LaTeX 2.10

Frank Mittelbach

Remarks on LaTeX 2.10 + 3.0

At the TUG meeting in Texas, I was able to announce the availabilty of the new font selection scheme which will be incorporated in the new LaTeX and explained its features. Further work is ongoing, including the redesign of the internal style interface and a new attribute concept. A more detailed talk about this project will be given at the Cork meeting in September.

⋄ Frank Mittelbach
  Electronic Data Systems
    (Deutschland) GmbH
  Eisenstraße 56 (N 15), D-6090
    Rüsselsheim, Federal Republic
    of Germany
  Tel. +49 6142 803267
  Bitnet: pzf5hz@drueds2

International Reports

DANTE, Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TeX e.V.

Joachim Lammarsch

On April 14, 1989 in Heidelberg, DANTE (the Deutschsprachige Anwendervereinigung TeX e.V.), was founded. I was elected chairman of the society, and we also elected a vice chairwoman (Mrs. G. Kruljac-Dronskowski, MPI Stuttgart), a treasurer (Mr. Friedhelm Sowa, Research Center of the University of Düsseldorf), and a secretary (Mrs. Luzia Dietsche, Computing Center of the University of Heidelberg). By May of this year, the user group had about 500 members in West Germany, Austria, Switzerland, East Germany, France, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Belgium, the USA, and Canada.

The principal aim of the society is to encourage advice and cooperation among German-speaking TeX users. But this is not the only intention. The user group cooperates with other related national and international TeX groups; and, as well, DANTE represents the interests of the German-language TeX users to TUG. That is done in coordination with other European TeX groups and their national interests.

For its members, DANTE distributes a variety of software, including complete TeX systems with common macro packages for PCs and Ataris, META-FONT, and drivers. In the future, TeX for Macintoshes and Amigas will also be distributed. Anyone who has e-mail access can get some of the software via the FTP server in Stuttgart (129.69.1.12) or via LISTSERV@DHDURZ1.EARN.

Twice a year a general meeting (held together with the annual conference) takes place for all interested TeXers. During these meetings some experienced members of DANTE hold courses for free for everyone who wants to attend. Another DANTE activity is to organise training and education for beginners. Together with this activity, DANTE supports its members with information about all that is going on in the TeX world: because a lot of interested TeXers have no e-mail access, DANTE distributes TeXhax and UKTeX via diskettes.

Last but not least, a quarterly newspaper for members is published, with articles about new macros, style files, dates, reviews, and so on.

In addition to this, there are a lot of other activities and plans to spread TeX and the knowledge about it, for example, by publishing articles in the most widely circulated computer journals in Germany, or by bringing TeX into high schools to students and teachers.

Institutions as well as individuals can become members: universities, publishers, computer companies, private persons, students, etc., to name but a few. Dues differ for the various categories.
For more information, please contact:

DANTE, Deutschsprachige
  Anwendervereinigung TeX e.V.
c/o Research Center
Im Neuenheimer Feld 293
D-6900 Heidelberg 1
Federal Republic of Germany
Bitnet: DANTE@DHDURZ1.EARN

⋄ Joachim Lammarsch
  Chairman of DANTE

News From and About GUTenberg

Bernard Gaulle

[Editor's note: The following report was read by Christina Thiele at the Texas A&M meeting as Bernard was unable to attend.]

As this is the first time I've been invited to talk about GUTenberg, it's perhaps necessary to explain why we decided to found GUTenberg two years ago. There were many reasons, but here are only the most important ones.

During the past few years we had organized more or less informal one-day meetings which were very much appreciated. People began asking for more and closer contacts; there were telephone calls frequently requesting help for access to a TeX (or TeX-related products) distributor. Though *TUGboat* contained many useful pieces of information, it seemed specially devoted to experienced TeX users. Another important reason was of course that we felt that problems related to francophone users remained unsolved. And on other fronts, professionals were beginning to use TeX and METAFONT. And so, we "officially" founded GUTenberg less than two years ago with many ideas but only two precise ideas: (1) to **create our own journal** (*Les Cahiers GUTenberg*), and (2) to **continue to organize meetings**.

In the meantime, we opened a list for discussions (`GUT@FRULM11.BITNET`) under LISTSERV, and we promoted Michael Ferguson's Multilingual TeX, as well as the use of LaTeX by beginners.

