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## Editorial comments

Barbara Beeton

### Seeking information about Peter R. Wilson

Peter Wilson, proprietor of Herries Press in Kenilworth, UK, and author of the *TUGboat* column “Glistering” from 2001–2017, has disappeared from all locations known to us. The last contact that anyone at TUG knows of was in early 2022. If anyone has more recent information about Peter, please provide it via email to [office@tug.org](mailto:office@tug.org).

Peter delivered the keynote talk at TUG 2007 in San Diego, where he gave an account of his introduction to  $\LaTeX$ , the development of the memoir document class, and the history of written text.<sup>1</sup> A highlight of that presentation, to me, was the circulation to the audience of a number of artifacts, in particular a Sumerian clay tablet containing an inscription in cuneiform script, demonstrating both that paper is not the only surface used to record text, and that there is a medium much more permanent than paper, as clay becomes more durable when it goes through fire.

The “Glistering” columns were collected by Peter into a book, published by TUG.<sup>2</sup>

Peter also, for many years, prepared a calendar that TUG members could retrieve and print for use and enjoyment. The last, for 2021, was illustrated with traditional Japanese block prints. These prints exemplified his avocation, letterpress printing, which came to the foreground after retirement and his move back to the UK.<sup>3</sup>

We do, of course, hope that Peter can be contacted, but if he is no longer among us, he deserves an obituary in this journal.

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### Leslie Lamport retires from Microsoft

Leslie Lamport is best known to the  $\TeX$  community as the author of  $\LaTeX$ , the most prevalent user interface to  $\TeX$ .

After receiving his Ph.D. in mathematics from Brandeis in 1972, where his thesis advisor was Richard Palais,<sup>4</sup> Leslie left math for computer science. He has been employed by a number of computer-related companies, including Digital Equipment Corporation, Compaq, and finally Microsoft in 2001, from which he retired in January 2025. We’ll take advan-

tage of the occasion to congratulate him and very briefly review his work.

The author of many papers, primarily on distributed computing (for which he is best known), Leslie was undoubtedly interested in the process of recording one’s findings accurately for publication. In 1979, he was at Stanford Research Institute (SRI International), just across the road from Stanford University, where Don Knuth had developed  $\TeX$ . Ideas travel, and by 1983, Leslie had created his first version of the macro set that would become  $\LaTeX$ . The core principle was to provide a mechanism by which an author could easily create a structured document, interleaving text with markup. (This idea had been developed earlier at IBM with GML, the Generalized Markup Language, later standardized as SGML, and the progenitor of HTML, XML, and MathML.) The structured approach enabled automatic numbering and cross-referencing to both text elements and bibliographical items, features essential to scholarly publication.

$\LaTeX$  2.09 became widely available in 1986 with the publication of the first user manual,  *$\LaTeX$ : A Document Preparation System*. (During a talk Leslie gave at a DECUS meeting in San Francisco, he was asked about the proper pronunciation of the system’s name. The answer: “Lay- $\TeX$  or Lah- $\TeX$ , anything but Ell-Ay- $\TeX$ .”) But with its growing audience, the system needed some extensions and cleanup. On 21 August 1989, at a TUG meeting at Stanford, Leslie agreed to turn over maintenance and development to Frank Mittelbach and a few others who formed the nucleus of the  $\LaTeX$ 3 team. (The next release was not  $\LaTeX$ 3, however, but  $\LaTeX$  2 $\epsilon$ .)

Leslie’s work on distributed computing continued, with increasing recognition that included election to several Academies, honorary doctorates from five European universities, and culminated in the receipt of the 2013 Turing Award for “fundamental contributions to the theory and practice of distributed and concurrent systems, notably the invention of concepts such as causality and logical clocks, safety and liveness, replicated state machines, and sequential consistency”.

On his website,<sup>5</sup> Leslie states

If I have something new to say, I may give a few talks after I retire. I may also be willing to present an occasional question and answer session.

This presents a possible opportunity: Leslie may be receptive to an invitation to lead a Q&A session at a future TUG meeting.

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<sup>5</sup> [lamport.azurewebsites.net](http://lamport.azurewebsites.net)

<sup>1</sup> [tug.org/TUGboat/tb28-3/tb90wilson.pdf](http://tug.org/TUGboat/tb28-3/tb90wilson.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [tug.org/store/glistering](http://tug.org/store/glistering)

<sup>3</sup> [tug.org/TUGboat/tb36-1/tb112wilson.pdf](http://tug.org/TUGboat/tb36-1/tb112wilson.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Dick Palais was responsible for bringing  $\TeX$  to the American Mathematical Society, and from there, founding TUG; he was the first TUG Chairman.

### Errata for *TUGboat* 45:3 Abstracts

Incorrect page numbers were given for the articles in *Les Cahiers GUTenberg* 59 (page 405), and the order of the last two articles was reversed. In addition, several items were omitted. Page numbers have been corrected in the online PDF file. The following list provides the correct page numbers for the relevant items, and the full text for the omitted items.

