Welcome to \LaTeX News

An issue of B\TeX 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.

\LaTeXe—the new \LaTeX release

The most important news is the release of \LaTeXe, the new version of the \LaTeX software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the \LaTeX3 project team. Upgrades will be issued every six months, in June and December.

Why a new \LaTeX?

Over the years many extensions have been developed for \LaTeX. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible \LaTeX formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep \LaTeX (with and without NFSS), SL\LaTeX, \AmS-\LaTeX, and so on. In addition, when looking at a source file it was not always clear for which format the document was written.

To put an end to this unsatisfactory situation a new release of \LaTeXe was produced. It brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of \LaTeXe. The new release was available for several months as a test version, and the final release of 1 June officially replaces the old version.

Processing documents with \LaTeXe

Documents written for \LaTeXe. \LaTeXe. Any such document is run in \LaTeXe compatibility mode.

Unfortunately, compatibility mode comes with a price: it can run up to 50\% slower than \LaTeXe did. If you want to run your document in the faster native mode, you should try replacing the line:

```
\documentstyle[options,packages]{class}
```

with:

```
\documentclass[options]{class}
\usepackage{latexsym,packages}
```

Unfortunately, this will not always work, because some \LaTeXe packages will only work in \LaTeXe compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a \LaTeXe version of the package available.

\LaTeXe native mode also gives access to the new features of \LaTeXe, described in \LaTeXe for authors.

New packages

\LaTeXe has much better support for graphics, colour, fonts, and multi-lingual typesetting. The following software should be available from the distributor who brought you \LaTeXe:

- \texttt{label}, for typesetting in many languages.
- \texttt{color}, for colour support.
- \texttt{graphics}, for including images.
- \texttt{mfn.fs}, for using bitmap fonts.
- \texttt{psnfss}, for using Type 1 fonts.
- \texttt{tools}, other packages by the \LaTeX3 team.

The packages come with full documentation, and are also described in \LaTeX: A Document Processing System or The \LaTeX Companion.

Further information

More information about \LaTeXe is to be found in:

- \texttt{The \LaTeX Companion}, Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, Addison Wesley, 1994.

The \LaTeXe distribution comes with documentation on the new features of \LaTeX:

- \texttt{B\TeXe for authors}, describes the new features of \LaTeX documents, in the file \texttt{userguide.tex}.
- \texttt{B\TeXe for class and package writers}, describes the new features of \LaTeX classes and packages, in the file \texttt{clsguide.tex}.
- \texttt{B\TeXe font selection}, describes the new features of \LaTeX fonts for class and package writers, in the file \texttt{fntguide.tex}.

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.

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