Last year at our meeting in Paris, public domain PC diskettes were announced. We discovered at that moment the first French book on TeX (*Le petit livre de TeX* by Raymond Séroul), which is excellent. This year we worked especially on the design of a French-speaking style. We are now ready to distribute "running" versions of MLTeX for various UNIX systems and machines.

TeX 3.0 brings us many useful new features (and we thank DEK for that), but it also raises again the problem of hyphenating accented words (words containing accented letters) which are intensively used in French. There are two solutions for this. One is to use virtual fonts — it's certainly THE solution for the future, but it now looks a little complicated. The second solution is to use the (transitional) bypass developed by Michael Ferguson (called Multilingual TeX), which is simpler, ready to use, and will probably be valid for the next few years. GUTenberg is now examining these two ways for its own distributions.

One related problem to solve as quickly as possible is the place of accented letters within the second part of the ASCII code. Facing this particular problem (and also many others), GUTenberg wants very much to find (at least) a European solution. This procedure will always be adopted by GUTenberg when multilingual solutions are possible. More generally we prefer to work as closely together as possible with other TeX user groups that share our problems, ideas, goals, etc.

GUTenberg memberships are growing rapidly (200 members the first year, 400 or more planned for the second, **right now: 350**). In spite of this good position, fewer than 20% of our members are also TUG members and only an extremely small portion of them volunteer to help. The lack of TeX gurus seems to be specific to our group — or perhaps they are only unknown today?

Regarding courses, GUTenberg is still very young. We have only organised one-day tutorials, held before or after our annual meetings. There have been a few in-house courses, but none which were organised by GUTenberg.

GUTenberg is now at a crossroads: one way is to let things be done quietly; the other is more difficult. We have to move into higher gear, with more projects, more volunteers, more professionals, more young members, etc. This is a challenge that GUTenberg would be pleased to share (and win) with other TeX user groups.

Thank you.

For more information, contact:

Association GUTenberg
c/o IRISA
Campus de Beaulieu
F-35-42 Rennes Cedex
France

⬦ Bernard Gaulle
President of GUTenberg

NTG's Second Year

Kees van der Laan

[Editor's note: The following report was read by Barbara Beeton at the Texas A&M meeting as Kees was unable to attend.]

Organizational

NTG (Nederlandstalige TEX Gebruikersgroep), the Dutch-language oriented TEX users group, has existed legally since the fall of 1989. At the moment, we have 15 institutional members (representing 45 people) and some 50 individual members, making roughly a hundred members.

Members received minutes of the spring and fall meetings, with much information collected in appendices, as well as a printout of the renewed membership database. At the meetings, organizational aspects (budget, etc.) were discussed, and some presentations were also given (including Victor Eijkhout on "Unusual paragraph shapes", Nico Poppelier on "SGML and TEX at Elsevier", Johannes Braams on "Various 'network' aspects"). Roughly 40 members were present at each meeting.

The listserver TEX-NL@HEARN has been heavily used for information exchange and for asking questions. The fileserver TEX-NL@HEARN contains codes useful for the Dutch-speaking community. The Universiteit van Utrecht (RUU, for short) has made a second (Internet) fileserver available. The NTG board can be reached via: NTG@HEARN.

The first year was characterized by getting started, the second by getting organized. Now we face the difficult task of organizing continuity of NTG: that is, to get a renewal process working for election of (two) board members every year, charged with preserving an active NTG. Of course the Working Groups are the basis and therefore they must be stimulated. Work of individuals also has to be encouraged. A structural activity for continuity is "teaching the teachers". It is hoped that contacts with other user groups will also encourage continuity.

Cooperation with other (European) TEX user groups has resulted in:

1. inviting a representative of other users groups to the (open) meeting(s) at no (conference and one course) costs

2. the secretary of every user group is a member of the other user groups by default (information exchange is organized)

3. members of one group are considered members of other groups with respect to admission fees for meetings

4. sharing know-how (exchange of teachers, speakers, etc.)

With respect to TUG, we welcome the realization of the possibility of joint memberships.

Working Group Activities

Although we mainly operate in working groups — which help structure the discussion and stimulate cooperation — much work has been done on an individual basis. As an example of the latter one can think of the article "Typesetting Bridge via (plain) TEX", which was published in TUGboat 11, no. 2, and was presented at GUTenberg '90 in Toulouse.

