LaTeX News

Issue 2, December 1994

Welcome to LaTeX News 2

An issue of *LaTeX News* will accompany every future release of LaTeX. It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other LaTeX news.

December 1994 release of LaTeX

December 1994 sees the second release of LaTeX 2_ε. We are on schedule to deliver a release of LaTeX every six months, in December and June.

This release has seen quite a lot of activity, which is not too surprising as it's only been a year since the first test release of LaTeX 2_ε. We don't expect so much activity in the next six months.

Many of the changes are minor improvements and bug-fixes—see *LaTeX 2_ε for authors* (`usrguide.tex`), *LaTeX 2_ε font selection* (`fntguide.tex`) and our change log (`changes.txt`) for more details.

However, there are two important new packages available for LaTeX: `inputenc` and AMS-LaTeX.

Accented input

One of the problems with writing non-English documents in LaTeX is the accent commands. Reading documents containing text like `na\"\i ve` is frustrating, especially if your keyboard allows you to type `naïve`.

In the past, LaTeX has not supported input containing accented characters such as ï, because Windows, Macintosh and Unix all have different ways of dealing with accented input, called *input encodings*.

However, the `inputenc` package allows you to specify which input encoding your document is written with, for example to use the ISO Latin-1 encoding, you type:

```
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
```

At the moment, `inputenc` supports the `ascii` and `latin1` input encodings, but more will be added with future releases.

The `inputenc` package is currently a test release. The user interface for the full release will be upwardly compatible with the test version.

AMS-LaTeX

AMS-LaTeX is a set of miscellaneous extensions for LaTeX distributed by the American Mathematical Society. They provide superior information structure and superior printed output for mathematical documents.

There are far too many features of AMS-LaTeX to list here. AMS-LaTeX is described in the accompanying documentation, and in *The LaTeX Companion*.

Version 1.2beta of AMS-LaTeX was released for testing by intrepid users in October 1994. The full release of AMS-LaTeX 1.2 is expected in early January 1995.

It will be divided into two bundles:

- the `amsfonts` packages, which give access to hundreds of new mathematical symbols, and new math fonts such as blackboard bold and fraktur.
- the `amsmath` packages, which provide finer control over mathematical typesetting, such as multi-line subscripts, enhanced theorem and proof environments, and improved displayed equations,

For compatibility with older documents, an `amstex` package will be provided.

LaTeX on the internet

LaTeX has its own home page on the World Wide Web, with the URL:

```
http://www.tex.ac.uk/CTAN/latex/
```

This page describes LaTeX and the LaTeX3 project, and contains pointers to other LaTeX resources, such as the user guides, the TeX Frequently Asked Questions, and the LaTeX bugs database.

The electronic home of anything TeX-related is the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN). This is a network of cooperating ftp sites, with over a gigabyte of TeX material:

```
ftp://ftp.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.shsu.edu/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/
```

For more information, see the LaTeX home page.

Further information

For more information on TeX and LaTeX, get in touch with your local TeX Users Group, or the international TeX Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: tug@tug.org.