
Production notes

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In the previous issue, Barbara’s editorial (tug.org/TUGboat/tb38-3/tb120beet.pdf) mentioned the plan to create “complete” PDFs for all issues. This has been done, to the extent presently practical, and they are linked from the individual issues’ contents pages under tug.org/TUGboat/Contents. Cover pages, ancillary items, and assorted other refinements to the contents and “lists” files (authors, titles, keywords, also linked on the **Contents** page) were made in the course of the work.

The results are far from perfect, since the sources for many older issues are incomplete or missing, ditto the files sent to the printer, ditto the scanning done over the years. Sometimes the only files available had cropmarks and printer’s instructions. Nevertheless, I felt it more useful to include everything available, for the sake of the content, rather than omit material for its imperfections.

Going forward, the plan is for the page numbers in both the main and by-difficulty tables of contents to be active links in the complete PDF to the corresponding page. This was done for the first time in the last issue, 38:3. (There is no plan to do this for older issues.)

On the \TeX nic side, I used this pdf \TeX primitive command to create these links:

```
\pdfstartlink
  attr{/Border [0 0 0]}
  goto page \tublinkdestpage{/XYZ}\relax
```

where: 1) `attr{/Border...}` prevents boxes from being displayed around the links by PDF readers, which I find remarkably distracting; 2) `gotopage.../XYZ` specifies the destination page and to preserve the current position when moving, instead of zooming the display in or out; 3) `\tublinkdestpage` was previously defined as a counter, set to the corresponding “physical” PDF page number (always starts at 1).

Thus, making the actual link is reasonably straightforward. Getting to that point, though, was more painful: disentangling the longstanding *TUGboat* cover machinery, which previously made several of the cover pages at once, with DVI output (dating back to the days when *TUGboat* paste-up involved scissors and glue, not just moving bytes around). I wanted to switch to pdf \TeX directly for the sake of making the link (as opposed to trying to pass links through DVI to PostScript to PDF), and to process each page in a separate run, due to macro dependencies and just for my sanity. The final result is not intended to be visibly different.

One other (unrelated) improvement I learned of recently was to run the complete PDF through Ghostscript using `-dCompressFonts=true`, which compresses our Type 1 fonts into Type 1C, usually making the final file significantly smaller.

Happy *TUGboat* browsing!

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