Education

A survey of (local) courses and courseware is maintained. Tools for preparing and maintaining (course) transparencies are in preparation. A set-up of courses has been made for the "NTG Days", with the idea of worldwide modules in mind. A contribution to Child's discussion of what every module should contain, has been made. Some Dutchies teach at other TUG meetings. For example, Kees van der Laan has taught the SGML class at both Stanford and the upcoming meeting at Cork; Victor Eijkhout will be giving the advanced TEX course at Cork as well.

Guidelines for Authors

A report (Journal Style Guidelines, RC RUG Report 26), has appeared. It can be obtained by writing to: Rekencentrum RUG, Landlevem 1, NL-9700 AV Groningen, The Netherlands.

PCs

Some evaluations of public domain (PD) MS-DOS programs have been made. An Atari PD set is available upon request. It looks like this Working Group will become more active this year, which is very much appreciated. Cooperation with other user groups is bound to be beneficial.

Fonts

A chess font has been developed, but not published. Note: this work has possibly been superceded by the published work of Zalman Rubinstein, TUGboat 10, no. 3, 387–389.

NTG Days

The first "NTG Days" (June 1989) was organized by RUU. Roughly 80 people attended. This year the theme is SGML and TEX. The organization is done by NTG and SGML Holland. The number of courses offered during these days has been increased from 2 to 7. We now have multi-day courses, as opposed to the one-day courses last year. This year's meeting will be on 31 August, with courses to be held the week before and the week after the meeting.

SGML TEX

An introductory paper (appendix to minutes) was prepared and presented at the second SGML Holland seminar (October 1989, Amsterdam) and at GUTenberg 90 (May 1990, Toulouse).

Dutch Aspects

Various .sty files have emerged for report, article and letter. Moreover, articles have been prepared on A4, international LaTeX, and Babel. These articles have been submitted to *TUGboat*, and some have already appeared in *TUGboat* 11, no. 1 and no. 2.

Communication

Fileservers — TEX-NL@HEARN and RUU's internet server — are maintained. Problems of what to store, how (coded?) to store, and how to retrieve, are under study. We have a floppy distribution service: floppies with information (minutes and appendices) as well as programs (those available on the fileservers), especially for those members who don't have access to electronic mail.

Summary

At the last meeting it was urged that NTG should pay more attention to public relation activities, e.g.: "helicopter talks" such as "What is TEX all about (off the shelf)", and a real survey course on TEX, LaTeX, METAFONT, Postscript, SGML and how these are related.

Furthermore, attention will be paid to public domain PC versions, not so much to develop them ourselves but to get the material, exercise it and organise dissemination. The idea of an NTG report series has also been proposed.

⋄ Kees van der Laan
President of NTG

Report from the Nordic TEX Users Group

Roswitha Graham and Jan Michael Rynning

The Nordic countries have a tradition of close cooperation, as well as having a common cultural background. Swedish, Danish and Norwegian are much alike, and Icelandic is by origin connected to the Norwegian languages. Finnish is entirely different but there is a large Swedish-speaking minority resident there.

The Nordic TEX Users Group was officially formed in Copenhagen in 1988, covering the Nordic countries of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. One informal Nordic meeting had already taken place beforehand in Stockholm in 1985, with the purposes of: discussing the future of TEX and solving common Nordic problems as the input of national characters, how to use LaTeX when using national characters, correct hyphenation and proper placement of accents. The result was some more national versions of TEX82 under VAX-VMS. TEX is still frequently used on VAX-VMS.

When TEX was ported to personal computers with output on laser printers, membership in the User Group increased. PostScript devices became the de facto standard, followed by HP.

TEX is mainly used by staff and students in academic and research environments, and is well supported at all large universities. We can also report that there are also a few companies and private users of TEX.

Networks, Distribution and Support

All universities in the Nordic countries are connected to the NORDUNET (Nordic University Network), centrally paid for and free for academic use, with communication over 64kbit/s leased lines, using TCP/IP and DECNET protocols. The TCP/IP network is part of the Internet. Stockholm/KTH is the central node with gateways to EARN/Bitnet, SPAN/HEPNET and UUCP. These networks give easy access to archives all over the world.

ftp.kth.se (120.237.72.201) is an FTP archive with a current copy of the labrea.stanford.edu archive plus other some other stuff from different archives and some local stuff. Other local archives exist at various departments and universities.

