Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

TeX Live!

With this issue of *TUGboat* you will find something unusual—the TeX Live CD-ROM. Sebastian Rahtz, Michel Goossens, and assorted others have been working hard over the past several months to assemble this production, and we are very pleased to present it here for all members to use and enjoy.

Briefly, this CD-ROM was prepared with Unix systems as the main target, but it also contains full packages of several other "public" TeX implementations and utilities—for Macintosh, MS-DOS, OS2 and Windows. The organization follows the standard TDS (TeX Directory Structure). On a Unix machine, TeX can be run either directly from the CD-ROM or installed on a hard disk.

The documentation for the CD-ROM appears on contrasting paper in this issue, so it should be easy to find. The full text is also included as file on the CD-ROM. (We really don't like to suggest that readers tear apart their issues.)

A TTN revival

At long last, some material intended for an abandoned issue of *TeX and TUG News* has been repackaged for *TUGboat*, and appears in this issue. One of these items is "Hey—it works!", a compendium of brief solutions to specific problems that can often be used "right out of the box".

We've been in communication with several of the former *TTN* columnists, and hope to have some *regular* columns starting with this year's December issue. One column we're pretty sure will return is "Typographer's Inn" (always one of my favorites); Peter Flynn is hard at work on a book about SGML Tools — like the rest of us, he is stretching his deadlines, but he will be done soon, and has promised to write up some new installments for us when he is.

New SGML extensions — watch for these

By its own description,

> Mathematical Markup Language, or MathML, is an XML application for describing mathematical expression structure and content. The goal of MathML is to enable mathematics to be served, received, and processed on the Web, just as HTML has enabled this functionality for text.

The full draft proposal, as presented to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), can be seen at the URL http://www.w3.org/pub/WWW/TR/WD-math/.

XML, the eXtensible Markup Language, is a dialect of SGML (the Standard Generalized Markup Language) intended for use on the Web as an alternative to HTML (HyperText Markup Language). From the draft XML specification:

> The goal is to enable generic SGML to be served, received, and processed on the Web in the way that is now possible with HTML.

> For this reason, XML has been designed for ease of implementation, and for interoperability with both SGML and HTML.

An on-line FAQ (list of Frequently Asked Questions), maintained by Peter Flynn and others, can be found at http://www.ucc.ie/xml/.

Another kind of tugboat calendar

Take a look at the URL http://www.halcyon.com/clcook/tugclndr.htm. (This pointer should have been published last fall, but I mislaid the address.) It advertises a 1997 calendar illustrated with photos of historic and contemporary tugboats at work and play in the U.S. Pacific Northwest.

A copy of this calendar hangs on my office wall, where it reminds me of meetings and appointments, and also of the fact that not everyone works indoors slaving over a computer.

Tools for TeX users

Late last year, the Textures Reader was made freely available by Blue Sky Research. This can be used on any Macintosh-based system as a standalone previewer, or easily linked to Internet browsers as a helper application for automated network access to TeX DVI documents.

The file Reader.sea.hqx can be found on the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN) in systems/mac/textures/utilities/, or from the ftp.bluesky.com or www.bluesky.com servers. Thanks to Barry Smith for releasing this useful tool.

The Type 1 implementations of the Computer Modern fonts previously distributed by Blue Sky Research and Y&Y, Inc., have been made freely available through the cooperation of a consortium of scientific publishers with the font developers. Members of the consortium include Elsevier Science, IBM Corporation, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Springer-Verlag, and the American Mathematical Society (AMS). In order to assure the authenticity of the CM/PS fonts, copyright will be held by AMS; however this is in no way meant to restrict the uses to which the fonts may be put.

The CM/PS fonts are available in Macintosh and PFB (binary Type 1) outline formats. The canonical version of the collection is located on the AMS FTP server, `e-math.ams.org`, in the area `/pub/tex/cmfonts/ps`, and mirrored onto CTAN in `fonts/cm/ps-type1/bluesky`. Thanks to Barry Smith, Berthold Horn, and the consortium members.

Finally, a reminder that the EDMAC manual, the documentation for the macro package of the same name, developed by John Lavagnino and Dominik Wujastyk for typesetting of critical editions, is available for sale from the TUG office. Send inquiries to `tug@mail.tug.org`.

Imprint — A new electronic newsletter

Imprint: The Newsletter of Digital Typography was announced in April, and the first few issues have now been distributed to subscribers via e-mail. The contents cover a variety of topics related to TEX, troff, SGML, PostScript, PDF, fonts, internationalization, etc., etc. For the present, *Imprint* will be issued monthly, but the schedule is subject to change.

The editor is Robert A. Kiesling, and his statement of purpose says, in part

> We would like this to be a forum for people (like myself) who handle every phase of document preparation from conception to final output.

Subscriptions can be entered by sending a human-readable request to the editor at `imprint@macline.com`.

Museums of printing and typography

An inquiry on the list `typo-l` a couple of months ago centered on the existence and locations of typography and printing museums in Europe. The responses included several museums I'd visited, as well as quite a few that I hadn't. It occurred to me that a list of such institutions would be a good addition to the TUG Web pages, a place to look if one is going on a trip and wants to find out what interesting places might be in the neighborhood.

We'll start up a Web page with the information we have now, and look forward to other contributions. Please identify the name of the museum or other institution, the city and address if you know it, and a brief description of what sort of holdings or exhibits are there, whether the hours are regular, or if special arrangements or permission are required. Anything related to typography, printing, papermaking, bookbinding, ... Maybe even stone carving: some very skilful type designers and calligraphers of the past couple centuries have also been stonecarvers, and one should remember that the classic form of the Roman alphabet is modeled after the inscriptions on Trajan's column in Rome.

Send contributions to `TUGboat@mail.tug.org`. And visit the TUG Web pages at `http://www.tug.org/`.

Thanks to DANTE

The German TEX group — Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TEX e.V., at their last general meeting, appointed me "member of honour in recognition of [my] work for TEX and the TEX community."

The letter announcing this honor was accompanied by a beautiful book on typography, *Lesetypographie*, by Hans Peter Willberg and Friedrich Forssman.[1] This book, chock full of examples (good and bad), suggestions, analysis and guidance, has already provided much food for thought, and actual solutions to several problems.

I am delighted with this gift, and thank everyone associated with Dante for the honor.

⋄ Barbara Beeton
American Mathematical Society
P.O. Box 6248
Providence, RI 02940 USA
`bnb@ams.org`

---

[1] Mainz: Verlag Hermann Schmidt, 1997. ISBN 3-87439-375-5