JEAN-MICHEL HUFFLEN, Éditorial; pp. 3–4.

LAURENT BLOCH, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X ou Word : qui l'eût cru ?; pp. 5–12.

FLORA VERN, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X pour l'écriture juridique; pp. 13–31.

MAÏEUL ROUQUETTE, Ce que L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X peut apporter à des travaux historiques et philologiques; pp. 33–47.

THOMAS SAVARY, «Nénufar»; pp. 49–80.

RAYMOND JUILLERAT, Les spécificités du style eFrench; pp. 81–92.

JOHANNES HIELSCHER, Une réponse à *Imprimer ou ne pas imprimer*; pp. 93–96. Translation of “Leserbrief zu *Druck oder Nichtdruck*”, *Die T<sub>E</sub>Xnische Komödie* 3/2022; original by Peter Flynn, “To print or not to print” in *Typographers' Inn*, *TUGboat* 41 (2020), No. 3, pp. 265–268.

YEVHEN STRAKHOV, Pensées et impressions ukrainiennes à BachoT<sub>E</sub>X 2019; pp. 97–105. Translation of “Ukrainian thoughts and impressions at BachoT<sub>E</sub>X 2019”.

### (L<sup>A</sup>)T<sub>E</sub>X scheduling practices, and how you can help

All the software comprising the T<sub>E</sub>X ecosystem is maintained by volunteers and, although the main elements are released on regular schedules, the schedules for different elements do not necessarily coincide. The discussion here will deal mainly with the principal archive (CTAN), T<sub>E</sub>X Live, and the work of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Project.

**CTAN** Developers, when they are ready to release a new package or update an existing one, submit it to CTAN, where it is vetted for adherence to version identification, licensing, and an intelligible description and release notes. When it passes muster, it is added to the repository and an announcement is made via the mailing list [ctan-ann@ctan.org](mailto:ctan-ann@ctan.org).<sup>6</sup> Approved submissions are added as received, and mirrors are synched at least daily. Retrieval of a package from CTAN should be made from a mirror;

<sup>6</sup> The list is archived at [ctan.org/ctan-ann](http://ctan.org/ctan-ann)

a list of mirrors and additional information can be found at [ctan.org/mirrors](http://ctan.org/mirrors). In almost all cases it is preferable to obtain updates via a MiK<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> or T<sub>E</sub>X Live update rather than directly downloading from CTAN, as locally installed packages will not be automatically updated if further releases are made.

**T<sub>E</sub>X Live** Most, but not all, packages on CTAN are included in T<sub>E</sub>X Live. For the requirements and recommendations for inclusion in T<sub>E</sub>X Live, see [tug.org/texlive/pkgcontrib.html](http://tug.org/texlive/pkgcontrib.html).

T<sub>E</sub>X Live is packaged for release once a year, generally in early March. The main purpose is to rebuild the T<sub>E</sub>X engines for various hardware; notification is sent out via the list [tex-live@tug.org](mailto:tex-live@tug.org) that the new edition is ready for pretesting. This year's activity can be reviewed by visiting the archive of the list. Before and after the release, updates to T<sub>E</sub>X Live are continuously available over the net, as new uploads are accepted on CTAN.

Before 2024, T<sub>E</sub>X Live and other software was burned to DVD and distributed to members of several user groups. As of the 2024 edition, the collection became too large to fit on that medium, and most users were retrieving it from CTAN mirrors or otherwise over the net, so it was agreed by the affected groups to discontinue the physical distribution to all members. DVDs are still available upon request; volunteers will burn and mail them (and more volunteers are always welcome). Visit [tug.org/dvd](http://tug.org/dvd) for information and a request form.

Detailed instructions for obtaining and installing T<sub>E</sub>X Live are given at [tug.org/texlive](http://tug.org/texlive).

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X system is officially updated twice a year, in June and November. However, work proceeds throughout the year, both to address bug reports<sup>7</sup> and to continue work on accessibility and other features. In order to facilitate testing in as many user environments as possible, two versions of the distribution are available in parallel from CTAN: the pre-release version, generically called `latex-dev`, and the production version. This convention was instituted in 2019, and the initial announcement still provides a good description of its goals.<sup>8</sup> Thus, all users of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and especially package developers, are encouraged to use the `-dev` version,<sup>9</sup> and report any problems, so that they can be fixed before the next production version is released.

<sup>7</sup> [www.latex-project.org/bugs/](http://www.latex-project.org/bugs/)

<sup>8</sup> [www.latex-project.org/news/2019/09/01/LaTeX-dev-format/](http://www.latex-project.org/news/2019/09/01/LaTeX-dev-format/)

<sup>9</sup> The development version is updated and distributed several times between main releases and is automatically available in all major T<sub>E</sub>X distributions, e.g., T<sub>E</sub>X Live, MiK<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>, and MacT<sub>E</sub>X.

