Abstracts

Les Cahiers GUTenberg
Contents of Issue 25

Numéro 25 — novembre 1996

Editor's note: While this is the first non-thematic issue since no. 18 (!), there still seems to be a certain cohesiveness running through four of the six articles: issues and uses of TEX in real situations. They are as interesting for their examination of the respective problems as for the history of change they reflect — change in fonts, change in TEX installations, change in language. As a side note, this issue has no lead editorial to introduce the articles.

THIERRY BOUCHE, Sur la diversité des fontes mathématiques [Regarding the diversity of math fonts]; pp. 1–24

We are interested in the issues which arise when changing the fonts used by LATEX's math modes. We will try to provide some concrete solutions for accessing a larger variety of fonts, without falling victim to typographic nonsense.

[from the Résumé]

[The author's abstract belies the significance and interest of his article, which explores in detail the issues which surround this particular problem with TEX math material: the need for a greater variety of font combinations for text and maths. Starting with CM, Lucida, and MathTime, the author then experiments with `mathptm` and `mathfont` (his own virtual font), in combination with the text fonts Apollo and Utopia. Several examples of text + math are shown,[1] along with details of the LATEX 2ε coding.]

CHRISTIAN LENNE, Édition structurée et non structurée d'expressions mathématiques dans Thot [Structured and non-structured editing of math expressions, using Thot]; pp. 25–32

Document writing in the scientific world or leading-edge industries must have the tools/options for expressing mathematical formulas. Commercial word processing tools offer little such functionality, or can offer only that functionality. In this article, we will present the approach we have used with the Thot structured document editor.

[from the Résumé]

[1] It is my great misfortune to have a copy with several faintly printed pages.

Jean-Pierre Vial, Utilisation de Y&YTEX en langue française [Using Y&YTEX in French]; pp. 33–40

This article discusses the experiences of a "normal" TEX user — as opposed to a TEXpert, that is — in "Frenchifying" and using Y&YTEX.

[from the Introduction]

[The article begins with a brief overview of Y&YTEX, followed by some comments on why the implementation is of particular interest to the European TEX user: the ease of use and access to PS fonts not only for printing but also previewing, and recoding options, particularly of accented characters. Incompatibility of encodings arises when source files meet TEX and when `dvi` output files meet previewers. Y&Y solutions on both fronts are discussed, with particular reference to the three main components of the package: YandYTEX, the newly renamed TEX implementation; DVIWINDO, the previewer; and DVIPSONE, the printer driver. The article concludes with a run-down of the font families available in PS format: the CM fonts, LucidaBright (including the expert set), and mathtime, a maths font to go with Adobe's Times Roman. The author says: "Other than the systematic approach to PS, there's nothing revolutionary here ... What is worth noting is the coherence of the whole system ... the communication across processes."]

Marc Torzynski, Histoire de TEX sous Dos et Windows à l'École nationale supérieure de physique de Strasbourg [TEX under Dos and Windows at the National College of Physics in Strasbourg]; pp. 41–56

By outlining the evolution of the TEX installation at his site, the author shows how he came to develop various working environments under DOS and Windows. The tools have been installed on the facility's intranet and are available to both staff and students.

[from the Résumé]

[Quite a detailed history, beginning with "Life before TEX", "The Arrival of TEX at the College", and "Discovering TEX for the PC". Then begins the real work: installing TEX on an MS-DOS network, and the eventual migration to Windows for Workgroups. After a year and a half, the author feels he can say: "The basic problems seem to have been identified and corrected, and the working environment is now stable."]

Bernard Gaulle, Quelques questions de droit français à propos des logiciels sur Internet [Some issues regarding French law and programs on the Internet]; pp. 57–64

[The author discusses various legal issues on such topics as author's rights, user licences, auditing, public domain, the law on the Internet, test and demonstration programs, shareware, freeware, the implications for CDs, discs, and other media, and so on.]

Jacques André, ISO Latin-1, norme de codage des caractères européens ? trois caractères français en sont absents ! [ISO Latin-1, encoding standard for European characters? Three French characters are missing!]; pp. 65–77

Three French characters (œ, Œ, and Ÿ) are missing in ISO Latin-1. It is explained why they should be there and why they are not. Then, some comments are made on the standardisation of characters.

[from the author's abstract]

[As I have come to expect from Jacques, when he starts talking about characters, a great deal of information provided within an extremely knowledgeable historical context, backed up with wonderful bibliographic citations. Takes me back to my courses in historical linguistics!]

[Compiled by Christina Thiele]

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