Die TeXnische Komödie 2008/2–2009/2

Editor’s note: Die TeXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TeX user group (http://www.dante.de).

DTK 2008/2

Christine Römer, PSTricks for linguistic texts

PSTricks offers to all areas of linguistics the option to illustrate the relevant phenomena according to the usual “factual” practice. Many ways to new concepts of rich visualization are opened. The use of macros in the PSTricks family is advantageous compared to that of single linguistic packages. When a package, like pst-jtree, is particularly designed for linguistics the act of writing is clearly minimized because of specific shortcuts. Hopefully this article with its examples of use can motivate bringing into the PSTricks family further linguistic packages.

Dominik Waßenhoven, Managing your bibliography with BibLaTeX (part one)

This article gives an overview of the BibLaTeX package BibLaTeX in two parts. Part one focuses on how to use BibLaTeX, with an emphasis on the differences and the advantages as compared with standard BibTeX. Part two, which will be published in the next edition of DTK, shows how to create your own styles for both citations, and bibliographies. As BibLaTeX provides a wealth of opportunities, no attempt is made to give an all-comprehensive introduction. Please refer to the package documentation.

Michael Stötzel, A web based data base for central template management with IATEX connection

Writing letters in perfect form with IATEX is no mystery. But what to do when one wants centrally managed templates which are filled-in with distinct data from a data base? A central web server with PHP and MySQL can help out with this cumbersome task.

DTK 2008/3

Ulrike Fischer, First steps with XhLaTeX

The following article gives a brief (at least it was brief at the beginning) introduction to using XhLaTeX with the IATEX format (“XhLaTeX”).

Uwe Ziegenhagen, Document management with IATEX and Subversion

Version control systems provide quite a number of advantages to programmers and authors in their daily work. Collaboration in a team is simplified drastically, as the laborious and error-prone exchange of files via FTP or e-mail is dropped. Older versions of a file can be restored without problems, and joining different versions is simplified. Another advantage that should not be underestimated is the possibility to create backups “in passing”. Subversion is a modern version control system running on all common platforms and requiring not much time to become acquainted with configuring and using it. This article describes the usage of Subversion with IATEX. It will be explained how to install and configure it on Windows and Linux systems. Finally, some packages will be discussed which facilitate a convenient integration of information provided by subversion into IATEX.

DTK 2008/4

Dominik Waßenhoven, Managing your bibliography with BibLaTeX (part two)

In part two of this introduction to the BibLaTeX package, an example from the humanities is chosen to illustrate how to create your own citation and bibliography styles. As BibLaTeX provides a wealth of opportunities, no attempt is made to give an all-comprehensive introduction. Please refer to the package documentation. The article is based on BibLaTeX 0.7, while version 0.8 has been released in the meantime.

Uwe Siart, An introduction to BibLaTeX for managing your bibliographies

Although BibLaTeX has been available for managing your bibliography for many years, using it still causes trouble for most IATEX users. I constantly receive BibLaTeX databases containing severe syntax errors. Drawing from the kind of errors I have come across, users seem not to have attained even a basic understanding of how BibLaTeX works. This article provides a brief practical introduction to the BibLaTeX system, urging new users to drop a document-related approach of managing your bibliography in favour of a more generally-minded one, while advanced BibLaTeX users can revise their general command of the system.

DTK 2009/1

Stanislav Jan Šarman, DEK shorthand script with METAFONT and IATEX

This article presents Text2DEK, a METAFONT and IATEX-based web application which reproduces German text as “Verkehrschrift” shorthand notes. By using the example of “DEK” stenography is outlined and afterwards it is described how to model in METAFONT shorthand characters that interconnect, giving shorthand glyphs for words (stenemes?),
which is described in a meta language that implements them in \texttt{METAFONT} as characters. A delineation of the system architecture and an abstract of shorthand history and systems completes the article.

[See also the author’s article in \textit{TUGboat} 29:3.]

