

# The makerobust package

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## Abstract

Package makerobust provides `\MakeRobustCommand` that converts an existing macro to a robust one.

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## 1 User interface

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X offers `\DeclareRobustCommand` to define a robust macro that does not break if it is used in moving arguments. Sometimes a macro is already defined, but not robust. For example, `\(` and `\)` are not robust, inside `\section` the user must use `\protect` explicitly. This could be avoided by making `\(` and `\)` robust.

`\MakeRobustCommand{⟨cmd⟩}`

`\MakeRobustCommand` redefines the macro `⟨cmd⟩` by using `\DeclareRobustCommand` and the existing definition of the macro `⟨cmd⟩`.

- It is an error if `⟨cmd⟩` is undefined. If you want to define a robust command, then you can use `\DeclareRobustCommand` directly.
- If the macro has previously been defined by `\DeclareRobustCommand` then the redefinition of `\MakeRobustCommand` is omitted, because the macro is already robust. Only an information entry is written to the `.log` file. Thus you do not get a warning or an error if the macro is already robust because of an updated L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or package that defines the macro.

- Two macros are defined for a macro, defined by `\DeclareRobustCommand`. Example:

```
\DeclareRobustCommand{\foobar}{definition text}
```

Then the macro “`\foobar`” contains the protection code and, depending on the protection mode, calls the internal macro “`\foobar` ”. Notice the space at the end of the macro name. This internal macro “`\foobar` ” now contains the definition “`definition text`”, given in `\DeclareRobustCommand`.

Sometimes it can happen, that the internal macro already exists. This can be caused by a previous `\DeclareRobustCommand` followed by `\renewcommand`. Then the redefinition by `\MakeRobustCommand` would be safe.

However, it can also be possible that the macro is already robust, using the internal macro, but with a different protection code. The redefinition by `\MakeRobustCommand` would then generate an infinite loop.

Therefore `\MakeRobustCommand` raises an error message, if the internal macro (with space at the end) already exists.

## 1.1 Example

```
1 \<example>
2 \documentclass{article}
3 \usepackage{makerobust}
4 \MakeRobustCommand\(  
5 \MakeRobustCommand\  
6 \pagestyle{headings}  
7 \begin{document}  
8 \tableofcontents  
9 \section{Einstein: \(\text{E}=\text{mc}^2\)}  
10 \newpage  
11 Second page.  
12 \end{document}  
13 \</example>
```

## 2 Implementation

```
14 \<*package>
15 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
16 \ProvidesPackage{makerobust}%
17 [2006/03/18 v1.0 Making a macro robust (HO)]%
18 \def\MakeRobustCommand#1{%
19   \begingroup
20   \ifundefined{\expandafter\@gobble\string#1}{%
21     \endgroup
22     \PackageError{makerobust}{%
23       Macro \string'\string#1\string' is not defined%
24     }\@ehc
25   }{%
26     \global\let\MR@temp#1%
27     \let#1\@undefined
28     \expandafter\let\expandafter\MR@temp
29       \csname\expandafter\@gobble\string#1\endcsname
30     \DeclareRobustCommand#1{%
31       \ifx#1\MR@temp
32         \endgroup
33         \PackageInfo{makerobust}{%
34           \string'\string#1\string' is already robust%
35         }%
36       \else
37         \ifundefined{MR@temp}{%

```

```

38      \global\let\MR@gtemp#1%
39      \endgroup
40      \expandafter\let\csname\expandafter\@gobble\string#1 \endcsname#1%
41      \let#1\MR@gtemp
42  }{%
43      \endgroup
44      \PackageError{makerobust}{%
45          Internal macro \string'\string#1 \string' already exists%
46      }\@ehc
47  }%
48  \fi
49  }%
50 }
51 \</package>

```

## 3 Installation

### 3.1 Download

**Package.** This package is available on CTAN<sup>1</sup>:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/makerobust.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/makerobust.pdf](#) Documentation.

**Bundle.** All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/oberdiek-tds.zip](#)

### 3.2 Bundle installation

**Unpacking.** Unpack the oberdiek-tds.zip in the TDS tree (also known as texmf tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek-tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

**Script installation.** Check the directory TDS:scripts/oberdiek/ for scripts that need further installation steps. Package attachfile2 comes with the Perl script pdfatfi.pl that should be installed in such a way that it can be called as pdfatfi. Example (linux):

```

chmod +x scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl
cp scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl /usr/local/bin/

```

### 3.3 Package installation

**Unpacking.** The .dtx file is a self-extracting docstrip archive. The files are extracted by running the .dtx through plain-TEX:

```
tex makerobust.dtx
```

**TDS.** Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as texmf tree):

makerobust.sty	→	tex/latex/oberdiek/makerobust.sty
makerobust.pdf	→	doc/latex/oberdiek/makerobust.pdf
makerobust-example.tex	→	doc/latex/oberdiek/makerobust-example.tex
makerobust.dtx	→	source/latex/oberdiek/makerobust.dtx

<sup>1</sup>[ftp://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/](http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/)

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`'s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

### 3.4 Refresh file name databases

If your  $\TeX$  distribution (`teTeX`, `mikTeX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, `teTeX` users run `texhash` or `mktextlsr`.

### 3.5 Some details for the interested

**Attached source.** The PDF documentation on CTAN also includes the `.dtx` source file. It can be extracted by AcrobatReader 6 or higher. Another option is `pdftk`, e.g. unpack the file into the current directory:

```
pdftk makerobust.pdf unpack_files output .
```

**Unpacking with  $\LaTeX$ .** The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

**plain- $\TeX$ :** Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

**$\LaTeX$ :** Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using  $\LaTeX$  for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need  $\LaTeX$ ), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{makerobust.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

**Generating the documentation.** You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with `pdf $\LaTeX$` :

```
pdflatex makerobust.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist makerobust.idx
pdflatex makerobust.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist makerobust.idx
pdflatex makerobust.dtx
```

## 4 History

[2006/03/18 v1.0]

- First version.

## 5 Index

Numbers written in *italic* refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; numbers in roman refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

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