Site Reports

TEX on the Amiga

Tomas Rokicki

I am pleased to announce that TEX works on the Commodore Amiga. It first produced a document on March 29, and passed trip shortly thereafter. On a 512K machine, TEX runs with a `memmax` of 22000; on a 1024K or larger machine, a full sized TEX capable of running LATEX or any other macro package runs. A hard disk is certainly nice, but not at all necessary; I've been running TEX on a two drive system with no disk swapping at all. A screen previewer is in the works (it works, the user interface is being improved) and should be available with TEX by the end of June. The screen previewer will be full-featured with dynamically changing magnifications (and zoom capability), access to random pages, and page motion through scroll bars. Various drivers are coming into operation; currently we have a driver for the QMS Kiss laser printer. Because the Amiga is a multitasking machine, you can run your editor, previewer, TEX, and printer driver all concurrently, yielding an impressive TEX environment.

The `virtex` executable comes in at an incredibly small 154,100 bytes; this is smaller than on any other machine I have seen. The final version will be even smaller due to certain optimizations still in progress. It is currently about as fast as a six megahertz PC AT, requiring less than eight seconds per page for `WEB` documents and between four and six seconds per page for normal text. The optimizations we are performing should make it even faster.

TEX, the screen previewer, and various printer drivers are also being ported to the Atari 1040ST. These should be ready shortly. We are also planning a port to the Macintosh. For details on any of these products, contact Norman Naugle at (409) 845-3104 or Tomas Rokicki at (415) 723-1646.

CDC Cyber Site Report

Jim Fox
University of Washington

My last site report indicated that I did not have fonts to distribute. The problem has been corrected. I now have a set of AM style fonts, in PXL format, and some utilities to work with them. I expect to investigate the PK format and the new CM fonts in the near future.

Prime 50 Series Site report

John Crawford

Things have been going well on the Prime front. They should be even better, as this issue hits the newstands, as my Primos TEX distribution tape will reflect the latest from Stanford. TEX 2.0, the new Computer Modern fonts, and **METAFONT** 1.0 should all be available.

A technical point of information for Primos users is in order. With Primos revision 19.4.7 and above, my TEX 1.3 should be invoked with the global variable ".`tex_typeahead`" set to TRUE. Otherwise, you will likely lose screen output during error displays. I had based my code on the results of a faulty, and later fixed, Primos subroutine. Get the latest port, TEX 2.0, and upgrade out of this workaround.