

Issue 2, December 1994

## Welcome to LATEX News 2

## December 1994 release of LATEX

December 1994 sees the second release of  $IAT_EX 2_{\varepsilon}$ . We are on schedule to deliver a release of  $IAT_EX$  every six months, in December and June.

This release has seen quite a lot of activity, which is not too surprising as it's only been a year since the first test release of  $IATEX 2_{\mathcal{E}}$ . We don't expect so much activity in the next six months.

Many of the changes are minor improvements and bug-fixes—see  $I\!\!A T_E\!X 2_{\varepsilon}$  for authors (usrguide.tex),  $I\!\!A T_E\!X 2_{\varepsilon}$  font selection (fntguide.tex) and our change log (changes.txt) for more details.

However, there are two important new packages available for  $IAT_EX$ : inputenc and AMS-IAT<sub>E</sub>X.

### Accented input

One of the problems with writing non-English documents in LAT<sub>E</sub>X is the accent commands. Reading documents containing text like na\"\i ve is frustrating, especially if your keyboard allows you to type naïve.

In the past,  $IAT_EX$  has not supported input containing accented characters such as  $\ddot{z}$ , because Windows, Macintosh and Unix all have different ways of dealing with accented input, called *input encodings*.

However, the inputenc package allows you to specify which input encoding your document is written with, for example to use the ISO Latin-1 encoding, you type:

\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}

At the moment, inputenc supports the ascii and latin1 input encodings, but more will be added with future releases.

The inputenc package is currently a test release. The user interface for the full release will be upwardly compatible with the test version.

# AMS-LATEX

AMS-LATEX is a set of miscellaneous extensions for LATEX distributed by the American Mathematical Society. They provide superior information structure

and superior printed output for mathematical documents.

There are far too many features of AMS-IAT<sub>E</sub>X to list here. AMS-IAT<sub>E</sub>X is described in the accompanying documentation, and in *The IAT<sub>E</sub>X Companion*.

Version 1.2beta of AMS-IAT<sub>E</sub>X was released for testing by intrepid users in October 1994. The full release of AMS-IAT<sub>E</sub>X 1.2 is expected in early January 1995.

It will be divided into two bundles:

- the amsfonts packages, which give access to hundreds of new mathematical symbols, and new math fonts such as blackboard bold and fraktur.
- the amsmath packages, which provide finer control over mathematical typesetting, such as multi-line subscripts, enhanced theorem and proof environments, and improved displayed equations,

For compatibility with older documents, an **amstex** package will be provided.

### LATEX on the internet

 ${\rm I\!AT}_{\rm E\!X}$  has its own home page on the World Wide Web, with the URL:

http://www.tex.ac.uk/CTAN/latex/

This page describes IATEX and the IATEX3 project, and contains pointers to other IATEX resources, such as the user guides, the TEX Frequently Asked Questions, and the IATEX bugs database.

The electronic home of anything  $T_EX$ -related is the Comprehensive  $T_EX$  Archive Network (CTAN). This is a network of cooperating ftp sites, with over a gigabyte of  $T_EX$  material:

ftp://ftp.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.shsu.edu/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/

For more information, see the  ${\rm IAT}_{\rm E}\!{\rm X}$  home page.

#### Further information

For more information on T<sub>E</sub>X and IAT<sub>E</sub>X, get in touch with your local T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, or the international T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: tug@tug.org.