



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 1 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

# Using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X to build an industrial-strength PDF-based imposition program

Martin Schröder

ms@artcom-gmbh.de

TUG'2001

August 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>, 2001



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

# 1. An introduction to imposition



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

# 1. An introduction to imposition

Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are large (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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Imposition means arranging pages on forms



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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- Marks (small images) also are put on the forms for



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are **large** (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)

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An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

# 1. An introduction to imposition

Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are **large** (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)

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  - Identification of jobs, pages and separations
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An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are **large** (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)

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  - Identification of jobs, pages and separations
  - Color proofing
  - Positioning of later steps like folding





An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are **large** (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)

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  - Identification of jobs, pages and separations
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- Objects can be rotated, normally by multiples of  $90^\circ$



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 2 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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Printing machines do not print single pages but forms that contain many pages (e. g.  $8 \times 20$ ), meaning these forms are **large** (e. g.  $2 \times 5$  m)

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  - Identification of jobs, pages and separations
  - Color proofing
  - Positioning of later steps like folding
- Objects can be rotated, normally by multiples of  $90^\circ$
- „Botteling” involves rotating single objects by small degrees (e. g.  $1^\circ$ )



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 3 of 18*

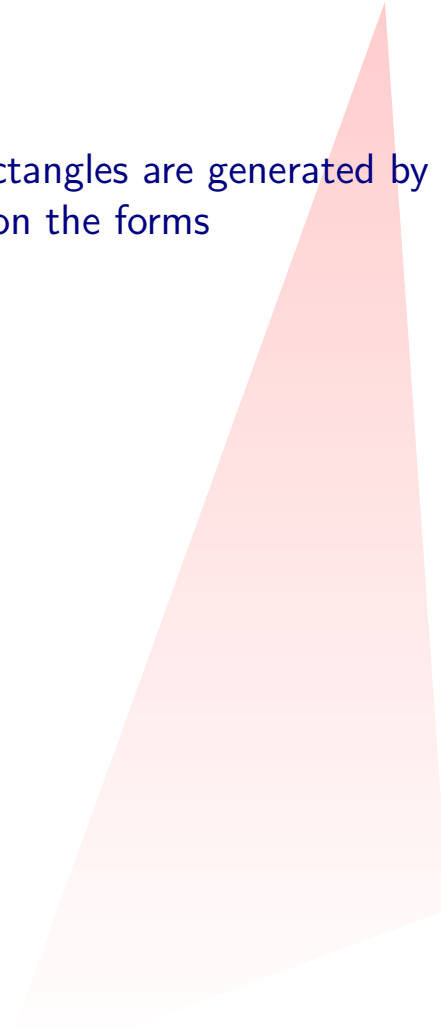
*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Colored rectangles are generated by the software and can be placed on the forms





*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 3 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Colored rectangles are generated by the software and can be placed on the forms
- In this case, color stands for CMYK or n channels (typically 8)



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 3 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Colored rectangles are generated by the software and can be placed on the forms
- In this case, color stands for CMYK or n channels (typically 8)
- As a result one large page contains a large number of both large and small objects



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 4 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

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ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 4 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms
  3. Place marks



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 4 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms
  3. Place marks
  4. Make corrections



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms
  3. Place marks
  4. Make corrections
  5. Export (generate pdf)



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms
  3. Place marks
  4. Make corrections
  5. Export (generate pdf)
- Input is composite PDF, output is also composite PDF



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

*Page 4 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
  2. Assign pages to forms
  3. Place marks
  4. Make corrections
  5. Export (generate pdf)
- Input is composite PDF, output is also composite PDF
- Separations are generated with a platesetter



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 4 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 2. Impose2000

ArtCom has developed an imposition program for PDF files: Impose2000.

