Die \TeXnische Komödie 4/2011–1/2012

Die \TeXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language \TeX user group (http://www.dante.de). [Editorial items are omitted.]

Die \TeXnische Komödie 4/2011

MANUEL PÉGOURIÉ-GONNARD, Attribute und Farben [Attributes and colors]; pp. 24–49

We take a look at attributes, a \LaTeX exten-
sion, and their use for implementing colors. After explaining the underlying concepts and the \TeX and Lua interfaces we provide a short overview of the basics behind the classical color implementation in \LaTeX and its shortcomings. We then show how these shortcomings can be solved using attributes. We also show that attributes can be used for other needs, not just colors.

ARNO TRAUTMANN, Das Paket chickenize – Spaß mit Node-Manipulationen in \LaTeX [The chickenize package — fun with node manipulations in \LaTeX]; pp. 50–57

[Translation published in this issue of TUGboat.]

DIRK HÜNNIGER, Ein Programm zur Konvertierung von Artikeln der Wikipedia nach \LaTeX [Converting Wikipedia articles to \LaTeX]; pp. 58–60

For various reasons it would be nice to be able to generate a \LaTeX file from a Wikipedia article. Manual conversion is elaborate and prone to errors. Therefore a compiler has been developed and made publicly available for Windows and Linux. Furthermore, the source code has been published under an open license. The tool is also used for projects such as Wikibooks.

PETRA RÜBE-PUGLIESE, Aktuelle experimentelle deutsche Trennmuster unter Debian-\TeX Live [Up-to-date experimental German hyphenation patterns for Debian \TeX Live]; pp. 61–65

In this article we explain the installation of the latest German hyphenation patterns on Debian.

PHILIPP LEHMAN, Zu den Nachteilen von \Bib\TeX [On the disadvantages of \Bib\TeX]; pp. 66–67

When we discuss the disadvantages of \Bib\TeX there are two main topics:

1. \Bib\TeX and \Bib\TeX8 assume that a character is represented by one byte. This however does not apply to UTF-8 where for certain characters more than one byte is used.

2. It is not just UTF-8 but Unicode in general as the comprehensive standard for encoding characters and many associated topics such as sorting.
One of the questions that comes up from time to time is what the ‘roadmap’ is for \LaTeX3 development. While there is not an official plan, I certainly have some ideas on what I’d like to see addressed in a concrete way. This is all rather flexible, but I’ll try to outline some areas for attention.

Herbert Müller, Berichtigung zu »Von \pageref zu \hyperpage« [Corrections to the article “From \pageref to \hyperpage”]; pp. 71–72

[Letter to the editor with corrections.]

Die \TeXnischen Komödie 1/2012

Agnieszka Okońska, \LaTeX für Juristen [\LaTeX for attorneys]; pp. 6–12

The search for the perfect solution from a user’s point of view. While \LaTeX is commonly used for creating scientific papers in the natural sciences or in economics its use in other areas of science is still rare. To members of these disciplines \LaTeX may offer advantages as well, especially to attorneys.

Herbert Voß, Datumsfunktionen mit Lua\TeX [Date functions with Lua\TeX]; pp. 13–19

With pdf\LaTeX the current date can be printed using the macro \today without any problems; for printing the time, one may use the package \datetime (although this package does not supporting printing seconds). With Lua\TeX or Lua\LaTeX, however, one can use the date- and time routines of Lua, which allow easy formatting of date and time as well.

Herbert Voß, Multilinguale Texte mit Lua\LaTeX — ein Versuch [Multilingual texts with Lua\LaTeX — An experiment]; pp. 20–27

The \TeX flavor \Omega (Omega) was developed to overcome \LaTeX’s restrictions and to allow using 16-bit fonts. The successor of \Omega was \Aleph (Aleph), which provided a first step to the general use of Unicode. \Aleph is not under development any more since with Lua\TeX there is a successor that allows multilingual texts in a way that has not been possible with \TeX before. In this article the author describes his experience concerning writing multilingual documents with Lua\TeX.

Wolfgang Beinert, Typographischer Punkt [The typographical point]; pp. 28–30

Point typographique, Didot-point, pica point, PostScript point … The “typographical system of units”, abbreviated as “point”, originally named as a “Point typographique”. The typographical point is the smallest unit of a typographical point unit system. It was named in the mid-18th century in France for an asymmetrical system of measurement for uniform sizing of letters, font sizes, and distances.

Heiko Oberdiek and Herbert Voß, Index mit Fortsetzungsanzeige [Index with “continuation” signs]; pp. 31–32

Using fancyhdr or scrpage2 one can print the letter range of the index page in the header. But one has to invest quite a bit of effort if such a letter is a continuation from the previous page.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]