You can invoke the `-dev` version simply by using `pdflatex-dev`, `lualatex-dev`, etc., in your invocation of  $\LaTeX$ ; source documents need not be changed.

### Chemical/pharmaceutical terms and the *TUGboat* hyphenation exceptions list

The hyphenation exceptions list in *TUGboat* has been accumulating more and more words used in chemistry and related fields—pharmacology, medicine, etc. In these disciplines, terminology is heavy with words compounded from multiple parts that have distinct meanings on their own. The large population of exceptions has resulted in the separation of this technical terminology into a separate sublist, a division that is not universally appreciated, but which can be justified on several grounds.

The major problem is the compounding, where proper hyphenation should choose a break between, rather than within, elements, although the latter choice should be available when necessary for even spacing in justified text. The problem is magnified for US English, which is normally hyphenated according to pronunciation rather than etymology. Presumably the situation would not be as serious for UK English, where etymology is the preferred rule governing word division.

Although the *TUGboat* list is directed toward US English, a similar problem exists in other languages as well. However, since the words for the same concepts or meanings may follow different spelling rules, the list of words used in US English documents is not suitable for use with other languages.

Like these technical terms, German is heavily compounded, and the German hyphenation patterns cope well with the situation, although I have no idea how that is accomplished. The hyphenation dictionary used to develop the patterns for UK English is (allegedly) based on etymology, rather than on pronunciation, and shows more than one level for choice of breakpoints, a scheme that supports etymological compounding. Enabling multilevel breaking would serve the technical vocabulary well.

As an example, I've chosen a small collection of terms (not yet in the *TUGboat* list), checked the recommended hyphenation in the authoritative US dictionary, and compared that with the result of using `\showhyphens` with the US patterns. The results are listed below; the preferred breakpoints are indicated by “=”.

It's well past time to update the *TUGboat* list, and that is under construction. The list of “chemical terms” will continue to be a separately maintained sublist.

Barbara Beeton

| — $\TeX$ (US) —       | — correct —            |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| al-dos-terone         | al=do-ste-rone         |
| cat-e-cholamine       | cat=e=chol=amine       |
| dysau-tono-mia        | dys=au-to=no-mia       |
| glu-co-neo-ge-n-e-sis | glu-co=neo=gen-e-sis   |
| glycogenol-y-sis      | gly-co=gen-ol-y-sis    |
| hy-per-v-olemia       | hy-per=vol-emia        |
| hy-per-v-olemic       | hy-per=vol-emic        |
| hy-potha-la-mic       | hy-po=tha-lam-ic       |
| hy-potha-la-mus       | hy-po=thal-a-mus       |
| hy-po-v-olemia        | hy-po=vo-le-mia        |
| hy-po-v-olemic        | hy-po=vo-le-mic        |
| neu-roen-docrine      | neu-ro=en-do-crine     |
| neu-ro-hy-pophysial   | neu-ro=hy-po=phy-si-al |
| neu-ro-hy-pophysis    | neu-ro=hy-poph-y-sis   |
| neu-ro-pathic         | neu-ro=pa-thic         |
| neu-ropa-thy(ies)     | neu-rop-a-thy(ies)     |
| os-more-cep-tor       | os-mo=re-cep-tor       |
| parasymp-pa-thetic    | para=sym-pa-thet-ic    |
| pheochro-mo-cy-toma   | pheo=chro-mo=cy-to-ma  |

If anyone has an idea for implementing multilevel hyphenation, especially as an extension to the method provided by the pattern mechanism, please let us know.

### Online GUTenberg resources

In April 2023, the board of GUTenberg (the Groupe francophone des Utilisateurs de  $\TeX$ ,  $\LaTeX$  et logiciels compagnons) proposed creation of a monthly series of talks on topics of interest to ( $\LaTeX$ ) users. The talks would be at most an hour in length, and would be recorded by video for later access. The proposal was accepted, and the first talk, *une introduction à LuaLaTeX*, was presented on June 22 by Denis Bitouzé.

The talks (in French), now numbering more than a dozen, can be accessed via a list at the website [gutenberg-asso.fr/-Exposes-mensuels-](https://gutenberg-asso.fr/-Exposes-mensuels-). The videos are collected on GUTenberg's YouTube channel<sup>10</sup> and also on the TubEdu website;<sup>11</sup> the TubEdu site also holds videos of presentations from regular GUTenberg meetings.

Another GUTenberg undertaking was to rebuild the French  $\LaTeX$  FAQ, which has been joined by an XML FAQ. Both are accessible from the Publications page: [gutenberg-asso.fr/-Publications-](https://gutenberg-asso.fr/-Publications-).

◇ Barbara Beeton  
<https://tug.org/TUGboat>

<sup>10</sup> [youtube.com/@associationgutenberg5336](https://youtube.com/@associationgutenberg5336)

<sup>11</sup> [tubedu.org/c/gutenberg](https://tubedu.org/c/gutenberg)