

The PracT_EX Journal 2008-2–2008-3

The PracT_EX Journal is an online publication of the T_EX Users Group. Its web site is <http://tug.org/pracjourn>. All articles are available there.

The PracT_EX Journal 2008-2, August 2007

Issue theme: Class and style packages.

LANCE CARNES, From the Editor

FROM THE READERS, Feedback

THE EDITORS, News from Around: TUG 2008; User group news; Math font videos

THE EDITORS, Class & Style—An introduction

WENTAO ZHENG, Go game positions with MetaPost

This article introduces a method of drawing Go game positions with MetaPost. It begins with how the Go game is modeled in the MetaPost language, then explains the detailed implementation, and ends with some examples of Go game positions.

LARS MADSEN, Page styles on steroids (or, memoir makes page styling easy)

Designing a page style has long been a pain for novice users. Some parts are easy, others need good L^AT_EX knowledge. In this article we will present the Memoir way of dealing with page styles including new code added to the recent version of Memoir, that will reduce the pain to a mild annoyance. We will end the article with a series of common scenarios and how to solve these.

LANCE CARNES, Opinion: Enduring L^AT_EX documents

The title of this opinion piece may seem a little strange. After all, if I keep my document source files safely stored away, and have a L^AT_EX system to format them, they should always work, right? Well, sometimes. More often than not, though, a set of L^AT_EX files more than a few years old will probably not format the same today as they did in the original edition.

DAVID WALDEN, Travels in T_EX Land: A bigger experiment with ConT_EXt

In this column in each issue I muse on my wanderings around the T_EX world. In my column in the 2007-2 issue (<http://tug.org/pracjourn/2007-2/walden/>) I tried a small experiment with using ConT_EXt. In this issue I describe an additional, quite extensive, effort to use ConT_EXt—to create a picture book for a “slide show” I was involved in creating a number of years ago.

THE EDITORS, Ask Nelly: How do I center only the last line of a paragraph? How do I get the first and last entry of each index page in its header?

THE EDITORS, Distractions: Fun packages—sudoku solvers

The PracT_EX Journal 2008-3, December 2008

Issue theme: L^AT_EX and T_EX on the Web.

LANCE CARNES AND PAUL BLAGA, From the Editor

FROM THE READERS, Feedback

THE EDITORS, News from Around: What is new in L^AT_EX; User group news—three print journal releases

GEORGE GRÄTZER, A gentle learning curve for L^AT_EX

Is there an easy way to get started in L^AT_EX? I suggest that there is.

TOMAS MORALES DE LUNA, Writing posters in L^AT_EX

L^AT_EX is an excellent editor for the creation of poster presentations. When writing a poster with L^AT_EX, several options are available. Here we would like to present some of these options and in particular the aoposter class and Brian Amberg’s poster template. We shall introduce the basics as well as some useful packages and techniques to make your poster look nice. You can even choose to write your poster sequentially or up from different text blocks positioned absolutely or relatively within the page.

PAUL A. THOMPSON, Clinical trials management on the Internet—I. Using L^AT_EX and SAS to produce customized forms

In clinical trials, forms are used to gather data which is then entered into a database. Paper-based forms are still the standard for data collection, due to portability, stability, and storage considerations. In producing forms, SI (a SAS product which works with the Internet) is used to facilitate the entry of information about participants in a clinical trial over the Internet. Using L^AT_EX, the forms are then processed to produce a .pdf file. The .pdf is returned to the requesting party using a return page on the web browser. The entire process takes about 20 seconds. The system allows highly customized forms to be produced, in which values are inserted into appropriate locations on the forms. L^AT_EX is important due to its superior scripting capabilities, while SAS provides a very flexible database from which to pull information to be inserted into the forms, as well

as providing a method for scripting up the entire transaction. The code required for the process and general approach is outlined.

PAUL A. THOMPSON, Clinical trials management on the Internet — II. Using L^AT_EX, PostScript, and SAS to produce barcode label sheets

In clinical trials, it is often necessary to print labels with barcodes to identify samples. The availability of open-source tools for barcode management is still somewhat limited. Until recently, no L^AT_EX tools existed for the manipulation and encoding of barcodes. Using direct PostScript, barcodes can be defined for strings to be printed on labels. Using L^AT_EX, the labels can be queued up into appropriate sizes for specific label sheets, and then converted into .pdf files. Using SAS, the label sheets can be ordered in a web environment, queued up into appropriate files, and returned to users in a printable file.

TIM ARNOLD, plasT_EX: Converting L^AT_EX documents to other markup languages

This article introduces plasT_EX, a software package for converting L^AT_EX documents to other markup languages. It begins with usage details including examples of how to create HTML and DocBook XML from L^AT_EX sources. Then, it describes development details: how plasT_EX works and how developers can use it to create or extend a publishing workflow in a production setting. Finally, it ends with some examples of customizing the parser and renderer as well as suggestions of how others can contribute to this open source project.

DAVID WALDEN, Travels in T_EX Land: A sidebar for a book

In this column in each issue I muse on my wanderings around the T_EX world. In this issue I describe a small effort to typeset a sidebar for a book project.

THE EDITORS, Book reviews: *More Math into L^AT_EX, Tout ce que vous avez toujours voulu savoir sur L^AT_EX sans jamais oser le demander*

English translation of the second book's title: *Everything you always wanted to know about L^AT_EX but were afraid to ask.*

THE EDITORS, L^AT_EX & T_EX web sites

THE EDITORS, Ask Nelly: How do I replace one overlay with another on a Beamer slide? How do I typeset ancient Greek quotations

THE EDITORS, Distractions: Writing recipes with L^AT_EX