LaTeX News

Issue 3, June 1995

Welcome to LaTeX News 3

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.

June 1995 release of LaTeX

June 1995 sees the third release of LaTeX 2_ε. We are on schedule to deliver a release of LaTeX every six months, in December and June.

In the last *LaTeX News*, we said "we don't expect so much activity in the next six months," which has turned out not to be true!

Additional input encodings

In the last release of LaTeX we distributed a test version of the `inputenc` package which allows the use of input characters other than just a–z and A–Z. The package has proved to be robust, so we are now distributing an expanded version. The new release comes with a number of input encodings:

- `ascii` the standard encoding,
- `latin1` the ISO Western European alphabet,
- `latin2` the ISO Eastern European alphabet,
- `cp437` the IBM codepage 437,
- `cp850` the IBM codepage 850, and
- `applemac` the Apple Macintosh encoding.

These can be used by specifying an option to the `inputenc` package, for example:

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

The new input encodings are currently being tested, but we don't expect any major changes.

LaTeX getting smaller

In the past releases of LaTeX 2_ε, the amount of memory LaTeX requires has increased, but we are pleased to say that this trend has been reversed. We hope that future releases of LaTeX will continue to get smaller.

For example, on this document, the December 1994 release used 52,622 words of memory, and the June 1995 release uses 51,216 words of memory, which is a 2.7% reduction.

We are currently experimenting with other ways of reducing the size of LaTeX. For example, we are experimenting with an option to remove the `picture` and `tabbing` environments from the LaTeX kernel, and to load them from a file the first time they are used. This should help LaTeX to run on machines with limited memory. See `autoload.txt` for details.

Distribution and modification

One topic of discussion that has kept us busy is the distribution and modification conditions of LaTeX. We are committed to keeping LaTeX as free reliable software, and ensuring that (as far as possible) LaTeX documents will produce the same results on all systems.

The modification conditions are currently under discussion, and we would like to hear from anyone interested. Please read `modguide.tex` for more information.

AMS-LaTeX full release

The AMS-LaTeX packages were still in beta test in the December 1994 release of LaTeX, and the full release came out in January 1995.

AMS-LaTeX is described in the *User's Guide* (`amsldoc.tex`) and in *The LaTeX Companion.*

PostScript fonts

There is a new test release of the PSNFSS packages for accessing PostScript fonts in LaTeX 2_ε. This includes an update to all of the fonts, to remove many of the underfull and overfull `\hbox` warnings, and improve the setting of non-English languages.

The new release of LaTeX removes all of the 'hidden' uses of Computer Modern mathematics. For example, the footnote markers used to use math mode, so always used Computer Modern digits rather than ones from the current text font. This has now been fixed.

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.

The LaTeX home page is `http://www.tex.ac.uk/ctan/latex/` and contains links to other WWW resources for LaTeX.