreshed every night, so is a reliable resource.

Negotiations are underway to establish another primary CTAN site in the U.S.; developments will be reported in upcoming issues.

The new `ltugboat.cls`

We are pleased to announce the availability of a new L^AT_EX 2_ε documentclass for *TUGboat* as well as a guide to its use; the latter appears in this issue under the authorship of Robin Fairbairns.

The documentclass has been constructed in the proper manner as a `tugboat.dtx` file with an associated `.ins` file to install it. These two files can be obtained from CTAN in the area `macros/latex/contrib/supported/tugboat/`, and are to be considered “official”. The old `ltugboat.sty` file that occurs in various subdirectories at CTAN (apparently this has been a popular format for promulgating package documentation) should not be used to prepare items for submission to *TUGboat*.

Beta versions of this documentclass have been used to produce the last several issues of *TUGboat*, including the proceedings of TUG 96. We believe that it is well behaved when used with most existing L^AT_EX 2_ε packages, but have obviously not tested all possibilities first-hand.

Of course, if the item you intend to submit to *TUGboat* is breaking new ground outside of L^AT_EX, the plain-based `tugboat.sty` (and `tugboat.cmn`) is still available: `macros/plain/contrib/tugboat/`; the user's guide is in `digests/tugboat/tubguide.tex`.

Copies of any of these files will be sent on request if you don't have internet access.

Frequently asked questions about T_EX

It has long been a custom of network newsgroups to compile a FAQ, or list of “frequently asked/answered questions”, to be consulted by newcomers to the list in order to avoid covering the same ground over and over again. The T_EX community is no different in this regard, although it's perhaps a bit harder to find a current FAQ for T_EX than for other groups. (The old version in the place where these files are usually located is seriously out of date, and not currently maintained.)

The best FAQ in English is the one put together by a working party of the UK T_EX Users Group. It can be obtained as a file ready to print from CTAN in `usergrps/uktug/faq.newfaq.ps` intended for A4 paper, and `letterfaq.ps` for U.S. lettersize paper. Alternatively, it can be searched interactively with a Web browser, at <http://www.cogs.sussex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/textfaq2html>.

A FAQ with a German slant is maintained by DANTE; it too is available from CTAN, in the area `usergrps/dante/de-tex-faq/`, or from the Web, <http://www.dante.de/dante/dante-faq.html>.

A French FAQ concentrates on L^AT_EX. It is posted monthly to `fr.comp.text.tex` and can be accessed via the Web from `http://www.loria.fr/tex/divers.html` (L^AT_EX Navigator) or by ftp from `ftp.inria.fr/in/faq/comp.text.tex/FAQ_LaTeX_francaise`.

Pointers to other useful FAQ collections about T_EX are welcome—I'll see that links are installed from the Web pages at both TUG and AMS.

Books about T_EX, books prepared in T_EX, and other bibliographies

It's time for another reminder about the extremely useful collection of bibliographies in BIBT_EX form compiled by Nelson Beebe. These comprise lists of publications *about* T_EX, publications prepared *using* T_EX, the complete contents of *TUGboat* (recompiled from the *TUGboat* tables of contents after every issue), and many, many other computer-related topics. They can be found at `ftp.math.utah.edu` in the directory `pub/tex/bibtex` or via the Web at `http://www.math.utah.edu/~beebe/#bibliographies`.

T_EX output from a Web browser — Techexplorer

From IBM comes a plug-in hypermedia browser for viewing (L^A)T_EX documents via Netscape Navigator on Windows 95 or Windows NT — Techexplorer. The current version is available at no charge from the IBM web site, `http://www.ics.raleigh.ibm.com/ics/techexp.htm`.

Robert Sutor, of IBM's Watson Labs, is the team leader for the product. He answers questions and sends regular reports to the list `techexplorer@listserv.nodak.edu`; they're well worth reading. To subscribe, send a message to `listserv@listserv.nodak.edu` with one line in the body:

SUBSCRIBE TECHEXPLORER your first and last names

Techexplorer does not use `dvi` files or META-FONT fonts; it dynamically renders T_EX markup when it arrives, and uses the fonts available on the user's machine for the special symbols. If you're a PC user (or even if you're not — Unix support is being "actively investigated"), check it out!

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