Die TEXnische Komödie 2–3/2012

Die TEXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TEX user group (`http://www.dante.de`). [Editorial items are omitted.]

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MARCO DANIEL, Das Paket `xparse` Dokumentenmakros auf Basis `expl3` [The `xparse` package — Documenting macros on the basis of `expl3`]; pp. 39–47

Writing bigger documents in LATEX usually makes an author define his or her own macros and environments. The most common method for authors is to use the `\newcommand` or `\newenvironment` command. The `xparse` package provides functions for the definition of macros with various optional arguments, starred versions or combinations of macros.

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, `biblatex` mit `tufte-latex` verwenden [Using `biblatex` with `tufte-latex`]; pp. 51–53

Triggered by a question on TEX.sx ('Can I use biblatex with Tufte classes?' at `http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/45934`), I noticed some issues if the `biblatex` package is used with the Tufte document classes. Fortunately there is a solution which will be presented here.

DOMINIK WASSENHOVEN, Aufrechte Klammern in kursivem Text [Straight brackets in italic text]; pp. 51–53

In *The Elements of Typographic Style* Robert Bringhurst recommends typesetting brackets always straight even if they are placed inside italic text: "Use upright (i.e., 'roman') rather than sloped parentheses, brackets and braces, even if the context is italic."

JÜRGEN HANNEDER, Der TEXnische Fortschritt und seine Tücken [TEXnical progress and its pitfalls]; pp. 54–60

The development of TEX in the last decades: fun and frustrations …

PATRICK GUNDLACH, Strichcodes erzeugen mit LuaTEX [Creating barcodes with LuaTEX]; pp. 61–71

(English version published in *TUGboat* 33:1.)

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Bücher schreiben mit der LATEX-Dokumentenklasse memoir [Writing books with the `memoir` document class]; pp. 72–82

Memoir is a modern and powerful document class, little known in the German TEX world. This may be due to the powerful competitor KOMA-Script, the sub-optimal documentation or the misleading name. In the presence of two modern document classes for typesetting complex publications (`scrbook` and `memoir`) it is not obvious why introductory LATEX books still recommend using the obsolete `book` class.

HERBERT VOSS, Anwendung aktiver Zeichen [The usage of active characters]; pp. 83–87

It is common knowledge that TEX knows as basic elements primitives and — at the user level — macros, which consist after complete expansion only of primitives. Macros as well as primitives are used with a leading backslash. A special role is taken by active characters which — without the leading backslash — can behave like macros.

Die TEXnische Komödie 3/2012

MARKUS KOHM, KOMA-Script wird volljährig [KOMA-Script comes of age]; pp. 10–16

In 1994 not only LATEX 2_ε but also KOMA-Script was born, so in 2012 it will be 18 years old. Compared with LATEX 2_ε which was completely developed at birth KOMA-Script had to grow in the last 18 years. It started as a baby, not just complaining at each incident, but keeping its environment busy. His father, me, lost some nerves; he will take the opportunity to reflect on the last 18 years.

MARKUS KOHM, Kopfzeilentricks mit `scrpage2` [Headline tricks with `scrpage2`]; pp. 17–21

For the 4th edition of the KOMA-Script book I have used a special version of the headline, where the page number is separated from the column title by a small black bar. The page number goes far into the margin. This was created using the KOMA-Script package `scrpage2`.

CLEMENS NIEDERBERGER, Das `xtemplate` Paket [The `xtemplate` package]; pp. 22–30

One of the key steps in the development of LATEX3 is the separation of implementation, layout design and user interface. The `xtemplate` package stands between the first two, in the "designer interface foundation layer". Based on a not necessarily real world example we show the ideas of the package and its usage.

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Lyrik mit LATEX [Lyric Poetry with LATEX]; pp. 31–39

Using the `verse` package and its extensions in `memoir`, poems can be typeset in an appealing way and interpretation aids for the textual analysis can be introduced. There are still some reservations about the visualisation of the metre.

Uwe Ziegenhagen, europass Lebensläufe setzen mit LaTeX [Typesetting europass CVs with LaTeX]; pp. 40–49

In this article two packages, `ecv` and `europecv`, are introduced. Both allow typesetting CVs following the European europass template.

Uwe Ziegenhagen, Briefumschläge beschriften und frankieren mit LaTeX [Printing and stamping envelopes with LaTeX]; pp. 50–54

Letters can be stamped not only using common stamps but also via stamps bought on the Internet. Even with "mobile stamps", letters can be sent. In this article it is shown how envelopes can be stamped using digital stamps bought online.

Rolf Niepraschk, Randnotizen im Literaturverzeichnis [Marginal notes in bibliographies]; pp. 55–59

Examples and motivation for occasional typesetting of marginal notes in a bibliography.

Ralf Meyer, Meine ersten Schritte mit LuaTeX [My first steps with LuaTeX]; pp. 60–67

I will explain how I used LuaTeX to analyse and print results from external tables in an appealing way. I will describe a few issues with LuaTeX concerning special characters and locales that I encountered. In particular, I will mention an issue with a recently published article by Herbert Voß.

Patrick Gundlach, Worttrennungen überprüfen mit LuaLaTeX [Checking hyphenation with LuaLaTeX]; pp. 68–70

For LuaLaTeX there are two packages which help the author to check the hyphenation of his or her text. Using these packages one can avoid bad or faulty hyphenations.

Herbert Voss, TeX Gyre Pagella Math; pp. 71–72

Sample output and usage of the TeX Gyre Pagella OpenType math fonts.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]

ArsTEXnica #13 (April 2012)

ArsTEXnica is the journal of gᵤIt, the Italian TeX user group (`http://www.guit.sssup.it/`).

Gianluca Pignalberi, Editoriale [From the editor]; p. 3

Claudio Fiandrino, Graphviz e TikZ [Graphviz and TikZ]; pp. 4–10

Graphviz is a very powerful tool for drawing graphs. This article tries to explain how to export such graphs as a TikZ picture in a very simple way.

Gianluca Pignalberi, Salvatore Schirone, Jerónimo Leal, Ancora sugli strumenti per grecisti classici [Again on tools for hellenists]; pp. 11–16

This paper inspects two topics left unsolved in our previous article, namely the transliteration of Greek texts with XeLaTeX and the composition and the translation with parallel text into another language. One or more solutions to both topics will be given.

Claudio Beccari, LaTeX e le lingue romanze alpine [LaTeX and Romance Alpine languages]; pp. 17–24

LaTeX is used to typeset in a variety of languages: at the time of writing, it can handle 74 different languages (plus many variants), some of them used by very few people, some by millions. At the moment, there are no facilities for typesetting documents in the various more or less official Alpine Romance languages. This paper would be a first step in order to extend the LaTeX language capabilities to the various romance languages that are being used by large communities in the European Alps.

Enrico Gregorio, Scrivere un pacchetto per LaTeX3. Il pacchetto `kantlipsum` [Writing a package for LaTeX3. The package `kantlipsum`]; pp. 24–29

The `kantlipsum` package is used as an example to illustrate some programming techniques with the LaTeX3 language.

Font e TeX, Fonts and TeX; pp. 30–31

Italian translation of `http://tug.org/fonts`.

[Received from Gianluca Pignalberi.]