

# L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News

Issue 1, June 1994

## *Welcome to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News*

An issue of *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News* will accompany every future release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X news.

## *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>—the new L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X release*

The most important news is the release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>, the new version of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 project team. Upgrades will be issued every six months, in June and December.

## *Why a new L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?*

Over the years many extensions have been developed for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (with and without NFSS), S<sup>L</sup>I<sup>T</sup>E<sup>X</sup>,  $\mathcal{A}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{S}$ -L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, 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 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X was produced. It brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09. 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 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>*

Documents written for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 will still be read by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>. Any such document is run in *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 compatibility mode*.

Unfortunately, compatibility mode comes with a price: it can run up to 50% slower than L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 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 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 packages will only work in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> version of the package available.

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> native mode also gives access to the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>, described in *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> for authors*.

## *New packages*

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> has much better support for graphics, colour, fonts, and multi-lingual typesetting. The following software should be available from the distributor who brought you L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub>:

*babel*, for typesetting in many languages.

*color*, for colour support.

*graphics*, for including images.

*mfnfss*, for using bitmap fonts.

*psnfss*, for using Type 1 fonts.

*tools*, other packages by the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 team.

The packages come with full documentation, and are also described in *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: A Document Processing System* or *The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Companion*.

## *Further information*

More information about L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> is to be found in:

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: A Document Preparation System*, Leslie Lamport, Addison Wesley, 2nd ed, 1994.

*The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Companion*, Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, Addison Wesley, 1994.

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X distribution comes with documentation on the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> for authors*, describes the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X documents, in the file `usrguide.tex`.

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> for class and package writers*, describes the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X classes and packages, in the file `clsguide.tex`.

*L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> font selection*, describes the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X fonts for class and package writers, in the file `fntguide.tex`.

For more information on T<sub>E</sub>X and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, get in touch with your local T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, or the international T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: [tug@tug.org](mailto:tug@tug.org).