

# L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X News

Issue 8, December 1997 (L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X release 1997-12-01)

## *New supported font encodings*

Two new font encodings are supported as options to the `fontenc` package:

**OT4** This is a seven-bit encoding designed for Polish. The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X support was developed by Mariusz Olko.

**TS1** This is the ‘Text Companion Encoding’; it contains symbols designed to be used in text, as opposed to mathematical formulas, and some accents designed for uppercase letters. It is currently supported by the ‘tc’ fonts, which match the T1 encoded ‘ec’ text fonts. A subset of the glyphs in this encoding is supported by virtual fonts distributed with the PostScript font metrics on the CTAN archives. (This is the ‘8c’ encoding in Karl Berry’s fontname scheme.) The `textcomp` package provides access to this encoding but here is a warning to current users of that package: some of the internal names for the characters have changed.

## *New input encodings*

These additions to the `inputenc` package are `decmulti` (the DEC Multinational Character Set, contributed by M. Y. Chartoire) and `cp1250` (an MS-Windows encoding for Central and Eastern Europe, contributed by Marcin Woliński). There is also a `cp1252` encoding that is identical to `ansinew`.

## *Tools*

The `calc` package (used in many examples in *The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Companion*) has been contributed to this distribution by Kresten Krab Thorup and Frank Jensen. This is essentially the same as the version that has been available from the CTAN archives for some time, with one minor change: to use L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-style error messages. It enables the use of arithmetic expressions within arguments to standard L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X commands where a length or a counter value is required. For example:

```
\setcounter {page} { \value{page} * 2 + 1 }
\parbox { 3in - ( 2mm + \textwidth / 9 ) }
```

There have also been some improvements to several other packages in this collection. In particular, `bm` now works correctly with constructions such as `\bm{f’}` involving ‘ or other characters which use T<sub>E</sub>X’s special “`\mathcode"8000`” feature. Also, `multicol` sets the length `\columnwidth` to an appropriate value; this enables it to work with classes that support two-column setting, e.g., the AMS classes.

## *Graphics*

The special `oztex.def` driver file has been removed, and OzT<sub>E</sub>X support has been merged with dvips, following advice from Andrew Trevorrow about OzT<sub>E</sub>X 3.x.

The `keyval` package has had some internal improvements: to use L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X format error messages; and to avoid ‘# doubling’. This latter change means that the `command` key for the `graphicx` version of `\includegraphics` should now be used with one # rather than two. For example, `command = ‘gunzip #1`. Fortunately this key is almost never used in practice, so few if any documents should be affected by this change.

## *L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 experimental programming conventions*

As announced at the T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group meeting (Summer 1997), a group of highly experimental packages will soon be released to allow experienced T<sub>E</sub>X programmers to experiment with, and comment on, a proposed set of syntax conventions and basic data-types that might form the basis for programming large scale projects in T<sub>E</sub>X. They will be located in this CTAN directory:

`CTAN:macros/latex/packages/exp13`

The documentation of this material is as follows: individual package files provide outline, draft documentation; there is an article that gives an overview of the syntax and related concepts; there is a `readme.txt` file containing a brief description of the collection.

All aspects of these packages are liable, indeed likely, to change. They should not be used at this stage for anything that requires a stable system. However, we do encourage people to experiment with these packages, and to send comments on them to the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-L mailing list. To subscribe to this list, mail to:

`listserv@urz.uni-heidelberg.de`

the following one line message:

`subscribe LATEX-L <first-name> <second-name>`