

Abstracts

Les Cahiers GUTenberg Contents of Recent Issues

Numéro 18 — septembre 1994

MICHEL GOOSSENS, L^AT_EX₂ ϵ , un aperçu [L^AT_EX₂ ϵ : an overview]; pp. 1–34

Author's abstract: "This article gives an overview of the new or extended user commands available with L^AT_EX₂ ϵ , the new L^AT_EX release, compared to the previous version L^AT_EX 2.09. After introducing the new preamble commands, the extensions for defining new commands and environments, and handling length and boxes are discussed. The new font selection commands are explained, both for text and math, and it is shown how to easily use different font families. A list of supported class and package files is given and new possibilities for controlling page contents and floats are discussed. Most of this material is described in much greater detail in *The L^AT_EX Companion* and in the second edition of the L^AT_EX Reference Manual."

The abstract above is quite complete. The article includes a brief summary of the objectives for L^AT_EX₂ ϵ , neatly capturing what we gain with the new L^AT_EX.¹

- create a single L^AT_EX format, replacing the many (increasingly incompatible) formats available previously
- replace variant L^AT_EX 'dialects', such as $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ -L^AT_EX and S_LL^AT_EX, by add-on packages—*amsmath* and *slides*, in this particular instance—all using the same base format
- add a small number of oft-requested functions
- maintain compatibility at the document level (that is, L^AT_EX 2.09 source files should not have to be modified in order to run with the new L^AT_EX)
- retain L^AT_EX 2.09 conventions in order to make learning the new elements as easy as possible
- the New Font Selection Scheme (NFSS) becomes the standard in L^AT_EX₂ ϵ

This article joins other accessible introductions to the new L^AT_EX: in the *TUGboat* proceedings issue, "Document Classes and Packages for L^AT_EX₂ ϵ " by Johannes Braams, and "PostScript Fonts in

¹ An elaboration of the main benefits can be found in TTN 2,4:10–11.

L^AT_EX₂ ϵ " by Alan Jeffrey; and in the Gdansk proceedings, Dag Langmyhr's "How to make your own document style in L^AT_EX₂ ϵ ". Braams and Langmyhr can also be found in MAPs #13 (94.2).

DANIEL FLIPO, BERNARD GAULLE, KARINE VANCAUWENBERGHE, Motifs français de césure typographique [French hyphenation patterns]; pp. 35–60

Author's abstract: "The aim of this article is to compare the various current versions of the French hyphenation files and to propose a completely new updated and corrected version. A short introduction is given to French hyphenation as well as to T_EX word-splitting mechanisms."

BERNARD GAULLE, Commentaires sur la portabilité des documents (L^A)T_EX [Comments on (L^A)T_EX document portability]; pp. 61–86

Author's abstract: "In *Cahier GUTenberg* #15, Daniel Taupin expressed his thoughts and experiences about the portability of T_EX documents. This article reviews, point by point, using the same headings (with one or two exceptions) and in the same order each of the elements and discusses their technical validity. This study reveals some rules for increasing the portability of (L^A)T_EX documents that are both simpler and more elementary than the ones proposed in the article in question."

[A summary of the Taupin article appeared in *TUGboat* 14 #2, page 146.]

Numéro 19 — janvier 1995

Editor's note: Thematic issue entitled "Electronic Document Exchange: from L^AT_EX to WWW, HTML and Acrobat." The issue contains 158 pages in all, with 9 articles, some of which will be appearing in translation in an upcoming issue of *TUGboat*.

CHRISTIAN ROLLAND, Éditorial: diffusion des documents électroniques [Distribution of electronic documents]; pp. 1–2

With all the talk about the "information highway" and what it will bring, there already is a 'real info highway' in action, with keywords such as CD-ROM, CD-I, the Internet, WWW. The articles in this thematic issue were first presented at the January 19, 1995, one-day meeting organised by GUTenberg and held in Nanterre, France.

