
T_EX Live 2010 news

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Abstract

Notable changes in the T_EX Live 2010 release.

1 Automatic EPS conversion for pdf(L^A)T_EX

In T_EX Live 2010, the most visible change is that pdf(L^A)T_EX now *automatically* converts a requested Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) file to PDF, via the `epstopdf` package, when and if the L^AT_EX configuration file `graphics.cfg` is loaded, and PDF is being output. The default options are intended to eliminate any chance of hand-created PDF files being overwritten, but you can also prevent `epstopdf` from being loaded at all by putting `\newcommand{\DoNotLoadEpstopdf}{}` (or `\def...`) before the `\documentclass` declaration. For details, see the package documentation for `epstopdf` (<http://ctan.org/pkg/epstopdf-pkg>).

A related important change is that execution of a very few external commands, via the `\write18` feature, is now enabled by default—for example, `epstopdf`, `makeindex`, and `bibtex`. The exact list of commands is defined in the `texmf.cnf` file. If you want to disallow all external command execution in your installation, you can deselect this option in the T_EX Live installer, or override the value in the root `texmf.cnf` (`.../2010/texmf.cnf`) after installation. (Do not change `.../2010/texmf/web2c/texmf.cnf`, since it can be overwritten on updates.)

The above changes were announced for TL 2009, but disabled before the release was made. This year we sincerely hope and believe the bugs have been worked out.

2 PDF 1.5 output by default

The default version for PDF output is now 1.5, enabling more compression. This applies to all the TeX engines when used to produce PDF and to `dvipdfmx`.

Loading the `pdf14` L^AT_EX package changes back to PDF 1.4, or setting `\pdfminorversion=4` (in your document or macros).

3 X_ƎT_EX and margin kerning

X_ƎT_EX now supports margin kerning along the same lines as pdfT_EX. Font expansion is not yet supported; perhaps next year.

4 New programs

New programs included:

- the pT_EX engine for typesetting Japanese;
- BIBT_EXU, a Unicode-enabled BIBT_EX;
- `chktex`, for syntax checking (L^A)T_EX documents (<http://baruch.ev-en.org/proj/chktex>);
- `dvisvgm`, a DVI-to-SVG translator (<http://dvisvgm.sourceforge.net>).

5 No longer live

The T_EX Live incarnation on the T_EX Collection DVD (<http://tug.org/texcollections>) can no longer be run live. A single DVD no longer has enough room for all the software we want to include. One benefit is that installation from a physical DVD should be much faster.

6 Backups of updated packages

By default, `tlmgr` now saves one backup of each package updated, so broken packages updates can be easily reverted with `tlmgr restore`. If you don't have enough disk space for backups, and want to do post-installation updates, run:

```
tlmgr option autobackup 0
```

7 BIBT_EX and Makeindex output safer

By default, BIBT_EX and Makeindex will now, like T_EX itself, refuse to write their output files to an arbitrary directory. This is so they could be enabled for use by the restricted `\write18` mentioned above. To change this, the `TEXMFOUTPUT` environment variable can be set, or the `openout_any` setting changed.

8 In summary

Thanks to all the many people involved in this and past releases. See the documentation for acknowledgements, as well as installation and usage information—<http://tug.org/texlive/doc.html>.

All releases of T_EX Live, along with ancillary material such as CD labels, are available at <ftp://tug.org/historic/systems/texlive>.

T_EX Live and MiK_TE_X account for a substantial portion of the total traffic to CTAN. So more mirrors are always welcome; if you can help, please see <http://ctan.org/mirroring.html>, and thanks.

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