

L^AT_EX News

Issue 2, December 1994

Welcome to L^AT_EX News 2

An issue of *L^AT_EX News* will accompany every future release of L^AT_EX. It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other L^AT_EX news.

December 1994 release of L^AT_EX

December 1994 sees the second release of L^AT_EX 2_ε. We are on schedule to deliver a release of L^AT_EX every six months, in December and June.

This release has seen quite a lot of activity, which is not too surprising as it's only been a year since the first test release of L^AT_EX 2_ε. We don't expect so much activity in the next six months.

Many of the changes are minor improvements and bug-fixes—see *L^AT_EX 2_ε for authors* (`usrguide.tex`), *L^AT_EX 2_ε font selection* (`fntguide.tex`) and our change log (`changes.txt`) for more details.

However, there are two important new packages available for L^AT_EX: `inputenc` and AMS-L^AT_EX.

Accented input

One of the problems with writing non-English documents in L^AT_EX is the accent commands. Reading documents containing text like `na\''i ve` is frustrating, especially if your keyboard allows you to type `naïve`.

In the past, L^AT_EX has not supported input containing accented characters such as `ï`, because Windows, Macintosh and Unix all have different ways of dealing with accented input, called *input encodings*.

However, the `inputenc` package allows you to specify which input encoding your document is written with, for example to use the ISO Latin-1 encoding, you type:

```
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
```

At the moment, `inputenc` supports the `ascii` and `latin1` input encodings, but more will be added with future releases.

The `inputenc` package is currently a test release. The user interface for the full release will be upwardly compatible with the test version.

AMS-L^AT_EX

AMS-L^AT_EX is a set of miscellaneous extensions for L^AT_EX distributed by the American Mathematical Society. They provide superior information structure

and superior printed output for mathematical documents.

There are far too many features of AMS-L^AT_EX to list here. AMS-L^AT_EX is described in the accompanying documentation, and in *The L^AT_EX Companion*.

Version 1.2beta of AMS-L^AT_EX was released for testing by intrepid users in October 1994. The full release of AMS-L^AT_EX 1.2 is expected in early January 1995.

It will be divided into two bundles:

- the `amsfonts` packages, which give access to hundreds of new mathematical symbols, and new math fonts such as blackboard bold and fraktur.
- the `amsmath` packages, which provide finer control over mathematical typesetting, such as multi-line subscripts, enhanced theorem and proof environments, and improved displayed equations,

For compatibility with older documents, an `amstex` package will be provided.

L^AT_EX on the internet

L^AT_EX has its own home page on the World Wide Web, with the URL:

<http://www.tex.ac.uk/CTAN/latex/>

This page describes L^AT_EX and the L^AT_EX3 project, and contains pointers to other L^AT_EX resources, such as the user guides, the T_EX Frequently Asked Questions, and the L^AT_EX bugs database.

The electronic home of anything T_EX-related is the Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network (CTAN). This is a network of cooperating ftp sites, with over a gigabyte of T_EX material:

```
ftp://ftp.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/  
ftp://ftp.shsu.edu/tex-archive/  
ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/
```

For more information, see the L^AT_EX home page.

Further information

For more information on T_EX and L^AT_EX, get in touch with your local T_EX Users Group, or the international T_EX Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: tug@tug.org.