- Runs under Unix (Linux, IRIX, Solaris) and X
- The workflow is:
  1. Generate overview images
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- Input is composite PDF, output is also composite PDF
- Separations are generated with a platesetter
- Objects can be placed on specific separations





An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a  $\text{\TeX}$ ...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 5 of 18

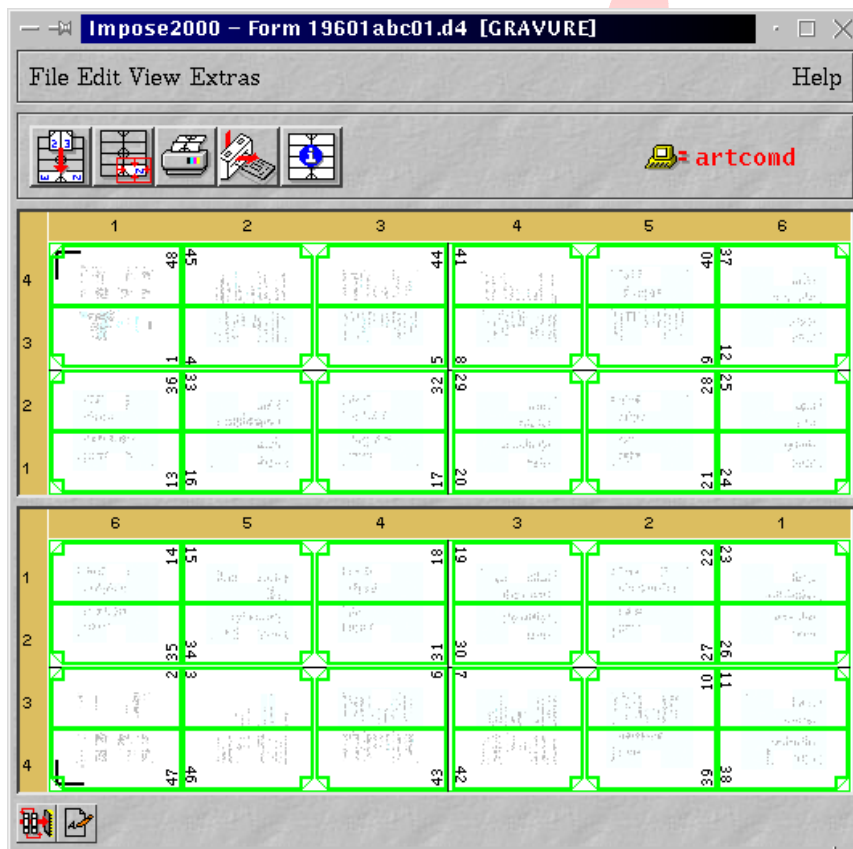
Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

A screenshot with a form:





### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 6 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 6 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 6 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files
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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 6 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files
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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 6 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files
- There are very few libraries that can read PDF
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An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 6 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files
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An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 6 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

### 3. Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

- We need an application for arranging and combining pages from PDF files
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- it is possible to produce arbitrary PDF-code with pdfT<sub>E</sub>X by using `\pdfliteral`





pdf $\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$  is the application we need, because it is

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdf $\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$ ?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a  $\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$ ...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdf $\text{T}_\text{E}\text{X}$*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

- portable



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

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- free and open-source (GPL)



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

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- portable
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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

- portable
- free and open-source (GPL)
- bug-free
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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

- portable
- free and open-source (GPL)
- bug-free
- stable
- scriptable



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

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- free and open-source (GPL)
- bug-free
- stable
- scriptable
- a batch processor



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

*Page 7 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is the application we need, because it is

- portable
- free and open-source (GPL)
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- a batch processor
- and we have the necessary skills (L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF) in-house





*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 8 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 4. Our intermediate format: LDL



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 8 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 4. Our intermediate format: LDL

The information from the form-export, on which pdfT<sub>E</sub>X runs, is stored in an intermediate file, which is in our internal format: the Layout Description Language (LDL)



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 8 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 4. Our intermediate format: LDL

The information from the form-export, on which pdfT<sub>E</sub>X runs, is stored in an intermediate file, which is in our internal format: the Layout Description Language (LDL)

- An LDL describes one form



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 8 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 4. Our intermediate format: LDL

The information from the form-export, on which pdfT<sub>E</sub>X runs, is stored in an intermediate file, which is in our internal format: the Layout Description Language (LDL)