LUC OTTAVJ, Systèmes d'information sur Internet [Information systems on the Internet]; pp. 3–26

Serving as a solid introduction to the terminology and technology which the remaining articles repeatedly refer to, the article provides a detailed

overview of how the various elements come together, from communications protocols to Internet structure (both global and in France specifically), from e-mail to telnet, file transfers to browsers. [The paper was originally presented at another conference in October 1994, and published in *Le traitement électronique du document* (1994).]

MICHEL GOOSSENS, Introduction pratique à SGML [Practical Introduction to SGML]; pp. 27–58.

Author's abstract: "The international standard SGML (Standard [Generalized] Markup Language) deals with the structural markup of electronic documents. It was adopted by ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) in October 1986. SGML soon became very popular, also in Europe, thanks in particular to its enthusiastic acceptance in the publishing world, large multinational companies, and, more recently, by the ubiquity of HTML, the hypertext language of WWW. This article provides an introduction to the basic ideas of SGML and should allow the reader a better understanding of the latest developments in the field of electronic documents in general, and in WWW in particular."

FRANÇOIS DAGORN, World-Wide Web, formulaires électroniques, images réactives, etc. [WWW, electronic forms, clickable images]; pp. 59–66

Author's abstract: "This paper details the mechanisms used to create electronic forms or clickable image maps within the World Wide Web."

CHRISTIAN ROLLAND, Présentation de HTML [Introducing HTML]; pp. 67–84

Author's abstract: "This article presents a markup language, HTML (HyperText Markup Language), which is used to represent hypertext documents in World Wide Web. Tags which indicate the most usual structures are shown; then the hypertext tags and other features are exhibited."

VINCENT QUINT, IRÈNE VATTON, L'édition structurée et le World-Wide Web [Structured editing and the World-Wide Web]; pp. 85–97

Creating documents for the World Wide Web is not an easy task. Many authors create such documents by hand. This means they usually have to wrestle with HTML syntax, even if their text editor provides some tools for the job. An alternative is to use filters which come with various document processing systems, but these don't include all the Web-specific tools. Neither method is therefore completely satisfactory.

This paper presents a solution based on the structured document editor, Grif. The Grif editor has been extended to take into account specific

features of the Web and provides a comfortable environment for creating Web documents.

MICHEL GOOSSENS, L^AT_EX – HTML aller et retour [L^AT_EX – HTML there and back]; pp. 98–120

Author's abstract: "Both L^AT_EX and HTML are languages that can express the function of the structural elements of a document, and similarities between these two systems are shown. A detailed study of the LaTeX2HTML program, written by Nikos Drakos, is proposed. LaTeX2HTML allows a quasi-automatic translation of L^AT_EX documents into HTML. A brief discussion of the LaTeX2HTML and SGML2TeX programs that translate HTML into L^AT_EX concludes the article."

PHILIPPE LOUARN, Documents électroniques: une application [Electronic documents: an application]; pp. 121–126

Author's abstract: "Each year, INRIA produces an activity report. Although this report is typeset in an electronic form, it was never exploited in this way. This paper describes a new process, based on SGML, which allows users to access the report by different ways (WWW, Minitel, ftp, ...). Advantages and disadvantages of this process will be shown and future developments will be presented."

YANNIS HARALAMBOUS, HTML → L^AT_EX → PDF, ou l'entrée de T_EX dans l'ère de l'hypertexte [HTML → L^AT_EX → PDF, or T_EX enters the age of hypertext]; pp. 127–147

Author's abstract: "In this paper we describe the process of creating electronic hyperdocuments via L^AT_EX and Adobe Acrobat. After a general discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of L^AT_EX in this field, we give a detailed description of each step and a lot of caveats for the user willing to obtain efficient Acrobat documents.

The reader will find in this paper a discussion of the software tools DVIHPS *reper*e and *recticrt* as well as the basic principles of the PDF format."

JACQUES ANDRÉ, MICHEL GOOSSENS, CHRISTIAN ROLLAND, Diffusion des documents électroniques: bibliographie [Distribution of electronic documents: a bibliography]; pp. 148–157

While each article in the thematic issue has its own bibliography, this extensive bibliography includes 99 entries divided into seven headings, including both paper and electronic materials.

(Compiled by Christina Thiele)