A mailing list (NordicTeX@kth.se) has recently taken over communication of news, problems and questions from different sites. TEX support is decentralized to local systems groups at the different sites. There is a central register kept of TEX experts or contacts at different sites. Local courses, hand-

outs and instructions are offered by the various sites and made available through the schools. TeX for personal computers has mostly been distributed by dealers (PC TeX, μTeX, *Textures*), but we are also looking into what is available in the public domain. Special adaptations have been made at KTH/NADA to use *Textures* with direct entry of national characters.

Trends and News

An increasing interest in TeX has been reported from math departments, while other desktop publishing software is taking over at other places. The number of members of the Nordic TeX Users Group has been reported stable during the last year.

One trend seems to be that TeX users are moving to UNIX workstations (SUN, DEC, HP, . . .) from mainframes and micro computers.

Increases in book and journal production with TeX have also been reported and typesetting services are now offered by the University of Oslo (Linotronic, Risø (IBX) and UNI·C/Copenhagen (Linotronic) in Denmark.

Most sites have upgraded to TeX 3.0, and are now waiting for 8-bit fonts so they can make full use of it.

Wishes for 1990

The strongest wish is for an 8-bit font standard and Greek and math symbols fonts to match Times Roman. Best wishes go for the LaTeX project. We wish to support by all means a world-wide TeX.

◇ Roswitha Graham
    President, Nordic TeX Users
        Group

◇ Jan Michael Rynning

TeX in the UK

Malcolm Clark

It is readily apparent that only a portion of TeX activity becomes "institutionalised". A great deal of TeXing goes on at an everyday, unexceptional, background level. Thus the description here is likely to be only a partial description of what has happened in the UK's portion of the TeX world in the last year. If anyone feels aggrieved because they have been left out, I apologise. It was inadvertent.

UK TeX Users Group

The group was founded in 1989 (see [2]) to be a focus for TeX and TeX-related activities in the UK. The term "TeX" is used by the Group as a shorthand not only for the TeX program itself, but also for the many other related pieces of software, such as LaTeX, $\mathcal{AMS}$-TeX, METAFONT, the Computer Modern typeface, WEB, output device drivers, . . .

Among the aims of the Group was a desire to encourage the work at Aston on the TeX archive and the UK TeX bulletin, particularly in their efforts to distribute to people not on the academic networks. Equally encouraging is its wish to cooperate with TUG and with the other European groups such as GUTenberg, DANTE, NTG and the Nordic Group. Together with these other groups, the UK TeX Users Group seeks to ensure adequate recognition of European needs at TUG. It also seeks to encourage the development of other European groups in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Group has already organised several one-day meetings on a variety of topics. These have included contributions from renowned speakers, as well as from the UK TeX community at large (note that these are not necessarily mutually exclusive groups). There were two meetings of the group in the period between the Stanford TUG Conference and this Conference.

The first of these, at Aston University (Birmingham), was entitled "Fonts: how they are created; how they can be used". Ten speakers introduced topics ranging from the creation of inscriptions in stone, right through to the esoteria of coercing METAFONT to produce PostScript. In her review of this meeting, Carol Hewlett [3] noted that 'TeX didn't get mentioned by the speakers until after tea'. The meeting organizers have tended to take a very eclectic view of the topics which will interest TeX users, perhaps feeling that an introduction to the wider world of publishing and typesetting would be no bad thing.

The other meeting was on "Bibliographies and Indexing", and was held at the London School of Economics. This again followed the "policy" of inviting speakers who were specialists in their fields, but not necessarily TEX- or LATEX-wise, and attempting to balance them with the nitty gritty of more technical material (e.g. [4]).

Immediately after the TUG Conference, the Group held its first workshop, on "Fonts and font families". This was held at the University of Windsor. As a workshop this was limited to a smaller number of participants, and approached its topics much more intensively. This time it was completely in the hands of the wizards (Chris Rowley and Dominik Wujastyk).

In order to expand the range of meetings, the Group proposes to continue the one-day general meetings and the one-day in-depth workshops, but to augment these with visits to, for example, publishers, book and journal producers, typesetting hardware manufacturers, typographers, and basically anyone who can help us increase our knowledge of all aspects of electronic publishing and document preparation. Next year will see a significant departure in meeting style with the introduction of a two-day conference on "Book production".

