

MAPS 29–31, 2003–2004

MAPS is the publication of NTG, the Dutch language T_EX user group. Their web site is <http://www.ntg.nl>.

MAPS 29, Spring 2003

WYBO DEKKER, Redactioneel [From the editor]; p. 1

Overview of the issue's contents and an introduction of the new editorial team.

FRANS GODDIJN, 32e NTG-bijeenkomst [32nd NTG meeting]; pp. 2–5

ERIK FRAMBACH, T_EX user groups worldwide — what's cooking?; pp. 6–9

This article is based on a presentation given at the UK TUG meeting in Oxford in October 2002. It describes some current problems that T_EX user groups face and it attempts to distill lessons learned and recommendations from almost 25 years of T_EX user group history. [Author's abstract]

KOEN WYBO, L^AT_EX: een newbie-ervaring [L^AT_EX: a newbie's experience]; pp. 10–14

How I became a L^AT_EX convert; arguments for L^AT_EX and against its GUI competitors: Word and OpenOffice. [Translation of author's abstract]

KES VAN DER LAAN, BachoT_EX 2003 [BachoT_EX 2003]; pp. 15–23

A (partial) report of GUST's 11th meeting at Bachotek, Poland, is given. It is incomplete because I could not understand most of the Polish contributions, and I skipped the L^AT_EX day. It reflects just of one of the threads through BachoT_EX'03's life. A question is raised: can the T_EX-world follow the evolving PDF standard with pdfT_EX?

[Author's abstract (edited)]

WYBO DEKKER, Toolbox; pp. 24–25

New adventures in T_EX-land.

[Translation of author's abstract]

SIMON PEPPING, Docbook In ConT_EXt, a ConT_EXt-XML mapping for DocBook documents; pp. 26–37

Docbook In ConT_EXt combines two technologies that are widely used by authors of technical literature: the Docbook DTD and the ConT_EXt macro package for T_EX. It is a ConT_EXt module that allows one to produce a typeset version of a Docbook XML file, in DVI or PDF format.

[Author's abstract]

SJOUKE MAUW and VICTOR BOS, Drawing Message Sequence Charts with L^AT_EX; pp. 38–43

The MSC macro package facilitates L^AT_EX users easily including Message Sequence Charts in their texts. This article describes the motivation for developing the MSC macro package, its features, and its design. [Author's abstract (edited)]

ROLAND SMITH, Labels voor gevaarlijke stoffen met L^AT_EX [Labels for dangerous materials with L^AT_EX]; pp. 44–49

European legislation (67/548/EEC) requires packaging for dangerous materials to have labels that must contain certain information. Using the labels package and a number of pictograms written in PostScript, it is possible to make these labels yourself. [Translation of author's abstract]

KAREL H. WESSELING, Aligning METAPOST graphs in ConT_EXt combinations; pp. 50–52

For scientific plotting I like to use the Graph package by John Hobby within ConT_EXt, and when I have two or more separate graphs made I combine them into one figure with one figure caption. Combining is easy but aligning the graphs in a pleasing way required a trick. [Author's abstract]

WILLI EGGER, Drawing a type-case in ConT_EXt; pp. 53–59

There are different environments with which one can typeset tables; all of them have their advantages and disadvantages. One of the recent problems I had to solve was to draw a typesetter's type-case from the lead-type era. Since it looks like a table, I built the drawing in the `\bTABLE ... \eTABLE` environment. [Author's abstract (edited)]

SIEP KROONENBERG, Optisch uitvullen in de MAPS [Optical justification in MAPS]; p. 60

This issue of MAPS features for the first time optical justification via protruding characters. This means that the right margin is aligned optically by allowing characters that have horizontal projections, among others the hyphen, to stick out into the margin. This is a PDF option that does not exist in classic T_EX. [Translation of author's abstract]

FERDY HANSEN, Installing fonts in L^AT_EX: a user's experience; pp. 61–64

This paper presents a user's experience with installing fonts for use in L^AT_EX. It will be shown that it is not hard to make a standard Type 1 font work, if you use modern font installation software for L^AT_EX. All the steps necessary to install the example fonts will be shown. The fonts used are Adobe Garamond from Adobe and Mrs. Eaves from Emigre.

[Author's abstract]

PHILIPP LEHMAN, The font installation guide;
pp. 65–160

This guide is an unmodified printout of Philip Lehman's original guide, which is available from CTAN. [Editor's abstract]

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WYBO DEKKER, Redactioneel [From the editor];
p. 1

Overview of the issue's contents.

