

THE T_EX LIVE MANAGER

T_EX Live Manager is an exciting new addition in T_EX Live, first introduced in 2008. It allows users to update installed packages in T_EX Live over the web, to install new packages, and to configure T_EX Live. The software is primarily the work of Norbert Preining, who is also the main implementor of the infrastructure in T_EX Live which makes these capabilities possible.

The hard work in T_EX Live Manager is done by Unix command line programs which are part of T_EX Live. These programs can be accessed in two independent ways: through a fully native Macintosh application named T_EX Live Utility, and through the command line program `tlmgr` which is essentially T_EX Live Manager itself.

Adam Maxwell's T_EX Live Utility provides that native Macintosh interface to the T_EX Live Manager routines; most users will administer TeX Live using Maxwell's program. T_EX Live Utility requires Mac OS X 10.5, Leopard, and provides access to a subset of the commands available via `tlmgr`; it is described in the first section below.

Users who are running OS X 10.4 or earlier can read the remaining sections and interact with T_EX Live Manager via `tlmgr`. It is also possible to interact with T_EX Live Manager using the X11 interface, by calling it with an appropriate flag "`tlmgr -gui`" or "`sudo tlmgr -gui`". However, the X11 GUI interface requires Perl/Tk, which must be obtained elsewhere because it is not part of OS X.

1. T_EX Live Utility

Like all good Macintosh programs, T_EX Live Utility is mostly self explanatory. When the program starts, it will consult a T_EX Archive CTAN server to determine whether updates are available for the currently active T_EX distribution. If so, these updates will be listed. Click the button "Update All" at the top of the window to install these updates.

The T_EX User Group provides two Macintosh T_EX distributions based on T_EX Live — the full T_EX Live 2010 in MacTeX-2010 and the much smaller BasicTeX-2010 for users with slow download connections. The "Update All" action will only update packages contained in a particular distribution, so users of BasicTeX-2010 will not suddenly discover that a large number of new packages have been added to their installation. A separate T_EX Live Utility command can be used to add packages to a distribution.

Sometimes the program will discover that the command line programs in T_EX Live Manager themselves need updating. Theoretically tlmgr can update itself, but some users have reported problems with these updates, so T_EX Live Utility updates tlmgr in a special manner guaranteed to avoid these problems. If tlmgr needs updating, a dialog pane will appear when T_EX Live Utility starts with the title “Critical updates available” followed by some text ending with the words “... the TeX Live installer packages listed here must be updated first.” Click the “Update” button in this pane to install the tlmgr updates. After installing these critical updates, the program will list the remaining available updates; click “Update All” to install them.

T_EX Live Utility provides extensive output from tlmgr during updating. One error message reads “tlmgr does not support `-machine-readable` yet; ad-hoc parsing will be used”. This message is harmless and can be ignored.

Note that the “Action” menu for T_EX Live Utility has an item named “Change Paper Size...” Use this command to reconfigure paper size in T_EX.

At the top of the T_EX Live Utility window, a tab switches between “Manage Updates” and “Manage Packages”. Change this tab to “Manage Packages” to see a list of all T_EX Live Packages. Use the “Show Info” command to read information about particular packages. Use the search field to search for a particular class, tex, or style file and discover the package containing it. Select a package and click “Install” to install a new package.

Recall that CTAN is the TeX archive, available through a large number of servers across the world. By default, T_EX Live Utility obtains updates from <http://mirror.ctan.org/>. This is actually a multiplexer, which distributes requests to various mirror servers so no one server is overloaded. The actual server being used is shown at the bottom of the T_EX Live Utility window. Sometimes a particular mirror may be unavailable or not up to date. Running T_EX Live Utility again will usually reach a different mirror and succeed.

2. The Command Line Tool: tlmgr

The command line tool is a script included in T_EX Live 2010 called the “T_EX Live Manager”, but following Unix traditions these words are condensed to “tlmgr”. To see a list of commands, open Apple’s Terminal in `/Applications/Utilities` and type

```
tlmgr --help
```

When tlmgr wants to modify files in `/usr/local/texlive/2010`, it must have root permission. In these cases it must be called using

```
sudo tlmgr ...
```

rather than simply

```
tlmgr ...
```

Here “...” indicates extra parameters for whatever action is to be performed.