- An LDL describes one form
- The dimensions of the form are specified



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 8 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 4. Our intermediate format: LDL

The information from the form-export, on which pdfT<sub>E</sub>X runs, is stored in an intermediate file, which is in our internal format: the Layout Description Language (LDL)

- An LDL describes one form
- The dimensions of the form are specified
- For each object there is a transformation matrix and a clipping matrix



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 9 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 5. Transforming an LDL into L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: LDL2PDF



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 9 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL





An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- The file names of images must be converted for TeX



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- The file names of images must be converted for TeX
- The base of the TeX-file is a header-file



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- The file names of images must be converted for TeX
- The base of the TeX-file is a header-file
- It is a header-file and not a package because



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- The file names of images must be converted for TeX
- The base of the TeX-file is a header-file
- It is a header-file and not a package because
  - it is a real header-file



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 9 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 5. Transforming an LDL into $\text{\LaTeX}$ : LDL2PDF

The LDL is not directly consumed by pdfTeX but instead a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  file is generated which is processed by pdfTeX.

- Input is an LDL
- Output is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- The file names of images must be converted for TeX
- The base of the TeX-file is a header-file
- It is a header-file and not a package because
  - it is a real header-file
  - it is easier to maintain than a package (it is at a fixed position relative to the the binary and we do not need to hassle with kpathsea)



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 10 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- The „user“-part of the generated file



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 10 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- The „user“-part of the generated file
  - is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X





*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 10 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- The „user“-part of the generated file
  - is L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X
  - uses logical markup



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 10 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

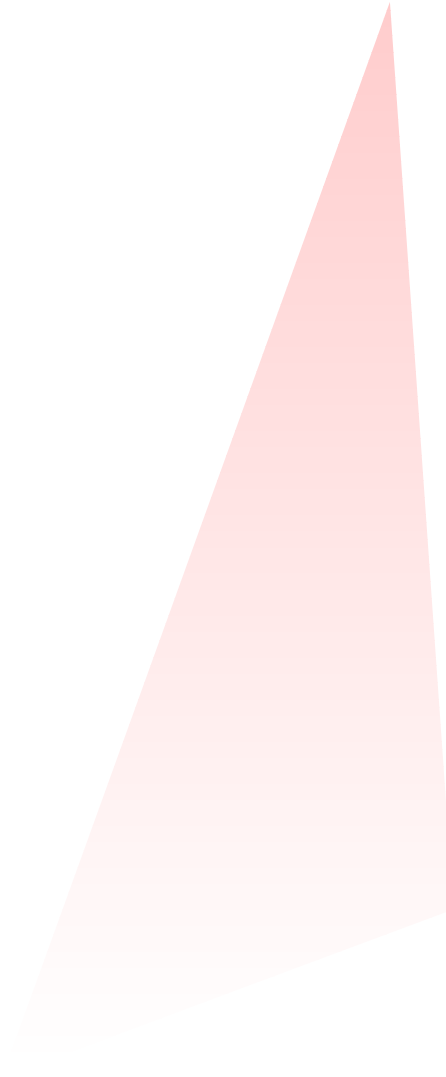
*Close*

*Quit*

- The „user“-part of the generated file
  - is  $\text{\LaTeX}$
  - uses logical markup
  - uses the keyval-package so we can easily add and remove arguments in later releases



An example:



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 11 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 11 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

An example:

```
1 \ACGeometry{papersize={59.400000000cm,42.000000000cm}}
2 \begin{document}
3 \begin{ACForm}{formwidth=59.400000000,
4               formheight=42.000000000,
5               forminfo={/Creator (ArtCom I2K)
6                         /Author (ArtCom I2K)
7                         /Title (form1)}}}
8 \ACimage{%
9   file=./T101794artcom8.pdf, pageno=8,
10  imagetopage={0.000000000 29.703889062 ... },
11  geotopage={0.000000000 21.000000000 ... },
12  geotopageinvert={0.000000000 -0.033670034 ... },
13  }%
14 \ACimage{ ... }%
15 ...
16 \ACimage{ ... }%
17 \end{ACForm}
18 \end{document}
```