The Group has also been active in creating specialist "Working Groups" with interests such as hyphenation, fonts and METAFONT, implementation issues, BIBTEX, the other LATEX tools, PostScript, and standards. It is currently examining the production of a newsletter for the membership, but as an interim, all members of the group receive the TEXline newsletter. Negotiations have taken place with publishers to enable the Group to supply TEX-relevant books to the membership, at a discount.

The Aston Archive

It is difficult to separate the work of the Archive (see [1]) from other TEX activities in the UK. The same people crop up actively in several different roles. The Archive seems to be maintaining its pre-eminent position as the largest TEX-archive. Nevertheless it is still plagued by the vagaries of character translation at the Rutherford Gateway. At least there has been grudging acceptance by Rutherford that the problem is directly related to their Gateway. A small advance, but an advance. The last year has seen some reorganisation of the archive's structure, but the sheer volume of material can make finding the right files rather difficult. Since the JANET network in the UK does not permit the "anonymous FTP" which the rest of the world seems to enjoy, this can be a stumbling block to the beginning archive browser. One welcome innovation has been the introduction of a mail-server type service, which has an interface like lots of other mail servers. Thus file transfers can be accomplished over e-mail as well as NIFTP. Recently the requests to the Archive have been monitored to see what is going where. This confirmed that a great deal of material was being shipped out, but to everyone's surprise (well, mine), a large proportion of the information was being shipped to Europe. So, despite the apparent Rutherford problems, the Archive is beginning to accomplish its destiny.

Of course, the success of the Archive could not be achieved without the devotion of the Archivists, Peter Abbott (himself an Archivist), and the many people around the world who submit material to the Archive and help to keep it at the forefront of TEX software.

The UKTEX digest is also an Aston activity, although in theory it has little to do with the Archive. Strangely enough, the Archivists seem to answer many of the queries. The digest continues to appear with welcome regularity (despite a few hiccoughs from time to time, common to all electronic distributions). The size of the digest seems to have stabilized, and the range of questions varies between the straightforward "does TEX run on the PC yet?" to the esoteria of METAFONT and subtle LATEX macros.

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⋄ Malcolm Clark
Chairman of the UK TEX Users
Group; Aston Archivist

TEX in Europe

Malcolm Clark

Great things have happened in Europe in the last year. It would be good to think that TEX might have played some small but significant role in the liberalisation of Europe. TEX's ability to put the power of the printing press back into the hands of the people gives it some of the hallmarks of the tools needed for democracy. But perhaps we hope for too much.

I was lucky enough to visit Poland in the autumn of 1989 at the invitation of Janusz Bień, and to be entertained both by him and by other TEX colleagues. There can be little doubt that there is a surprising amount of TEX activity in the country. This was reinforced by Marek Ryćko's paper at TEX89 in Karlsruhe, where he won the best paper award, and more recently by Bień's paper [2] in *TUGboat*. Although "traditional" computing power ("mainframes") is present, its use has tended to be rather controlled. The availability of personal machines however places comparable computing power into many hands. A more powerful limiting factor is output devices and their consumables. But anything written now is likely to be out of date very soon.

Elsewhere, an officially recognised TEX group has been established in Czechoslovakia (Československé sdružení uživatelů TEXu), as the result of the merger of two informal groups. In Hungary, another group — "HunTEX" — has come into being. This group is fortunate to have e-mail connection and regularly receives TEXhax. It is hoped that Hungary can be supplied electronically with much relevant public domain TEXware.

Recently news broke that Poland is also to join the electronic mail domain. Not only will this simplify communication, but again it will allow the transfer of TEXware. The re-unification of Germany will presumably lead to the integration of electronic mail within that country. Rumour has it that shortly the Soviet Union (or as much of it as is left) will also be connected by e-mail. (The spooks in Washington will have many happy hours decoding hexed TEX-files!)

As the accompanying reports from DANTE, GUTenberg, NTG and the Nordic group have made plain, there is a great deal of European activity. The meetings of DANTE and GUTenberg in particular are well-attended and encompass a wide range of TEX subject matter and expertise. The GUTenberg at Toulouse provided a most useful forum for represen-tatives of the European groups to discuss common problems, and to meet the TUG President, Nelson Beebe. This was a particularly constructive meeting.