For example, typing “tlmgr arch list” is fine, but you must type “sudo tlmgr arch add sparc-solaris”. The first command consults the server’s database to discover what kind of binaries are supported: i386-linux, sprac-solaris, i386-openbsd, etc., and to indicate which binaries have been installed on your Mac, usually universal-darwin. But the second command must be used if you want to download and install the Sun Solaris binaries as well. (Most ordinary users would never want to do that.)

When tlmgr runs, it needs to know a repository where updates for T_EX Live are available. The default repository is stored in your local copy of T_EX Live. This repository might be a svn copy of T_EX Live on the local machine, or a DVD disk inserted into the drive, but usually it will be the location of a web server for updates. The current server address is <http://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet>, so that is the default option installed by copies of MacT_EX-2010.

You can inspect the current default with the command

```
tlmgr option repository
```

You can change the default repository using the command

```
sudo tlmgr option repository new-repository
```

For example, the following command will change to the default repository:

```
sudo tlmgr option repository \\  
http://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet
```

3. Important tlmgr Commands for Updating

We now come to the central commands you’ll use. The command

```
tlmgr list
```

lists all packages available on the server, and adds an initial “i” to packages already installed. This will produce a very long list of output. An example output line selected at random reads

```
i crossreference: Crossreferences within documents.
```

Here the “i” says that this package is already installed, the name of the package is “cross-reference” and a short description follows. You can get more information by typing

```
tlmgr show crossreference
```

This produces the following output:

```
Package:  crossreference
Category: Package
ShortDesc: Crossreferences within documents.
LongDesc: The package defines cross-references (essentially ‘grand’
           label references), which may be listed in a table of
           cross- references.
Installed: Yes
```

To see which installed packages are out of date and could be updated, type

```
tlmgr update --list
```

To update a particular package, say crossreference, type

```
sudo tlmgr update crossreference
```

To update several packages, say crossreference, xmlplay, and york-thesis, type

```
sudo tlmgr update crossreference xmlplay york-thesis
```

To make a dry run, so that tlmgr will tell you what it is going to do without actually doing it, type

```
tlmgr update --dry-run crossreference xmlplay york-thesis
```

To update all packages which are out of date, type

```
sudo tlmgr update --all
```

and to check what will happen first, type

```
tlmgr update --dry-run --all
```

This updating mechanism in tlmgr is very intelligent; it understands dependencies and updates additional files if necessary. It also understands situations where configuration scripts must be run after the update process. For example, if you install a new version of pdftex then new format files will be made after updating occurs, and if you install a new font then the mapfile database will be updated.

In T_EX Live, several different style files are often packaged together. To find relevant packages, several search commands are provided. For instance, suppose you want packages which deal with paragraph formatting. The command

```
tlmgr search paragraph
```

gives

```
bigfoot - Footnotes for critical editions.
edmargin - Multiple series of endnotes for critical editions.
footmisc - A range of footnote options.
genmpage - Generalization of LaTeX's minipages.
hanging - Hanging paragraphs.
ibycus-babel - Use the Ibycus 4 Greek font with Babel
insbox - A TeX macro for inserting pictures/boxes into paragraphs.
layouts - Display various elements of a document's layout.
lettrine - Typeset dropped capitals.
lineno - Line numbers on paragraphs.
lipsum - Easy access to the Lorem Ipsum dummy text.
moresize - Allows font sizes up to 35.83pt.
ncctools - A collection of general packages for LaTeX
paralist - Enumerate and itemize within paragraphs.
picinpar - Insert pictures into paragraphs.
plari - Typesetting stageplay scripts.
seqsplit - Split long sequences of characters in a neutral way.
shapepar - A macro to typeset paragraphs in specific shapes.
```

and then the command “`tlmgr show bigfoot`” gives more information about that particular package.