## The implementation of these macros

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize





*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  and PDF
- uses  $\text{\LaTeX}$  for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package
- uses a picture-environment for fixing the position of objects



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package
- uses a picture-environment for fixing the position of objects
- uses \pdfliteral for constructing PDF-objects



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of T<sub>E</sub>X and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package
- uses a picture-environment for fixing the position of objects
- uses \pdfliteral for constructing PDF-objects
- allows the definition of separation colors



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 12 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of  $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$  and PDF
- uses  $\text{\LaTeX}$  for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package
- uses a picture-environment for fixing the position of objects
- uses `\pdfliteral` for constructing PDF-objects
- allows the definition of separation colors
- allows the generation of cropmarks, descriptions and labels



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 12 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

The implementation of these macros

- is a mix of TeX and PDF
- uses L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X for the page-dimensions and option-handling
- uses the geometry-package for setting the pagesize
- handles options with the keyval-package
- uses a picture-environment for fixing the position of objects
- uses \pdfliteral for constructing PDF-objects
- allows the definition of separation colors
- allows the generation of cropmarks, descriptions and labels
- makes \pdfimage \immediate (this is needed because we have a large number of images on one page and normally \pdfimage keeps an image open till \shipout)



## 6. Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 13 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 13 of 18

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 6. Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution

We have to distribute pdfT<sub>E</sub>X embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a T<sub>E</sub>Xlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd





An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 13 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 6. Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution

We have to distribute pdfT<sub>E</sub>X embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a T<sub>E</sub>Xlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd

- We started from T<sub>E</sub>Xlive



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 13 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 6. Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution

We have to distribute pdfT<sub>E</sub>X embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a T<sub>E</sub>Xlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd

- We started from T<sub>E</sub>Xlive
- We need binaries for Linux 2.0 (SuSE/Red Hat), IRIX 6.2 and Solaris-SPARC 2.5



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 13 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 6. Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X distribution

We have to distribute pdfT<sub>E</sub>X embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a T<sub>E</sub>Xlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd

- We started from T<sub>E</sub>Xlive
- We need binaries for Linux 2.0 (SuSE/Red Hat), IRIX 6.2 and Solaris-SPARC 2.5
- The RPMs for SuSE are too old; teT<sub>E</sub>X is also too old (we need an up-to-date pdfT<sub>E</sub>X)



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 13 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 6. Setting up a TeX distribution

We have to distribute pdfTeX embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a TeXlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd

- We started from TeXlive
- We need binaries for Linux 2.0 (SuSE/Red Hat), IRIX 6.2 and Solaris-SPARC 2.5
- The RPMs for SuSE are too old; teTeX is also too old (we need an up-to-date pdfTeX)
- Since our platforms are old we have to generate the binaries by ourself



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfTeX?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a TeX...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfTeX

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 13 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 6. Setting up a TeX distribution

We have to distribute pdfTeX embedded into our software to systems where it will be installed, but we do not want to ship a TeXlive cd – all our software must fit on one cd

- We started from TeXlive
- We need binaries for Linux 2.0 (SuSE/Red Hat), IRIX 6.2 and Solaris-SPARC 2.5
- The RPMs for SuSE are too old; teTeX is also too old (we need an up-to-date pdfTeX)
- Since our platforms are old we have to generate the binaries by ourself
- The distribution should be as small as possible



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 14 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Our installation must not interfere with a given T<sub>E</sub>X-installation, but of course it has to be at a fixed place relative to the ArtCom-Software



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 14 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 14 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Our installation must not interfere with a given T<sub>E</sub>X-installation, but of course it has to be at a fixed place relative to the ArtCom-Software
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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 14 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

- Our installation must not interfere with a given T<sub>E</sub>X-installation, but of course it has to be at a fixed place relative to the ArtCom-Software
- Our installation keeps its binaries at bin/, not bin/\$PLATTFORM/ – the ArtCom-installations are not multi-plattform
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- We want to handle this distribution with CVS



