LATEX News

Issue 1, June 1994

Welcome to LATEX News

$LAT_EX 2_{\varepsilon}$ —the new LAT_EX release

The most important news is the release of $\text{LATEX} 2_{\mathcal{E}}$, the new version of the LATEX software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the LATEX3 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 LAT_EX . This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible LAT_EX formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep LAT_EX (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 $2_{\mathcal{E}}$

Documents written for $\text{IAT}_{\text{E}}X$ 2.09 will still be read by $\text{IAT}_{\text{E}}X$ 2 $_{\mathcal{E}}$. Any such document is run in $\text{IAT}_{\text{E}}X$ 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 $LaT_EX 2.09$ packages will only work in $LaT_EX 2_{\varepsilon}$ compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a $LaT_FX 2_{\varepsilon}$ version of the package available.

 $\operatorname{IAT}_{\mathrm{E}} X 2_{\varepsilon}$ native mode also gives access to the new features of $\operatorname{IAT}_{\mathrm{E}} X 2_{\varepsilon}$, described in $\operatorname{IAT}_{\mathrm{E}} X 2_{\varepsilon}$ for authors.

New packages

IATEX 2_{ε} has much better support for graphics, colour, fonts, and multi-lingual typesetting. The following software should be available from the distributor who brought you IATEX 2_{ε} :

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 IAT_EX3 team.

Further information

More information about $\operatorname{IATEX} 2_{\mathcal{E}}$ is to be found in:

- LATEX: A Document Preparation System, Leslie Lamport, Addison Wesley, 2nd ed, 1994.
- The ATEX Companion, Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, Addison Wesley, 1994.

The ${\rm I\!AT}_{\rm E}\!X$ distribution comes with documentation on the new features of ${\rm I\!AT}_{\rm E}\!X$:

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.