

L^AT_EX News

Issue 1, June 1994

Welcome to L^AT_EX News

An issue of *L^AT_EX News* will accompany every future release of L^AT_EX. It will tell you about important events, such as major bug fixes, newly available packages, or any other L^AT_EX news.

L^AT_EX 2_ε—the new L^AT_EX release

The most important news is the release of L^AT_EX 2_ε, the new version of the L^AT_EX software. This version has better support for fonts, graphics and colour, and will be actively maintained by the L^AT_EX3 project team. Upgrades will be issued every six months, in June and December.

Why a new L^AT_EX?

Over the years many extensions have been developed for L^AT_EX. This is, of course, a sure sign of its continuing popularity but it has had one unfortunate result: incompatible L^AT_EX formats came into use at different sites. Thus, to process documents from various places, a site maintainer was forced to keep L^AT_EX (with and without NFSS), S^LI^TE^X, *A_MS-L^AT_EX*, 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^AT_EX was produced. It brings all such extensions back under a single format and thus prevents the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of L^AT_EX 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.

Processing documents with L^AT_EX 2_ε

Documents written for L^AT_EX 2.09 will still be read by L^AT_EX 2_ε. Any such document is run in L^AT_EX 2.09 *compatibility mode*.

Unfortunately, compatibility mode comes with a price: it can run up to 50% slower than L^AT_EX 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^AT_EX 2.09 packages will only work in L^AT_EX 2_ε compatibility mode. You should find out if there is a L^AT_EX 2_ε version of the package available.

L^AT_EX 2_ε native mode also gives access to the new features of L^AT_EX 2_ε, described in *L^AT_EX 2_ε for authors*.

New packages

L^AT_EX 2_ε 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^AT_EX 2_ε:

babel, for typesetting in many languages.
color, for colour support.
graphics, for including images.
mfnfss, for using bitmap fonts.
psnfss, for using Type 1 fonts.
tools, other packages by the L^AT_EX3 team.

The packages come with full documentation, and are also described in *L^AT_EX: A Document Processing System* or *The L^AT_EX Companion*.

Further information

More information about L^AT_EX 2_ε is to be found in:

L^AT_EX: A Document Preparation System, Leslie Lamport, Addison Wesley, 2nd ed, 1994.
The L^AT_EX Companion, Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, Addison Wesley, 1994.

The L^AT_EX distribution comes with documentation on the new features of L^AT_EX:

L^AT_EX 2_ε for authors, describes the new features of L^AT_EX documents, in the file `usrguide.tex`.
L^AT_EX 2_ε for class and package writers, describes the new features of L^AT_EX classes and packages, in the file `clsguide.tex`.
L^AT_EX 2_ε font selection, describes the new features of L^AT_EX fonts for class and package writers, in the file `fntguide.tex`.

For more information on T_EX and L^AT_EX, get in touch with your local T_EX Users Group, or the international T_EX Users Group, P. O. Box 869, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0869, USA, Fax: +1 805 963 8358, EMail: tug@tug.org.