LATEX News

Issue 1, June 1994

Welcome to LATEX News

An issue of \LaTeX News will accompany every future release of \LaTeX It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other \LaTeX news.

LATEX 2ε —the new LATEX release

The most important news is the release of \LaTeX 2ε , the new version of the \LaTeX software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the \LaTeX project team. Upgrades will be issued every six months, in June and December.

Why a new LATEX?

Over the years many extensions have been developed for LATEX. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible LATEX formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep LATEX (with and without NFSS), SLITEX, AMS-LATEX, and so on. In addition, when looking at a source file it was not always clear for which format the document was written.

To put an end to this unsatisfactory situation a new release of IATEX was produced. It brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of IATEX 2.09. The new release was available for several months as a test version, and the final release of 1 June officially replaces the old version.

Processing documents with LATEX 2ε

Documents written for LATEX 2.09 will still be read by LATEX 2ε . Any such document is run in LATEX 2.09 compatibility mode.

Unfortunately, compatibility mode comes with a price: it can run up to 50% slower than LATEX 2.09 did. If you want to run your document in the faster *native mode*, you should try replacing the line:

\documentstyle[options, packages]{class}

with:

\documentclass[options]{class} \usepackage{latexsym, packages}

Unfortunately, this will not always work, because some LATEX 2.09 packages will only work in LATEX 2ε compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a LATEX 2ε version of the package available.

IATEX 2_{ε} native mode also gives access to the new features of IATEX 2_{ε} , described in IATEX 2_{ε} for authors.

New packages

babel, for typesetting in many languages.

color, for colour support.

graphics, for including images.

mfnfss, for using bitmap fonts.

psnfss, for using Type 1 fonts.

tools, other packages by the LATEX3 team.

The packages come with full documentation, and are also described in partial TEX: A Document Processing System or The partial TEX Companion.

Further information

More information about $\LaTeX 2_{\varepsilon}$ is to be found in:

ATEX: A Document Preparation System, Leslie Lamport, Addison Wesley, 2nd ed, 1994.

The LATEX Companion, Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, Addison Wesley, 1994.

The LATEX distribution comes with documentation on the new features of LATEX:

 $\underline{\text{PTEX}} \ 2\varepsilon \text{ for authors}, \text{ describes the new features of } \\
\underline{\text{LATEX}} \ \text{documents, in the file usrguide.tex.}$

 $\underline{\text{MTEX}} \ 2_{\varepsilon} \text{ for class and package writers, describes the new features of } \underline{\text{MTEX}} \text{ classes and packages, in the file clsguide.tex.}$

For more information on T_EX and I^AT_EX, get in touch with your local T_EX Users Group, or the international T_EX Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: tug@tug.org.