Welcome to \LaTeX{} News 2

An issue of \LaTeX{} 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.

\textbf{December 1994 release of \LaTeX{}}

December 1994 sees the second release of \LaTeX{} 2.\epsilon. We are on schedule to deliver a release of \LaTeX{} 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 \LaTeX{} 2.\epsilon. We don’t expect so much activity in the next six months.

Many of the changes are minor improvements and bug-fixes—see \LaTeX{} 2.\epsilon for authors (\texttt{usrguide.tex}), \LaTeX{} 2.\epsilon font selection (\texttt{fntguide.tex}) and our change log (\texttt{changes.txt}) for more details.

However, there are two important new packages available for \LaTeX{}: \texttt{inputenc} and AMS-\LaTeX{}.

\textbf{Accented input}

One of the problems with writing non-English documents in \LaTeX{} is the accent commands. Reading documents containing text like naïve is frustrating, especially if your keyboard allows you to type na¨ıve.

In the past, \LaTeX{} has not supported input containing accented characters such as ı, because Windows, Macintosh and Unix all have different ways of dealing with accented input, called \textit{input encodings}.

However, the \texttt{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:

\begin{verbatim}
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
\end{verbatim}

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

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

\textbf{AMS-\LaTeX{}}

AMS-\LaTeX{} is a set of miscellaneous extensions for \LaTeX{} 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-\LaTeX{} to list here. AMS-\LaTeX{} is described in the accompanying documentation, and in \textit{The \LaTeX{} Companion}.

Version 1.2beta of AMS-\LaTeX{} was released for testing by intrepid users in October 1994. The full release of AMS-\LaTeX{} 1.2 is expected in early January 1995.

It will be divided into two bundles:

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

For compatibility with older documents, an \texttt{amstex} package will be provided.

\textbf{\LaTeX{} on the internet}

\LaTeX{} has its own home page on the World Wide Web, with the URL:

\url{http://www.tex.ac.uk/CTAN/latex/}

This page describes \LaTeX{} and the \LaTeX{}3 project, and contains pointers to other \LaTeX{} resources, such as the user guides, the \TeX{} Frequently Asked Questions, and the \LaTeX{} bugs database.

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

\begin{verbatim}
ftp://ftp.tex.ac.uk/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.shsu.edu/tex-archive/
ftp://ftp.dante.de/tex-archive/
\end{verbatim}

For more information, see the \LaTeX{} home page.

\textbf{Further information}

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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