

WORKSHOP:

How to Create Quality Interactive PDF Documents for the WWW Using L^AT_EX

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This workshop covered many concepts that go into the creation of quality *interactive* PDF documents for the WWW. Topics included:

- setting up the Acrobat/T_EX System (a Win95 based presentation)
- page layout for a PDF document designed to be read over the Web
- adding a dash of color to text and background
- using `hyperref`, a package by Sebastian Rahtz, and its “∞-many” options — only finitely many were discussed.
- macros to create (1) problem exercises with hyperlinked solutions; (2) multiple-choice questions with instant feedback; and (3) multiple-choice graded quizzes using JavaScript.

Extensive supplementary material in the form of paper hand-outs and software (which included electronic technical articles and macro packages) were distributed. These materials are available from the AcroT_EX web site:

www.math.uakron.edu/~dpstory/acrotex.html

From T_EX to PDF

A discussion of various methods of creating quality PDF documents from a T_EX or L^AT_EX source file. These comments are contained in my paper “AcroT_EX: Acrobat and T_EX Team Up” (elsewhere in these proceedings); in particular, see Figure 1.

Win32 T_EX systems

The workshop was oriented towards Win95/NT operating systems, although most comments were platform-independent. A brief mention of T_EX implementations designed for the Win95/NT operating system and capable of producing quality PostScript output using Type 1 fonts: the Y&Y system, the MikT_EX system by Christian Schenk and the fpT_EX system by Fabrice Popineau (see elsewhere in these proceedings for Popineau’s paper).

Quality PDF documents for the WWW

The content of this segment of the workshop is contained largely in the electronic article, “Using L^AT_EX to Create Quality PDF Documents for the WWW”, available at the AcroT_EX web site; a printed version of this article was also distributed.

The web/exerquiz packages

The `web` package redesigns the page layout to a more Web-friendly style, suitable for screen viewing.

The `hyperref` package provides a high degree of interactivity through hypertext links and form elements. The `exerquiz` package uses `hyperref` to define several environments for creating on-line exercises and quizzes.

The capabilities and features of these two new packages were demonstrated; manual of usage and the packages themselves were distributed.

Since the time of the workshop, several new features of the `exerquiz` package have been added; most importantly, quizzes defined by the `quiz` environment can now be graded *and* corrected using JavaScript.

A do-it-yourself tutorial

A do-it-yourself tutorial on `hyperref` and the `web` and `exerquiz` packages was made available on a few discs distributed at the workshop. The material is now available at the AcroT_EX website, see the link “TUG99 Handout Material”.

Concluding remarks

I was pretty well satisfied with the course of the workshop; I was able to cover all the advertised topics and give several demonstrations on the computer. I was very happy to see that the workshop was well attended and well received. Judging from the numerous questions posed after the workshop, there is quite an interest in this topic. Thanks to all the attendees for your kind response to my workshop (and to my talk).