HÀN THẾ THÀNH, TrueType fonts for pdf\TeX

[Published in this issue of \textit{TUGboat}.]

PHILIPP H. POLL and MICHAEL NIEDERMAIR, The “Linux Libertine” font and \texttt{XƎTeX}

The article shows in a historical digest how the font “Linux Libertine” evolved, which thoughts, ideas, etc., were integrated, and its potential when used in \texttt{XƎTeX}.

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Conference management with \texttt{BTeX}

To organise events like conferences, congresses, or workshops requires a whole set of bills, lists of participants, name badges, and other documents. \texttt{BTeX} provides for all these sorts of document types suitable class files, and via the package \texttt{datatool}, by Nicola Talbot, access to CSV (comma separated values) files is made possible. This article uses a fictitious example to describe the various packages and their interrelation.

DOMINIK WAGENFÜHR, Compilation of periodicals with \texttt{BTeX}

\texttt{BTeX} can set many documents. In particular, of course, scientific papers, but letters or presentations are also no problem. This article will show that it even can compile a PDF magazine and, above all, how recurring problems can be solved.

ADELHEID GROSS, The package todonotes

Some time ago the idea came up of presenting a continuing series of smaller (\texttt{BTeX}) packages which either could be helpful or just for fun. This article will deliver an insight into the scope of application the use of \texttt{BTeX} brings.

GERD NEUGEBAUER, Fooling with \TeX\ logos in HTML

Although \TeX\ and friends can produce almost perfect results in the print area they could not make their breakthrough on the Web. So still many sites exist created with HTML. Writing about \TeX, automatically the question arises how to set the logo best. This article will give some answers to this.

DTK 2009/2

NORBERT PRENING, \TeX\ Live 2008 and \TeX\ Live Manager

\TeX\ Live 2008 was the first release of \TeX\ Live that came with a new program called \TeX\ Live Manager, or \texttt{tmlmgr} for short. \TeX\ Live Manager takes care of some tasks hitherto covered by \texttt{texconfig}, which itself has never been available for Windows. It also brings a number of new features to \TeX\ Live, including a long-standing demand for continuous online updates of the entire \TeX\ distribution. This article presents the new \TeX\ Live installer called \TeX\ Live Manager, and describes some more news in \TeX\ Live 2008.

ROLF NIEPRASCHK, Installing \TeX\ Live on Linux

In addition to Norbert Preining’s article on \TeX\ Live in this issue of DTK, this article describes how to install \TeX\ Live on Linux. It also gives some advice on how to use this \TeX\ distribution. The author deals with openSUSE in particular, but as Linux/Unix platforms are very much the same, his presentation can be drawn upon by users of other platforms as well.

STEFAN KOTTWITZ, \TeX\ Live on netbooks under Ubuntu Linux

Netbooks, or mini notebooks, equipped with up-to-date hardware are becoming ever more popular, as they are quite portable, yet performing sufficiently for working with (\texttt{B})\TeX\ efficiently. Most models are shipped with the now obsolete operating system Windows XP. So, this article deals with Ubuntu Linux and \TeX\ Live 2008 as a dual boot system, offering a Free alternative.

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Counting words in \texttt{BTeX} documents

In most word processors, it is quite easy to have the number of words and paragraphs counted. Some \texttt{BTeX} editors such as Kile also offer this feature on mouse-click. However, apart from Kile and its brethren we rely on external tools for this, some of which will be presented in this article.

HERBERT VOß, Converting colour graphics to grayscale

In most word processors, it is quite easy to have the number of words and paragraphs counted. Some \texttt{BTeX} editors such as Kile also offer this feature on mouse-click. However, apart from Kile and its brethren we rely on external tools for this, some of which will be presented in this article.

ROLF NIEPRASCHK, Additional cutting edge

If a document is printed on professional printing machines, it can be a problem when the page has a color area which runs to (bleeds off) the border of the document. In such a case the color border should be a little bit greater to be sure that when the pages are trimmed, there are no white lines.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]