In addition to the conferences and meetings organised by the "local" groups, EuroTEX89 was held at Karlsruhe in September. This was a well-attended conference [6] which provided another useful addition to the accumulation of TEX knowledge and expertise. Apparently painlessly run, and with some fine social events — the organisers, Anne Brüggeman-Klein and Rainer Rupprecht deserve much praise. I keenly believe that the European TEX conferences are essential for the long-term viability of TEX, TUG and TEX-in-Europe. Without these meetings, and without participation from the whole European catchment we will all be a great deal poorer.

Of course, there are other activities which are relevant to us: the "Raster Imaging and Digital Typography" Conference in Lausanne [1] covered subjects close to the hearts of many of the TEX-literate. One outcome of this was the DIDOT project, a project designed to establish training in numerical typography. If this becomes established it could help to increase cooperation between those involved with traditional and digital typography.

Several more books have appeared in Europe. Norbert Schwarz' *Einfürung in TEX* was translated into *Introduction to TEX* [8] by himself and his colleague Jost Krieger. There has also been a *LATEX Cookbook* by Theo de Klerk [7]. And of course, eventually the *TEX88 Conference Proceedings* have appeared ([4]). Not before time! The *Cahiers GUTenberg* continue their high standard (even including colour printing now), and have this year been joined with DANTE's *Die TEXnische Komödie*. The last year also saw another edition of *TEXline* — number 10.

Lest complacency set in as we review our past achievements, let's consider what has not happened. There seem to be no organised user groups in either Italy or Spain, despite sporadic activity in the past. It may be that the formation of user groups is not the best way forward for these countries. With a few exceptions, TEX makes slow progress against the yuppie tide of WYSIWYG. We still have not managed to get our act together to explain why markup is a *good* thing. And this when PostScript, the write-only typographic markup system, continues its dominance of the page description language arena. My WYSIWYG chums still tell me that Post-Script is wonderful, but that TEX is too difficult! Equally, the faceless SGML, rescued from the dol-

drums by the US Department of Defense and the CALS initiative, is hailed as a great leap forward. A markup *meta*-language, it can describe the structure of a document, but requires some friendly help to let that structure be realised on a sheet of paper (or a screen). And where does that friendly help often come from? — TeX or LaTeX. But those who embrace SGML shy away from LaTeX. What is the difference? — simple: standards. The way of the future is through the standards world ([3, 5]). We join in or become a backwater. C'mon in, the water's lovely!

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⋄ Malcolm Clark
European Coordinator

Site Reports

MVS Site Report

Craig Platt

I am happy to report that MVS TeX 3.0 and META-FONT 2.0 have passed the trip/trap tests. Further testing remains, but I hope they will soon be ready for distribution. The current distribution, available from Maria Code, remains at TeX 2.9 and META-FONT 1.3, so if you want to order the new version, be sure to specify "TeX 3.0" on your order.

In addition to final testing of TeX and META-FONT, some of the auxiliary sources, particularly METAFONTware, need to be brought up to date. In the past, I have had difficulties getting the latest versions of some software, being at a site without FTP access. Dean Guenther has kindly sent me updates by mail from time to time, and Barbara Beeton has been mailing all the site coordinators *diff* files for updates to the main programs, which I've used to piece together the current test versions. Nevertheless, I've always felt hampered by the lack of direct access to the Stanford sources. Fortunately, this situation should improve soon, as I am assured that the University of Manitoba will in the next month or so be connected to Internet with FTP access. Then it should be much easier to keep all the sources up-to-date.

I have also experimented briefly with a large-memory version of TeX, based on values in the UNIX distribution ($mem\_max = 262140$). There appears to be a slight tradeoff in speed (about 9% slower), but the "big" TeX seems to run with no problems (it passes the trip test).

⋄ Craig Platt
Dept. of Math & Astronomy
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N2 Canada
Bitnet: platt@ccm.umanitoba.ca

VMS Site Report

David Kellerman

First, let me mention some news from the TUG90 conference. A quick informal survey during the site coordinators' reports showed that about two-thirds of those present used TeX on a VMS system. A large majority were LaTeX users. Most were not sure where they got TeX. Maria Code, DECUS, Internet FTP, and commercial distributions each got only a few responses. TeX travels in mysterious ways! PostScript printers are by now the most common output device, with LN03s sliding into a distant second place. A handful of users have VAXstations.

The software developments are too numerous to mention in detail, but let me hit some of the high points. The DECUS distribution, assembled by Ted Nieland, remains the most accessible and broad-