Late-Breaking News

Production Notes

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I feel a little bit like the White Rabbit in “Alice...” — “I’m late! I’m late!...”

Once again, production of this issue entailed considerable “beta testing” of software on quite a few different platforms located here at the Supercomputer Computation Research Institute (SCRI) at Florida State University — in preparation for the next release of the TeX Live CD-ROM. I might add that working with the new software ranged anywhere from very satisfying to completely exasperating, with not a few hilarious exchanges between myself and Sebastian Rahtz, who is working on the TeX Live setup here at SCRI. While he was compiling on the various platforms, the systems people were busy upgrading the systems, and so we had a wonderful mixture of compiled programs, only to begin again the next day. Oh, we also suffered a security breach and the system was closed to all users for 24 hours, and to remote users for three days!

This issue contains two articles which were presented at TUG’97 — the pdftex manual by Hán Thế Thành, and “The \LaTeX3 Programming Language — a proposed system for \TeX macro programming”, by the \LaTeX3 project members.

Output The final camera copy was prepared at SCRI on the following UNIX platforms: IBM rs6000’s running AIX v3.2.5, v4.1.4.0, and v4.2; DEC Alphas running alpha-osf3.2 and alpha-osf4.0; SGI workstations running mips irix5.3 and mips irix6.2; and an HP workstation running hppa1.1-hpux10.10, using the TeX Live setup (Version 3), which is based on the Web2c TeX implementation version 7.2 by Karl Berry and Olaf Weber. PostScript output at 600dpi, using outline fonts, was produced using Radical Eye Software’s dvipsk 5.76a, using the dvips -Pcms option and printed on a QMS 860 printer.

Coming Next Issue

TUG and the UKTUG are preparing a new TeX Live CD-ROM, with an anticipated release date of April, 1998. We currently plan to delay shipping the March issue of TUGboat so that this CD can be included in the issue.

We expect to present a couple of METAPOST articles in the next issue — the long awaited manual on “\METAFONT: practical and impractical applications” by Boguslaw Jackowski, and an article by Denis Girou entitled “\texttt{pst-fill}’: a PSTricks package for filling and tiling areas”. We hope to set the whole of the next issue of TUGboat in EM fonts, and to publish technical details about the package.

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