INVITED KEYNOTE TALK

ConTEXt, XML and TEX: State of the Art?

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Abstract

The ConTEXt macro package was originally written to ease the development of complex and educational documents. Over time, more and more features were added and a tight integration with METAPOST has been achieved. A few years ago, ConTEXt became XML-aware, so that users can now comfortably mix XML and TEX techniques.

In spite of what the XML community preaches and DTP applications promise, typesetting complicated documents is still far from trivial. To some extent this has become easier, but the basic problems stay the same. ConTEXt tries to bridge those worlds by supporting modern (XML driven) workflows, by providing a programmable (TEX based) typesetting environment, and by offering high quality (DTP competitive) output.

Currently, its authors use ConTEXt in a wide range of applications:

- automatic typesetting of highly structured input into relatively complex layouts, either under the authors control or not;
- implementing publishing on demand workflows where ConTEXt acts in the background;
- dynamic generation of documents based on user input or data bases (internet applications);
- special applications where PDF is used as user interface (workflow optimization).

Although TEX is over twenty years old, it is still a strong player in the field of document processing. In this presentation we hope to illustrate that TEX can meet many of the demands of today's publishing.