Die TEXnische Komödie 2–3/2014

Die TEXnische Komödie is the journal of DANTE e.V., the German-language TEX user group (`http://www.dante.de`). [Non-technical items are omitted.]

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ANDREAS ENTENMANN and WALTER ENTENMANN, Zum Entwurf von Postern [On the creation of posters]; pp. 37–51

Thanks to the `a0poster` package by Kettl and Weiser one can create posters for scientific meetings using LATEX's standard formatting commands. Conventions of corporate design can be incorporated without problems, if the logo files and colors are available. After a short introduction to the `a0poster` class this article provides some general insights on the design of posters for scientific conferences. We also present some little tricks to, e.g. create A4 testprints, to convert the output format or to slice the poster into printable pieces. Based on a specific example the different steps are described and bundled in a package.

DOMINIK WAGENFÜHR, Registerhaltiger Satz mit LATEX [Grid typesetting with LATEX]; pp. 52–64

If one looks at a modern newspaper, one will likely see that in multi-column typesetting the adjacent lines are always on the same height. This property is called grid typesetting. While LATEX does not offer this functionality out-of-the-box one may achieve good results with some manual interventions.

ULRIKE FISCHER, BibLATEX-Variationen [BibLATEX variations]; pp. 65–75

[Translation published in this issue of *TUGboat*.]

UWE ZIEGENHAGEN, Spendenbescheinigungen [Creating donation receipts using LATEX, SQL and Python]; pp. 76–82

In my capacity as treasurer for the Cologne-based Dingfabrik "fab lab" one of my tasks is to create the annual donation receipts for all donors. The process in place until recently involved manual aggregation in Excel and manual creation of the receipts in MS Word, not a desirable way to go for a TEXie. This article describes how the forms were created from scratch with LATEX and filled using an intelligent combination of Quicken, Excel, MySQL and Python.

AXEL KIELHORN, Präsentationen mit Beamer [Presentations with Beamer]; pp. 83–93

The `beamer` document class offers an easy way to create presentations. Due to the numerous options and templates, getting started with Beamer may not seem that easy. A presentation example shows many of the available options and presents some of the challenges (and their solutions) a new Beamer user might face.

AXEL KIELHORN, LATEX für Nichtlateiner [LATEX for non-Latinates]; pp. 94–98

For historical reasons, different operating systems use different character encodings. Windows uses CP-1252, Mac OS X MacRoman, the various Unix derivatives offer HPRoman8, CP-850 and ISO Latin 1, among others. But these are only sufficient for Western Europe and parts of the Americas; for central Europe one needs additional encodings.

GÜNTER PARTOSCH, Anforderungen an wissenschaftliche Abschlussarbeiten [Requirements for scientific theses]; pp. 94–98

The usual way to finish a course of studies in Germany is to write a thesis. Form, length and other parameters are usually defined not just by the university but also by the thesis supervisor. Additional requirements are introduced when the thesis is to fulfill good scientific work or to be published on the Internet. In this article it is shown how LATEX can be successfully applied.

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JACOB WIERSMA, Mehr Möglichkeiten mit Fußnoten [More options with footnotes]; pp. 6–13

For some time there have been packages that extend the limits of LATEX's standard footnote algorithms. This article presents the `bigfoot`, `manyfoot` and `footmisc` packages and discusses a few suggestions for improvements.

STEVE ZAKRZOWSKY, Paket skmath für mathematische Formeln [The `skmath` package for mathematical formulas]; pp. 14–18

The `skmath` package was developed by Simon Sigurdhsson, who has also created a few special document classes. Writing mathematical expressions and equations can easily make documents confusing. The skmath `package` offers some extensions for the simple and intuitive entry of mathematical expressions.

IDRIS SAMAWI HAMID, DANTE summary report: Introducing Arabic-Latin Modern Fixed; pp. 19–46

The Oriental TEX project was initiated in 2006 to facilitate the development of high quality typography and typesetting of academic and scholarly texts that require the Arabic script, such as critical editions and monographs. Although support for the Arabic script in modern typesetting software has been slowly improving over the past decade or so, the situation is still very far behind the Latin script in terms of features, available high-quality typefaces, and layout-processing software. For academic and scholarly work, it's still very much a wilderness out there. A full solution to the problems of advanced Arabic-script typography and typesetting, particularly one based on OpenType and Unicode standards, is still some ways off.

CHRISTINE RÖMER, Mit etoc Inhaltsverzeichnisse anpassen [Adjusting tables of contents with `etoc`]; pp. 47–54

The new `etoc` package extends LATEX's capabilities to create individual tables of contents. It is especially useful to create local tables of contents.

[Received from Herbert Voß.]