

## 1 Welcome to

An issue of will accompany every future release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X news.

## 2 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>—the new L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X release

The most important news is the release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>, the new version of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 project team. Upgrades will be issued every six months, in June and December.

## 3 Why a new L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X?

Over the years many extensions have been developed for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (with and without ), S<sub>L</sub>I<sub>T</sub><sub>E</sub>X, *A*mS-L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, and so on. In addition, when looking at a source file it was not always clear for which format the document was written.

To put an end to this unsatisfactory situation a new release of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X was produced. It brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09. The new release was available for several months as a test version, and the final release of 1 June officially replaces the old version.

## 4 Processing documents with L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>

Documents written for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 will still be read by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>. Any such document is run in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 *compatibility mode*.

Unfortunately, compatibility mode comes with a price: it can run up to 50% slower than L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 did. If you want to run your document in the faster *native mode*, you should try replacing the line:

```
\documentstyle[<options>,<packages>]{<class>}
```

with:

```
\documentclass[<options>]{<class>}
\usepackage{latexsym,<packages>}
```

Unfortunately, this will not always work, because some L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2.09 packages will only work in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> version of the package available.

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> native mode also gives access to the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>, described in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> *for authors*.

## 5 New packages

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> has much better support for graphics, colour, fonts, and multi-lingual typesetting. The following software should be available from the distributor who brought you L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub>:

```
[Sorry. Ignored \begin{citations} ... \end{citations}]
```

The packages come with full documentation, and are also described in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X: *A Document Processing System* or *The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Companion*.

## 6 Further information

More information about L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X2<sub>ε</sub> is to be found in:

```
[Sorry. Ignored \begin{citations} ... \end{citations}]
```

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X distribution comes with documentation on the new features of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X:

```
[Sorry. Ignored \begin{citations} ... \end{citations}]
```

For more information on T<sub>E</sub>X and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, get in touch with your local T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, or the international T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: [tug@tug.org](mailto:tug@tug.org).