

# The l3docstrip package

## Code extraction and manipulation

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 Project\*

Released 2020-08-07

## 1 Extending DocStrip

The l3docstrip module adds L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 extensions to the DocStrip program for extracting code from .dtx. As such, this documentation should be read along with that for DocStrip.

## 2 Internal functions and variables

An important consideration for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 development is separating out public and internal functions. Functions and variables which are private to one module should not be used or modified by any other module. As T<sub>E</sub>X does not have any formal namespacing system, this requires a convention for indicating which functions in a code-level module are public and which are private.

Using l3docstrip allows internal functions to be indicated using a “two part” system. Within the .dtx file, internal functions may be indicated using @@ in place of the module name, for example

```
\cs_new_protected:Npn \@@_some_function:nn #1#2
{
  % Some code here
}
\tl_new:N \l_@@_internal_tl
```

To extract the code using l3docstrip, the “guard” concept used by DocStrip is extended by introduction of the syntax %<@@=<module>>. The <module> name then replaces the @@ when the code is extracted, so that

```
%<*package>
%<@@=foo>
\cs_new_protected:Npn \@@_some_function:nn #1#2
{
  % Some code here
}
\tl_new:N \l_@@_internal_tl
%</package>
```

---

\*E-mail: [latex-team@latex-project.org](mailto:latex-team@latex-project.org)

is extracted as

```
\cs_new_protected:Npn \__foo_some_function:nn #1#2
{
  % Some code here
}
\tl_new:N \l__foo_internal_tl
```

where the `__` indicates that the functions and variables are internal to the `foo` module.

Use `@@@` to obtain `@@` in the output (`@@@@` to get `@@@`). For longer pieces of code the replacement can be completely suppressed by giving an empty module name, namely using the syntax `%<@@=>`.