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 15 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 7. Enhancing and fixing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 15 of 18

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 7. Enhancing and fixing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

We found some problems with pdfT<sub>E</sub>X, which we fixed or avoided:



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 15 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 7. Enhancing and fixing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

We found some problems with pdfT<sub>E</sub>X, which we fixed or avoided:

- We tried the TIF-inclusion but found that it is only useful for grayscale or RGB images. We are dealing with CMYK or n-color images, so this feature is useless for us



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 15 of 18

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 7. Enhancing and fixing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

We found some problems with pdfT<sub>E</sub>X, which we fixed or avoided:

- We tried the TIF-inclusion but found that it is only useful for grayscale or RGB images. We are dealing with CMYK or n-color images, so this feature is useless for us
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X did not handle the /Rotate attribute of included images; it does now



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 15 of 18

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 7. Enhancing and fixing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

We found some problems with pdfT<sub>E</sub>X, which we fixed or avoided:

- We tried the TIF-inclusion but found that it is only useful for grayscale or RGB images. We are dealing with CMYK or n-color images, so this feature is useless for us
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X did not handle the /Rotate attribute of included images; it does now
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X always used the /CropBox of included images, but our software expects the /MediaBox; you can now specify the pdf page box pdfT<sub>E</sub>X shall use



## 8. Tools we developed

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 16 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



## 8. Tools we developed

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X can not do everything we needed, so we developed some tools for internal use:

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 16 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*





*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 16 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 8. Tools we developed

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X can not do everything we needed, so we developed some tools for internal use:

- Marks and images that are not PDF must be converted to PDF. This is done either with the help of a RIP or by a Java-program



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 16 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 8. Tools we developed

pdfT<sub>E</sub>X can not do everything we needed, so we developed some tools for internal use:

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*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfTeX?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a TeX...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfTeX*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 16 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 8. Tools we developed

pdfTeX can not do everything we needed, so we developed some tools for internal use:

- Marks and images that are not PDF must be converted to PDF. This is done either with the help of a RIP or by a Java-program
- Color names and color spaces must be synchronized between all included images. This is done by a Java-program
- Colored rectangles must be generated with n colors. This is done by a Java-program



## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 17 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 17 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 17 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 17 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
- The support for pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is incredibly good





An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
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An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
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- Hacking pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is complicated



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
- The support for pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is incredibly good
- Documenation for T<sub>E</sub>X is good; the system-documenation of pdfT<sub>E</sub>X could be better
- Hacking pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is complicated
- Importing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X into CVS is not trivial but can be done



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page

◀◀

▶▶

◀

▶

Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
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- Hacking pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is complicated
- Importing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X into CVS is not trivial but can be done
- RIPs are a problem



An introduction to...

Impose2000

Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?

Our intermediate...

Transforming an LDL...

Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...

Enhancing and fixing...

Tools we developed

Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

Conclusion

Home Page

Title Page



Page 17 of 18

Go Back

Full Screen

Close

Quit

## 9. Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X

- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is fast
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is reliable
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is extremely flexible thanks to `\pdfliteral`
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- Hacking pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is complicated
- Importing pdfT<sub>E</sub>X into CVS is not trivial but can be done
- RIPs are a problem
- pdfT<sub>E</sub>X is a very good choice for creating and manipulating PDFs, especially in an industrial environment



# 10. Conclusion

*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

*Conclusion*

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 18 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

**Conclusion**

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 18 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 10. Conclusion

Impose2000 is available for offset and gravure printing.



*An introduction to...*

*Impose2000*

*Why did we chose pdfT<sub>E</sub>X?*

*Our intermediate...*

*Transforming an LDL...*

*Setting up a T<sub>E</sub>X...*

*Enhancing and fixing...*

*Tools we developed*

*Experience using pdfT<sub>E</sub>X*

**Conclusion**

*Home Page*

*Title Page*



*Page 18 of 18*

*Go Back*

*Full Screen*

*Close*

*Quit*

## 10. Conclusion

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