Die TeXnische Komödie 2008/2-2009/2

Editor's note: Die TEXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TEX user group (http://www.dante.de).

DTK 2008/2

Christine Römer, PSTricks for linguistic texts

PSTricks offers to all areas of linguistics the option to illustrate the relevant phenomena according to the usual "factual" practice. Many ways to new concepts of rich visualization are opened. The use of macros in the PSTricks family is advantageous compared to that of single linguistic packages. When a package, like pst-jtree, is particularly designed for linguistics the act of writing is clearly minimized because of specific shortcuts. Hopefully this article with its examples of use can motivate bringing into the PSTricks family further linguistic packages.

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, Managing your bibliography with BIBLATEX (part one)

This article gives an overview of the LATEX package BIBLATEX in two parts. Part one focuses on how to use BIBLATEX, with an emphasis on the differences and the advantages as compared with standard BIBTEX. Part two, which will be published in the next edition of DTK, shows how to create your own styles for both citations, and bibliographies. As BIBLATEX provides a wealth of opportunities, no attempt is made to give an all-comprehensive introduction. Please refer to the package documentation.

MICHAEL STÖTZEL, A web based data base for central template management with IATEX connection

Writing letters in perfect form with LATEX is no mystery. But what to do when one wants centrally managed templates which are filled-in with distinct data from a data base? A central web server with PHP and MySQL can help out with this cumbersome task.

DTK 2008/3

ULRIKE FISCHER, First steps with XHETEX

The following article gives a brief (at least it was brief at the beginning) introduction to using X_{\mathbb{T}}EX with the L^{\mathbb{T}}EX format ("X_{\mathbb{T}}EX").

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Document management with LATEX and Subversion

Version control systems provide quite a number of advantages to programmers and authors in their daily work. Collaboration in a team is simplified drastically, as the laborious and error-prone

exchange of files via FTP or e-mail is dropped. Older versions of a file can be restored without problems, and joining different versions is simplified. Another advantage that should not be underestimated is the possibility to create backups "in passing". Subversion is a modern version control system running on all common platforms and requiring not much time to become acquainted with configuring and using it. This article describes the usage of Subversion with LATEX. It will be explained how to install and configure it on Windows and Linux systems. Finally, some packages will be discussed which facilitate a convenient integration of information provided by subversion into LATEX.

DTK 2008/4

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, Managing your bibliography with BIBLATEX (part two)

In part two of this introduction to the BIBLATEX package, an example from the humanities is chosen to illustrate how to create your own citation and bibliography styles. As BIBLATEX provides a wealth of opportunities, no attempt is made to give an all-comprehensive introduction. Please refer to the package documentation. The article is based on BIBLATEX 0.7, while version 0.8 has been released in the meantime.

UWE SIART, An introduction to BIBTEX for managing your bibliographies

Although BibTeX has been available for managing your bibliography for many years, using it still causes trouble for most LaTeX users. I constantly receive BibTeX databases containing severe syntax errors. Drawing from the kind of errors I have come across, users seem not to have attained even a basic understanding of how BibTeX works. This article provides a brief practical introduction to the BibTeX system, urging new users to drop a document-related approach of managing your bibliography in favour of a more generally-minded one, while advanced BibTeX users can revise their general command of the system.

DTK 2009/1

STANISLAV JAN ŠARMAN, DEK shorthand script with METAFONT and LATEX

This article presents Text2DEK, a METAFONT and LATEX-based web application which reproduces German text as "Verkehrsschrift" shorthand notes. By using the example of "DEK" stenography is outlined and afterwards it is described how to model in METAFONT shorthand characters that interconnect, giving shorthand glyphs for words (stenemes?),

which is described in a meta language that implements them in METAFONT as characters. A delineation of the system architecture and an abstract of shorthand history and systems completes the article.

[See also the author's article in TUGboat 29:3.]

HÀN THẾ THÀNH, TrueType fonts for pdfTEX [Published in this issue of TUGboat.]

PHILIPP H. POLL and MICHAEL NIEDERMAIR, The "Linux Libertine" font and X\(\pi\)TEX

The article shows in a historical digest how the font "Linux Libertine" evolved, which thoughts, ideas, etc., were integrated, and its potential when used in XATEX.

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Conference management with LATEX

To organise events like conferences, congresses, or workshops requires a whole set of bills, lists of participants, name badges, and other documents. LATEX provides for all these sorts of document types suitable class files, and via the package datatool, by Nicola Talbot, access to CSV (comma separated values) files is made possible. This article uses a fictitious example to describe the various packages and their interrelation.

DOMINIK WAGENFÜHR, Compilation of periodicals with LATEX

LATEX can set many documents. In particular, of course, scientific papers, but letters or presentations are also no problem. This article will show that it even can compile a PDF magazine and, above all, how recurring problems can be solved.

ADELHEID GROSS, The package todonotes

Some time ago the idea came up of presenting a continuing series of smaller (IA)TEX packages which either could be helpful or just for fun. This article will deliver an insight into the scope of application the use of IATEX brings.

GERD NEUGEBAUER, Fooling with TEX logos in HTML

Although TEX and friends can produce almost perfect results in the print area they could not make their breakthrough on the Web. So still many sites exist created with HTML. Writing about TEX, automatically the question arises how to set the logo best. This article will give some answers to this.

DTK 2009/2

NORBERT PREINING, TeX Live 2008 and TeX Live Manager

TEX Live 2008 was the first release of TEX Live that came with a new program called TEX Live Manager, or tlmgr for short. TEX Live Manager takes

care of some tasks hitherto covered by texconfig, which itself has never been available for Windows. It also brings a number of new features to TEX Live, including a long-standing demand for continuous online updates of the entire TEX distribution. This article presents the new TEX Live installer called TEX Live Manager, and describes some more news in TEX Live 2008.

ROLF NIEPRASCHK, Installing TEX Live on Linux

In addition to Norbert Preining's article on TEX Live in this issue of DTK, this article describes how to install TEX Live on Linux. It also gives some advice on how to use this TEX distribution. The author deals with openSUSE in particular, but as Linux/Unix platforms are very much the same, his presentation can be drawn upon by users of other platforms as well.

STEFAN KOTTWITZ, TEX Live on netbooks under Ubuntu Linux

Netbooks, or mini notebooks, equipped with upto-date hardware are becoming ever more popular, as they are quite portable, yet performing sufficiently for working with (IA)TEX efficiently. Most models are shipped with the now obsolete operating system Windows XP. So, this article deals with Ubuntu Linux and TEX Live 2008 as a dual boot system, offering a Free alternative.

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Counting words in LATEX documents

In most word processors, it is quite easy to have the number of words and paragraphs counted. Some LATEX editors such as Kile also offer this feature on mouse-click. However, apart from Kile and its brethren we rely on external tools for this, some of which will be presented in this article.

HERBERT VOSS, Converting colour graphics to grayscale

In most cases, a document containing pictures in colour will be printed in black and white, only. Depending on the printing process you might like to convert colour pictures to grayscale in advance as this task is better not left to the printer (and his software).

Rolf Niepraschk, Additional cutting edge

If a document is printed on professional printing machines, it can be a problem when the page has a color area which runs to (bleeds off) the border of the document. In such a case the color border should be a little bit greater to be sure that when the pages are trimmed, there are no white lines.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]