Using tlmgr with MacTeX 2008

1 Introduction

TeX Live 2008 has a new command line application, called tlmgr, that will automatically update the TeX Live distribution with new packages, etc., as time goes on. Unfortunately, in the initial release of TeX Live 2008 (and therefore MacTeX 2008), and on the TUG DVD, tlmgr needs to be updated before using it to update the system. There will be an updated release of MacTeX where tlmgr will be updated already. This short article[1] is meant as an interim solution for those who have installed the initial MacTeX 2008 or BasicTeX 2008 release or have installed from the DVD.

2 Updating tlmgr

The easiest way to update tlmgr is by using the shell script update-tlmgr-latest.sh. After downloading the script, put it on your `Desktop` and run the commands

```
cd ~/Desktop
sudo sh update-tlmgr-latest.sh
```

in Terminal; entering your administrator password when prompted.

3 Setting up the Server

Tlmgr retrieves updates from one of the many CTAN servers. To avoid overloading a particular server tlmgr is usually configured to use a "mirror link," `mirror.ctan.org`, which parcels out requests to different servers. Set this link preference by executing

```
sudo tlmgr option location http://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet/2008
```

in Terminal; entering your administrator password when prompted.

3.1 If you have problems with the mirror link

Not all sites contacted through the mirror link will be in sync. If you consistently run into problems with a server chosen by the mirror link after updating tlmgr as described in Section (2) above you can pick a particular CTAN server. Replace `mirror.ctan.org` in the command above by one of the servers on the list found at <http://www.tug.org/mactex/mirrorpage.html>[2]. E.g., in the USA you might replace `mirror.ctan.org` in the command above by `ctan.math.utah.edu`: hover your mouse over that link and you'll see `http://ctan.math.utah.edu/ctan/tex-archive/systems/mac/mactex/MacTeX.mpkg.zip`[3]; copy everything up to and including the `.../systems/` and add `texlive/tlnet/2008` so the command becomes

```
sudo tlmgr option location http://ctan.math.utah.edu/ctan/tex-archive/systems/texlive/tlnet/2008
```

and enter your administrator password when prompted.

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[1]Based on some of the contents of <http://www.tug.org/texlive/tlmgr.html> and reports from members of the Mac OS X TeX mailing list.

[2]This is a list of `http://` servers that seem to be updated in a timely fashion. **Don't click on the link which will start a download of MacTeX**.

[3]Exactly where you'll see this depends upon the browser you are using.

4   Updating MacTeX 2008 Using tlmgr

Once tlmgr is updated and the CTAN server is set you freely do updates to you TeX system. To do a general update of your MacTeX or BasicTeX 2008 you need only run

```
sudo tlmgr update --all
```

in the Terminal application and enter your administrator password. To see what will be updated before actually updating you should run

```
tlmgr update --list
```

where you don't need to use sudo since tlmgr will not be writing to the TeX distribution.

To get more information on all the other things you can do with tlmgr run

```
texdoc tlmgr
```

in the Terminal application. This should bring up a pdf copy of the the tlmgr manual pages in Preview which you can then save to your Desktop.