ProTeXt, a new \TeX\-Collection for Beginners

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Abstract

One of \TeX\'s largest strengths is embedded in the high modularity of the program. Beside the processor itself, every \TeX\nican might use the Editor, Post-Processor-Program, etc. he prefers most. For beginners or only interested person this advantage can lead to difficulties, especially in times, where users have gotten accustomed at "complete environments".

ProTeXt shows a way, how even Beginners can easily setup a complete running system and therefore it eliminates one of the main obstacles in using \TeX.
The year 2005 – the whole world seems is occupied by M$-Wordians.

? Really the whole world?
▶ According to our experience there are still some TeX interested individuals
! And lately they become even more…

Compared to the mainstream users named above, the coming TeX-user suffers from a handicap which usually is an advantage, i.e.:

✔ A complete TeX-environment is highly adjustable to the user’s needs. Everybody can choose the editor, TeX-engine, postprocessing tools, … she/he likes best.

✗ Unfortunately most “rookies” are no more accustomed to such conditions, because “modern software” claims an “All-in-One”-Status.

The “Furthermore you also need” situation

Lets imagine someone asks you, how to find an entrance in TeX. So you’ll point him to
▶ an easy to install TeX-implementation…
▶ … an easy to use editor to compose his texts…

✔ … additional information and How-To’s to learn the way TeX works…
▶ …

! As to us, most “someones” give up between the items 2 and 3 and fade…
A picture of this situation

If the goal is something like this...

...we'll have to provide a starting-kit to let our “someone” enter the game.

What is actually needed?

Depending on our experiences (and therefore included in \texttt{pro\TeX}):

- An easy to install \TeX{}-implementation for \texttt{Windows}

  \begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{MiK\TeX} \end{itemize}

- A simple to use editor with hooks to \TeX{}

  \begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{WinEdit, TeXnicCenter} \end{itemize}

- Postprocessing tools like Ghostscript and GSView


- A short description how to combine these things!

What could/should be changed in future releases?

- Which editor ist the easiest/the best?

- Is there a free graphical frontend for Ghostscript?

- Are there any volunteers to translate the Install-Doc into additional languages?

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