

MACTEX WEB PAGES

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1. INTRODUCTION

The MacTeX web pages were originally constructed and maintained by Wendy McKay.

It was Wendy who conceived the idea of a Macintosh install package which would provide everything needed to use TeX on a Macintosh. After advocating the idea at a couple of earlier TUG conferences, she organized a lunch meeting for Macintosh users at the TUG Practical TeX Meeting, 2005, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. At that lunch, she pointed to Jonathan Kew and assigned the construction of the installer to him (how could Jonathan refuse!). Jonathan had to leave the conference the next morning, and we expected that he would construct the package over several weeks after he returned to England. Instead, Jonathan stayed up all night and had a package the next morning. Over breakfast, he willed maintenance of it to me.

Originally, MacTeX installed a TeX Distribution created by Gerben Wierda, based on teTeX. But in 2006, Thomas Esser, the author of teTeX, announced that the project was ending and recommended that users switch to TeX Live. Gerben Wierda then began revising his distribution to contain a mixture of teTeX and TeX Live, announcing the new distribution, gwTeX, in November, 2006 at the annual TUG meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco. But at that same meeting, Gerben held up a sign containing the words “I quit” and announced that he would no longer support his distribution. I then constructed test versions of MacTeX, one using gwTeX, another using a subset of TeX Live, and another using the full TeX Live. To my surprise and delight, the TUG authorities pushed for the package based on the full TeX Live, and since 2007, that is what MacTeX installs.

At that time and for many years afterward, the MacTeX web pages were entirely under Wendy’s control. Their basic look and feel is all Wendy.

2. MAKING REVISION EASY

But as Wendy moved on to other things, Herbert Schulz and I took on the task of revising the pages. We usually asked Wendy to take charge in the end and activate the new pages. Finally in 2015 Wendy wrote very careful instructions explaining how to do that and since then Herb and I have been able to activate pages on our own.

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The web pages are on the TUG server in `/home/httpd/html/mactex`. This folder itself is a mess, with inactive web pages and pages with slightly different names used for backup. Several years ago, Wendy brought order to this process by creating a folder named 2013 containing copies of all the important and active web pages. These were not the active pages, which remained in the top level of `/home/httpd/html/mactex`, but instead exact copies.

This organization made revising the pages for another year very easy. Begin by creating a `2013.tar.gz` file from the 2013 folder on the TUG server. Download this to a personal computer, and rename the folder 2014. Viewing the MacTeX pages on the web is the same as viewing pages in the 2014 folder on your personal computer. View the pages with Safari and edit with your favorite editor. I use TeXShop.

After revision is finished, compress 2014 to give `2014.tar.gz`. Upload this back to the TUG server and place it in `/home/httpd/html/mactex`. Uncompress to give a new folder named 2014. These new pages can be viewed by trusted members of the MacTeX group.

To release, copy the contents of the 2014 folder to `/home/httpd/html/mactex`, overwriting the old files there. Now the active files are an exact copy of those in 2014, and 2013 still exists in case retreat is necessary.

3. UPDATING OVER THE YEAR

To make this technique work, it is necessary to keep the active pages and the pages in 2014 in sync over the year. Suppose you have edited a page, say `downloading.html`, on your personal computer. Upload this to the TUG machine. Then

```
mv -f downloading.html /home/httpd/html/mactex
cd /home/httpd/html/mactex
chgrp -R mactex downloading.html
chmod -R g+rwX downloading.html

cp -f downloading.html 2014
cd 2014
chgrp -R mactex downloading.html
chmod -R g+rwX downloading.html
```

Changing the group and permissions on these files allows others in the MacTeX group to also edit the files. In particular, Herbert can revise my edits and I can revise his. I used to do all of these steps by hand, but recently I constructed a script which does it automatically. The name of the script is “`movetoweb`”. The script must be in the same folder on the TUG machine as the revised html file. To install

```
movetoweb downloading.html
```

The year is hardcoded in this script, so the script must be edited once a year.

4. CLEANING UP /HOME/HTTPD/HTML/MACTEX

Wendy seems to have kept everything she ever used in these web pages. In 2019, there were backups of complete pages for all years from 2006 on. Several pages existed in duplicate versions, indicated by slightly different titles or extensions. Several folders exist labeled “Still Useful?” and the like.

Karl Berry pointed out to me in 2019 that TUG makes and keeps regular backups of the TUG server, and these additional files in the MacTeX web pages were degrading the available disk space on the machine. So I removed the main yearly backups, keeping only those for 2018 and the currently active 2019. I also removed duplicate files when it was obvious what to do. But many of those odd folders still remain.

It is possible that some of those folders are significant. For instance, the web pages have a “header line” at the top with several links; this line only appears when the pages are on the TUG machine, so they are probably created by files not in the yearly folders. It is also possible that some pages refer to html code elsewhere on the TUG machine and not even in the MacTeX portion.

Although I believe I reclaimed most of the memory being using by these extra files, it would be useful for someone to go through the entire site and clean out everything not directly required by our pages.

On the other hand, I think Wendy’s basic design is still servicable and I see no reason to reach in and redo the entire web site. I suppose sometime in the future, a young go-ho person will decide to do that. Good luck to him or her. It won’t be me.

5. DETAILS

Below is the exact code for several important tasks.

To create an archive for the folder 2018 in /home/httpd/html/mactex:

```
cd /home/httpd/html/mactex
tar -czvf 2018.tar.gz 2018
mv 2018.tar.gz ~
```

When this file is uncompressed, it will create a folder named 2018 with the correct contents inside. Change the name to 2019 on your home computer. The link index2018test.html will start up the web page.

Similarly, given MacTeXWeb-2019 in your home folder, move it to TUG as follows:

```
cd
mv MacTeXWeb-2019 2019
tar -czvf 2019.tar.gz 2019
mv 2019 MacTeXWeb-2019

scp 2019.tar.gz tug.org:
ssh tug.org
mv 2019.tar.gz /home/httpd/html/mactex
cd /home/httpd/html/mactex
gunzip 2019.tar.gz
tar -xf 2019.tar
chmod 755 2019
cd 2019
chgrp -R mactex *
chmod -R g+rwX *
```

To activate navigation for testing 2019 by members of the Mactex group:

```
cd 2019
rm navigation.hrml
ln -s navigation2019.html navigation.html
cd ..
```

To do the final activation of 2019 when MacTeX-2019 is released:

```
cd /home/httpd/html/mactex
cp -r 2019/* .
rm navigation.html
ln -s navigation_mactex.html navigation.html
```