Zpravodaj 2023/1–2

Zpravodaj is the journal of ČsTUG, the TeX user group oriented mainly but not entirely to the Czech and Slovak languages. The full issue can be downloaded at cstug.cz/bulletin.

Petr Sojka, Úvodník [Introductory word]; pp.1–3

Go forth and participate in ČsTUG to make the bright future of TeX & Friends a reality! You can!

Vít Starý Novotný, Nápadovník jmen pro tvůrčí psaní v LuaTeXu [Character name generator for creative writing in LuaTeX]; pp.3–38

A famous dictum of the computer scientist Phil Karlton says that there are only two difficult things in computer science: cache invalidation and naming things. This is also true in creative writing, where authors have to come up not just with a story and a setting but also the names of all their fictional characters. In this article, we develop a language model in LuaTeX which allows authors to automatically generate names for their characters. Besides creative writing, we also discuss other uses of language models in LuaTeX, namely the automatic switching of hyphenation patterns based on the current language and blind text generation. For the TeXnically-minded users, the article acts as an introduction to the programming languages of Lua and expl3, and also the xparse LaTeX package for defining document commands in LaTeX.

Karel Šebela, Sazba hudebních skladeb [Musical composition typesetting]; pp.39–47

TeX is a useful tool for text typesetting; however, it doesn’t feature good support for music composition typesetting at its core. The TUG 2022 conference featured a talk on notation typesetting which compared the MusiXTeX package with the MuseScore and Flat tools, but did not mention the PMX and M-Tx preprocessors. In this article, I compare typesetting using MusiXTeX and its preprocessors and describe its usage. In addition, I describe the incorporation of note symbols into a paragraph text. After reading the article, the reader will be able to create a short simple excerpt of a piece of music and incorporate it into a TeX document, as well as add musical symbols to a written text.

Matúš Vančík, Pohľad TeXového nováčika na prezentáciu „Bricks and Jigsaw Pieces“ z TUGu 2022 [A TeX newbie reports on the “Bricks and Jigsaw Pieces” talk at TUG 2022]; pp.48–53

The article deals with TikZbricks and jigsaw packages: their use, design, and possible applications. I look at these aspects of the packages through my own experimentation as a newish TeX user and I show why such packages are needed in the world of TeX.

Peter Wilson, Mělo by to fungovat XIII [It might work XIII]; pp.54–60

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[Received from Vít Novotný]