

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

Issue 14, June 2001

## Future releases

We are currently exploring how to best support the very large community of individuals, organisations and enterprises that depend on the robustness and availability of the current standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X distribution. The results of this may lead to some changes in the regular release schedule and the handling of bug reports during the next year.

## New release of Babel (required)

Earlier this year a new release of Babel (3.7) became available. You can read about its new features in <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/macros/latex/required/babel/announce.txt>

One of the bugs that got fixed in this release deals with how labels are handled by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. Because this part of the kernel is modified by `babel`, the relevant changes need to be coordinated. Therefore to use Babel with this release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X you will need to update your version of `babel` to at least 3.7.

## New input encoding `latin9`

The package `inputenc` has, thanks to Karsten Tinnfeld, been extended to cover the `latin9` input encoding. The ISO-Latin 9 encoding is a useful modern replacement for ISO-Latin 1 that contains a few characters needed for French and Finnish. Of wider interest, it also contains the euro currency sign; this could be the killer argument for many 8-bit texts to use Latin-9 in the future.

According to a Linux manpage, ISO Latin-9 supports Albanian, Basque, Breton, Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Faroese, Finnish, French, Frisian, Galician, German, Greenlandic, Icelandic, Irish Gaelic, Italian, Latin, Luxembourgish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Rhaeto-Romanic, Scottish Gaelic, Spanish and Swedish. The characters added in `latin9` are (in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X notation):

```
\texteuro \v S \v s \v Z \v z \OE \oe \" Y
They displace the following characters from latin1:
\textcurrency \textbrokenbar \"{} \'{} \c{}
\textonequarter \textonehalf \textthreequarters
```

## New tools

The new package `trace` provides many commands to control L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's tracing and debugging output, including the excellent new information available with  $\epsilon$ -T<sub>E</sub>X such as the extremely useful tracing of local assignments. You will find it in the tools distribution.

It offers the command `\tracelon`, which is similar to `\tracingall` but suppresses uninteresting stuff such as font loading by NFSS (which can go on for pages if you are unlucky). It also offers `\traceoff` to ... guess what! Full details are in the documented source file, `trace.dtx`.

In the base `ifthen` package we have added the uppercase synonyms `\NOT` `\AND` and `\OR`.

## New experimental code

In *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News 12* we announced some ongoing work towards a 'Designer Interface for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X' and we presented some early results thereof. Since then, at Gutenberg 2000 in Toulouse and TUG 2000 in Oxford, we described a new output routine and an improved method of handling vertical mode material between paragraphs. In combination these support higher quality *automated*<sup>1</sup> page-breaking and page make-up for complex pages—the best yet achieved with T<sub>E</sub>X!

More recently we have added material to handle the complex front matter requirements of journal articles; this was presented at Gutenberg 2001 in Metz.

A paper describing the new output routine is at <http://www.latex-project.org/papers/xo-pfloat.pdf>. All code examples and documentation are available at <http://www.latex-project.org/code/experimental>

This directory has been extended to contain the following.

**galley** Prototype implementation of the interface for manipulating vertical material in galleys.

**xinitials** Prototype implementation of the interface for paragraph initials (needs the `galley` package).

**xtheorem** Contributed example using the `template` package to provide a designer interface for theorem environments.

**xor** A prototype implementation of the new output routine as described in the `xo-pfloat.pdf` paper.

**xfrontm** A prototype version of the new front matter interface.

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<sup>1</sup>The stress here is on *automated*!