A Quarter Century Of Naive Use 
And Abuse Of LaTeX

Alan Wetmore
alan.wetmore@gmail.com
OUTLINE

- Prehistory
- First Implementation
- Early Years
- Middle Years
- Recent Events
PREHISTORY 1970...1987

- MIT
- College Years
- Graduate School
Atmospheric Science LAB

BRL Aberdeen Visit

Installation:

- Compiling for HP-UX
- The Discovery

The University of Washington Unix Tape

- Compiling Again
- One Short Page, It works!
- TUG
Learning ...

- Reading LaTeX Source Code
- TUGBOAT
- comp.text.tex
- texhax digest

TUG Conferences 1990 .... 2014

- Roadblocks ... Guerrilla Typesetting
- Tweaking font bitmaps for different laser printer engines
- Exploring fonts \texttt{cmulctt}, tiling???
EARLY YEARS: PART THE SECOND

- Spreading the word
- Some Folks
  - “Get It”
- Others only think they do
- The rest don’t want to know

- Tried Literate Programming \texttt{fweb}
- But it wasn’t RAW FORTRAN
- X terminals and DVI Preview
- Saves lots of paper
- Real work starts migrating off of UNIX and onto PC’s
MIDDLE YEARS

- PC Implementations
  - Commercial PC Releases
  - “Free” PC Versions
- CTAN
- Technical Publishing Supports TeX (LaTeX)
RECENT EVENTS

- TeX Live
- TeXShop and TeXWorks
- Obsolescence of the Physical Page
- Consumption Patterns
- Learning
RECENT LEARNING MODES

- Learn to Use:
  - Online Courses and Manuals
  - Mailing Lists
  - StackExchange
  - The guy down the hall

- Learning about NEW “STUFF”:
  - CTAN Announce ...
  - TUG Home Page
  - StackExchange
  - TUG Conferences
FUTURE?

- iTeX?
- Software as a Service?
- Tablets and e-Readers
- The Cloud
- ???