
The PracT_EX Journal 2011-1

The PracT_EX Journal is an online publication of the T_EX Users Group. Its web site is <http://tug.org/pracjourn>. All articles are available there.

Issue theme: L^AT_EXniques.

LANCE CARNES, Editorial — L^AT_EXniques
Editor's introduction to the issue.

THE EDITORS, News from Around
T_EX and L^AT_EX blog; Typography video blog;
Internet 20th Anniversary.

FABIEN LEBOEUF, L^AT_EX patient summaries

In this article we demonstrate the L^AT_EX techniques used to produce high-quality technical reports with multimedia features. At our hospital, the analysis of biomechanical data is done by a multidisciplinary team and involves a large amount of inter-related information in a variety of electronic formats. Therefore, it is essential that there be a user-friendly interface to present this data to the team for analysis. In this context, L^AT_EX was used to create a comprehensive report, with all text, graphics, and video contained in a single PDF file. We have been using L^AT_EX to produce this report since 2006, and have received positive feedback from the hospital staff.

L. GARCIA-FORTE and C. LEON-HERNANDEZ
and C. RODRIGUEZ-LEON, Integrating L^AT_EX and Moodle questionnaires

Creating teaching material requires the generation of both static (unreactive) data-documents and dynamic (reactive) program-documents based on different technologies. Teaching a subject often implies the maintenance of a large number of both types of documents, usually written in a variety of languages and stored in different formats. Ergo, a natural goal for the lecturer is to minimize the amount of work invested during the development and maintenance of the material. There are acceptable solutions regarding the transformation between formats with the same kind of reactivity. This work discusses the problem of integrating Moodle (an open source

learning management system) and L^AT_EX (a document preparation system), proposes a methodology to pursue this goal, and presents a tool to assist in the translation of Moodle Quiz documents to L^AT_EX.

RYAN HIGGINBOTTOM, Teaching L^AT_EX at a liberal arts college

This brief report describes a course I developed for teaching L^AT_EX to a diverse undergraduate audience. Of special note are the changes and improvements I made to this class after the first time it was taught.

LENORE HORNER, L^AT_EX teaching techniques

As first a physics professor and now a math and physics high school teacher, my teaching materials are always evolving and I am always looking for ways to make this easier for myself and to avoid reinventing the wheel (often my own wheel). Over the last three years, L^AT_EX has been a key part of that process.

ROBERT IPANAQUÉ CHERO and GLORIA SOLVEY CRESPO GUERRERO, Tesis de pregrado en L^AT_EX con FcUnp class [FcUnp L^AT_EX thesis style]

FcUnp is a L^AT_EX class for writing the bachelor thesis used at the Science Faculty of the National University of Piura, Perú. The goal of FcUnp is to provide a bachelor thesis format with a consistent layout that conforms to the rules of the Faculty so that students can concentrate solely on the content. It provides a set of commands to create the cover page, the title page, the signatures page, the dedication page and the acknowledgments page. When required, there is another set of commands to create the conclusions, the annexes, the appendices, and the abstract. In addition, this class allows generating PDF output, using either `dvipdfm` or directly with `pdflatex`. (Article in Spanish.)

CLAUDIO BECCARI, Intelligent commas

The decimal fractional part of a number must be separated from the integer part with a decimal separator. The ISO regulations specify a different sign for different languages; the internal L^AT_EX mathematical character codes do their best to avoid a simple treatment of the decimal separator. Here we describe a few ways to handle this problem.

LENORE HORNER, Speedy L^AT_EX on the Mac

Here are the Mac-specific tools I use to make the typesetting as fast as possible so I can spend my time on content rather than on formatting.

THE EDITORS, Ask Nelly

Page numbers in bibliography?; Teacher vs. student course materials?

THE EDITORS, Distraction: Course outline