Die TeXnische Komödie 4/2019–1/2020

Die TeXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TeX user group (dante.de). Non-technical items are omitted.

Die TeXnische Komödie 4/2019

ESTHER BONHAG, SEBASTIAN BONHAG, JOHANNES HIELSCHER, NILS PICKERT, Don Knuth’s 80. Geburtstag — oder: Wie der Erlanger TeX-Stammtisch auf Polarexpedition ging [Don Knuth’s 80th birthday — or: How the Erlangen TeX User Group went on a polar expedition]; pp. 11–19

It all started the day when Donald E. Knuth had his 117th birthday. Triggered by this event HeiseOnline had published an article on the hexadecimal dollar of Don Knuth. As usual this article made Sebastic continue reading in Wikipedia and Don’s homepage, where a presentation held by Knuth, “A Possibly Swedish Pipe Organ Fantasy”, on the next Friday at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm was announced.


The TeX Users Group meeting for the 40th birthday of TeX gave me the opportunity to go to California. In this article I present impressions from this trip.

FALK ZSCHIELE, DANTE e.V. auf den Kieler Open Source und Linuxtagen [DANTE at the Kiel Open Source and Linux Days]; pp. 27–31

When DANTE e.V. asked for someone to take care of their booth at the Open Source and Linux days in Kiel, a mere three weeks had passed since the DANTE folks had managed to help me significantly when I visited their booth in Sankt Augustin. This showed me how important personal relationships were even in our digital world, and convinced me to follow their call to Kiel.

JOHANNES HIELSCHER, Kirchheim „unter TeX“: Die DANTE-Herbsttagung 2019 [Kirchheim “unter TeX”: The DANTE Autumn Event 2019]; pp. 32–33

Besides the members meeting led by Martin Sievers, the focus of this event was the activities sponsored by DANTE. Doris Behrendt and Johannes Hielscher presented their impressions from the LATEX Village in the Chaos Communication Camp in Mildenberg, close to Berlin.

MATHIAS MAGDOWSKI, Personalisierte Aufgaben und passende Musterlösungen zu den Grundlagen der Elektrotechnik automatisiert mit LATEX, pgfplots und CircuiTiZ erstellen [Personalized exercises and solutions for electronic sciences, automated with LATEX, pgfplots and CircuiTiZ]; pp. 34–44

All students in our lecture on the basics of electronics receive their personal exercise via e-mail, can solve this manually and send their solution electronically for corrections. To reduce the effort for the lecturers, the students correct the exercises of their peers based on personalized solutions as well. The method is implemented in Matlab and, being highly automated, it also scales very well. Compared with multiple choice or number-unit exercises, the approach and calculations can be graded well. In this article we describe how the typesetting is generated in LATEX with pgfplots and CircuiTiZ.

HERBERT VÖSS, Erzeugung von animierten PDF-Dokumenten oder GIF-Dateien [Creating animated PDFs and GIF files]; pp. 45–52

The usage of TeX and company in schools is limited, unfortunately. But LATEX is very useful, with its packages covering nearly all possible aspects, in the creation of complex animated PDF files. In this article we show an application for use in senior math classes.

ULRIKE FISCHER, The package luaotfload: p. 53

The newest version of the luaotfload package allows one to “bolden” fonts artificially. This can, for example, be used to create bold math fonts for headlines, etc.

MARION LAMMARSCH, ELKE SCHUBERT, Reference sheet for a thesis with LATEX2ε and KOMA-Script: pp. 54–74

This LATEX Reference Sheet is for writing a thesis with one of the KOMA-Script document classes (scrartcl, scrreprt, scrbook) and all related packages that a thesis in the natural sciences may need. The source code and all parts are provided for creating your own version of a reference sheet, adapted to your personal needs.

Die TeXnische Komödie 1/2020

DORIS BEHRENDT, Tagungsbericht GuIT meeting [Conference report of the GuIT Meeting]; pp. 8–13

The 22th meeting of the GuIT (Gruppo Utilizzatori Italiani di TeX, the Italian TeX user group), took place in Turin on October 26, 2019. I visited the meeting on behalf of DANTE to deliver birthday greetings.
WALTER ENTERMANN, Lua\TeX\ und luamplib  
(Lua\TeX\ and luamplib); pp. 14–30

This article describes the embedding of METAPOST code for images in a \LaTeX\ document with the package luamplib and the engine Lua\TeX. This has the advantage that text and images are combined in one document and only one document has to be created, edited and maintained. The structure of this new innovative solution is presented and the commands are explained in detail and illustrated using examples.

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Diskussion um die Wiederverwendbarkeit von älteren Dokumenten  
(Discussion about reusability of old \LaTeX\ documents); pp. 31–33

At the end of January there was an interesting discussion on the internal mailing list for members of DANTE e.V. about the reusability of old \LaTeX\ files.

ALAN MUNN, Ein zweiseitiger Leitfaden für \LaTeX\-Pakete  
(A two-page guide to \LaTeX\ packages); pp. 35–36

This is a list of the packages that are in my opinion the most useful for writing papers and theses in linguistics. I have made no attempt to justify the choices, but I find almost all of these packages essential in my own work. The essential packages and the basic linguistics packages (relevant to your particular field) should probably be loaded in every document you write. Unless noted, all packages are part of \TeX\ Live.

ROLF NIEPRASCHK, Die Schriftfamilie JetBrains Mono  
(The font family JetBrains Mono); p. 37

The company JetBrains recently released the new Typewriter font JetBrains Mono under the free Apache 2.0 license. According to its statement, it is particularly good for displaying program source texts suitably.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]