Often you'll want to find a known style file. Suppose you are interested in `parskip.sty`. The command

```
tlmgr search --file parskip
```

gives

```
AkkTeX:
  texmf-dist/tex/latex/AkkTeX/akkiparskip.sty
FAQ-en:
  texmf-doc/doc/english/FAQ-en/html/FAQ-parskip.html
ltxmisc:
  texmf-dist/tex/latex/ltxmisc/parskip.sty
ncctools:
```

```

texmf-dist/doc/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.pdf
texmf-dist/tex/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.sty
texmf-dist/source/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.dtx
FAQ-en:
texmf-doc/doc/english/FAQ-en/html/FAQ-parskip.html
ltxmisc:
texmf-dist/tex/latex/ltxmisc/parskip.sty
ncctools:
texmf-dist/doc/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.pdf
texmf-dist/tex/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.sty
texmf-dist/source/latex/ncctools/nccparskip.dtx

```

Both search commands described above search the local T_EX Live distribution. To search the “repository” from which updates are obtained, include the option “--global”. Thus

```
tlmgr search --global --file parskip
```

Incidentally, this command shows the general syntax of a tlmgr command. The first command is “tlmgr”. Next comes the action which tlmgr should perform — in our case, “search”. After that come flags which modify that command, like “--global” and “--file”. Finally the “operand” lists what we want to update, search for, or describe — in our case “parskip”. As one more syntax note, you can use - and -- interchangeably to introduce option names.

4. Important tlmgr Commands for Paper Size

Of course tlmgr can configure the default paper size. To configure for letter size paper, type

```
sudo tlmgr paper letter
```

and to configure for a4 size paper, type

```
sudo tlmgr paper a4
```

5. Using tlmgr to Install T_EX Live over the Web; Don’t Do It!

It is possible to use tlmgr in conjunction with other scripts to install T_EX Live directly over the web, much as MikT_EX and other distributions download and install T_EX at the same time. The reason this is a bad idea on the Mac is that you will only get T_EX Live, but you will not get the T_EX Distribution data structure. So your PATH and MANPATH variables will not be properly configured, you will have to reconfigure all of your GUI front ends

and utilities directly, and you will have to repeat the process any time you want to switch to another T_EX distribution, even briefly to fix a temporary error in T_EX Live. In short, you will bypass all of the hard work by Gerben Wierda, Jérôme Laurens, and others to make T_EX magically work immediately without any configuration.

6. If Download Times are Slow, Do This Instead

Shortly after the release of MacT_EX-2010, we will put two packages on the web linked from <http://www.tug.org/mactex/morepackages.html>. The first is called MacT_EX-Additions; it installs everything in MacT_EX except the T_EX Live distribution. This is a way to get the various GUI front ends and utilities, Ghostscript, and “convert” from ImageMagick. However many users will not need this package; they have their own favorite editors and pdf previewers or can download them from the web, and they don’t need Ghostscript or “convert” or already have them from MacPorts, Fink, and elsewhere. This package’s size is about 136 MB.

The second package is BasicT_EX-2010. It is a much smaller subset of T_EX Live 2010, only about 40 MB, and yet it is surprisingly capable, able to typeset most standard T_EX documents. It includes T_EX, E_T_X, pdfT_EX, AMS-E_T_X, Metafont, dvips, ConT_EXt, MetaPost, and X_YT_EX. It contains the T_EX Distribution data structure, so everything is configured and ready to go.

Moreover, BasicT_EX-2010 includes the tlmgr utility, so if packages are missing they can be obtained over the web. This is the best of both worlds. To obtain additional packages, use the updating commands listed earlier, but replace “update” with “install”. Thus

```
sudo tlmgr install crossreference xmlplay york-thesis
```

installs three additional packages, and

```
tlmgr --dry-run install crossreference xmlplay york-thesis
```

shows what will happen if these packages are installed.

7. Further Information

For further information, see the T_EX Live web page about tlmgr, <http://tug.org/texlive/tlmgr.html>.