

Dear Friends of T_EX,

If you believe in squeezing every last bit of value from your resources, then you might be interested in T_EX and its future development.

Ahead of its Time

You may already know about T_EX and some of its offspring, such as L^AT_EX, pdfT_EX, ConT_EXt, and even Lollipop. T_EX and its descendants are totally free typesetting software packages for mathematical, scientific, technical and general publishing, plus, increasingly, for everyday office work. They are to typesetting and publishing what space research is to industry in general. T_EX and its derivatives are usually well in front of the leading edge when it comes to high quality typesetting and publishing software.

An Alternative to Word Processing and Desktop Publishing

T_EX is a text processing tool for all modern operating systems. The basic user interface is any text editor plus several command-line typesetting programs. Free extended applications — such as LyX and T_EXmacs — provide realtime formatting, similar to commercial word processors, but on multiple platforms.

The learning curve for T_EX is similar to that of the most widely-used word processors. T_EX documents can be simple or intricate. Once understood, T_EX is much more efficient than word processors, because T_EX does consistent formatting for every letter, article, report or manual. And the results are good to your eyes.

Increasingly, T_EX and its children are attracting enterprises, organizations and individuals who are dissatisfied with the high cost, excessive overhead, invasive licensing, weak security and questionable quality of commercial word processors and desktop publishing programs. Thousands of newcomers are learning and using T_EX or its offshoots for letters, fliers, posters, reports and books, plus more.

Solid, Supple and Portable Design

TeX has been stable software since the early 1980's. It runs on UNIX, Windows and Macintosh systems. Documents you create on one operating system easily transfer and produce the same beautiful output on any other operating system with T_EX installed. And, the results are better than most commercial typesetting software.

Also, because of its adaptable design, T_EX integrates smoothly with other text management and publishing technologies. For example, T_EX works well as a typesetting backend for XML and as a content development frontend for HTML.

Totally Free, Not One String Attached

TeX is free. It costs enterprises and users nothing other than installation and training time. Also, unlike promotional freeware and trial software, T_EX comes in only one level of quality — high, very high. T_EX is arguably the best typesetting software available. To illustrate this, several software developers now incorporate T_EX technology into their commercial publishing systems, some costing \$700-a-seat and more.

Annual TUG Meeting and Conference

T_EX is regularly being improved through the work of volunteers from various parts of the world.

Once a year, a sundry group of T_EX developers and users gather for face-to-face discussions. This conference is coordinated by the T_EX Users Group (TUG), a U.S. not-for-profit organization with members in 61 countries. Conference attendees evaluate the state of the tools and their applications. Typical topics include work flows, interfaces, fonts, printing, new technologies, howto's and case studies, among others. T_EX aficionados attend from around the world.

This year the annual meeting is July 20–24 in the Pacific islands of Hawaii. All are welcome; more information and registration at: <http://www.tug.org/tug2003>

Sharing the Corners of Your Fields

The T_EX conference for 2003 is celebrating 25 years of T_EX. This is a good time to make your enterprise known to the T_EX community by sponsoring the conference.

But T_EX is free. Right?

Correct! And we are committed to keeping it free.

All of us are volunteers and receive no financial compensation from our work with TUG. However, like many other organizations, we need funds to help support our collaborative development. We are not looking for \$700 per seat. Instead, we are asking for a small part of your tax-deductible giving. (See <http://www.tug.org/tax-exempt/> for information about our tax exempt status.)

We like to think of this as sharing the “corners of your fields”. *In some ancient cultures, the landowners harvested the center part of their crops, leaving the corners for others to take according to their needs.*

That is our need. Nothing more.

For you, it’s a opportunity to add to the value of your typesetting resources and to give something back to the T_EX community.

Now What?

All support helps. If you would like to donate \$1 or a \$1,000, please contact us through our:

secure web site: <https://www.tug.org/tug2003/donate/>
e-mail: office@tug.org
mail: T_EX Users Group
1466 NW Naito Parkway, Suite 3141
Portland, OR 97209-2820, USA
voice: +1-503-223-9994
fax: +1-503-223-3960

For donations of \$50 and more you can receive a copy of the T_EXLive CD. This CD includes T_EX installers for Windows, Linux, Mac OS X and several UNIX derivatives.

Also, please print and post or distribute the “sharing” poster:

<http://www.tug.org/tug2003/donate/texharvest.pdf>.

Please encourage others to support TUG.

Your support at any level makes a big difference to the future of T_EX. We need your help.

Hope to See You in Hawaii

We would also like to see you at the TUG conference. Please register at our

web site: <http://www.tug.org/tug2003/>

Sincerely,

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