SIEP KROONENBERG, The MAPS style; pp. 2–4

This paper introduces the renewed MAPS class-file and includes some usage notes.

[Author's abstract]

PIET VAN OOSTRUM, Een uittreksel uit de recente bijdragen in het CTAN archief [Extracts from recent contributions to the CTAN archive]; pp. 5–7

This article describes a number of recent contributions to the CTAN archive. The selection is based on what I find interesting and what I think others will find interesting. It is thus a personal choice. There is no intention of giving a complete overview. Consider this a kind of menu to whet the appetite of the curious.

[Translation of author's abstract]

SIEP KROONENBERG, Schatgraven op \TeX Live [TeX Live treasure chest]; pp. 8–9

This piece brings to the attention of the reader the rich contents of the TeX Live CD.

[Translation of author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN, TeX Live Collection; pp. 10–12

Past and future of the TeX Live Collection is described.

[Author's abstract]

TACO HOEKWATER, De CXT \TeX distributie [The CXT \TeX distribution]; pp. 13–20

The aim of the CXT \TeX project is to be able to execute a complete texexec call from beginning to end within a single, as efficient as possible, system process. The first components of this distribution are presented in this article: traditional as well as C-language versions of texexec, textuil and pdfetex.

[Translation of author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN, The SciTE-TeX integration;
pp. 21–24

Text editors are a sensitive, often emotional subject. Some editors have exactly the properties a software designer or a writer desires and one gets attached to it. Still, most computer experts such as TeX users often use three or more different editors each day. SciTE is a modern programmer's editor

which is very flexible, very configurable, and easily extended. We integrated SciTE with TeX, ConTeXt, L^ATeX, METAPOST and viewers and succeeded, in that it is now possible to design and write your texts, manuscripts, reports, manuals and books with the SciTE editor without having to leave the editor to compile and view your work. The article describes what is available and what you need with special emphasis on highlighting commands with lexers.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

WYBO DEKKER, Introducing oldstyle figures in existing virtual fonts; pp. 25–32

This paper describes a *Ruby* script *osf* that can be used to make a copy of a virtual font with its figures replaced with old style figures.

[Author's abstract]

ADAM T. LINDSAY, Apple symbols; pp. 33–41

This Mac-specific article documents some fonts available exclusively on Mac OS X 10.3, 'Panther', and makes them available to Mac users with fairly minimal installation effort. I do not distribute the fonts themselves.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

ADAM T. LINDSAY, Unicode symbols; pp. 42–48

The Unicode standard includes a number of signs, symbols, dingbats, bullets, arrows, graphical elements, and other miscellaneous glyphs. Prompted by finding a font dedicated to many such Unicode symbols on Mac OS X systems, this article documents some ways of enabling these symbols on your own system.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

WYBO DEKKER, Woordafbreking op ë en ï [Hyphenation at ë and ï]; p. 49

L^ATeX has issues hyphenating words that contain ë. This article shows how to solve that problem: use `\"e` or `\{e}` instead of `ë` for a unitary ë, and `"e` for all others. Analogously for ï.

[Translation of author's abstract]

R. F. SMITH, L^ATeX uitvoer genereren vanuit C programma's [Generating L^ATeX output from C programs]; pp. 50–51

This article describes a simple way to generate L^ATeX output from C programs.

[Author's abstract]

WILLI EGGER, Help! — the typesetting area;
pp. 52–59

Typesetting (large) documents presents significant challenges that have to be resolved before a satisfactory printed result is achieved; e.g. the internal structure of the document should be clear, and the document's typographical layout should match its content. This article, based on a presentation

given at the NTG meeting in Arnhem on 13 November 2003, describes a traditional design technique known as the harmonic proportion.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

SIEP KROONENBERG, \TeX and prepress; pp. 60–65

This article discusses preparing documents for professional printing with \TeX and \pdfTeX , including color printing and prepress standards.

[Author's abstract]

PIET VAN OOSTRUM, Een tutorial over het gebruik van \BIBTeX [A tutorial on the use of \BIBTeX]; pp. 66–86

This article describes the use of \BIBTeX , with particular emphasis on aspects that present problems to inexperienced users. It is based on a presentation the author gave at the NTG meeting in Arnhem on 13 November 2003.

[Translation of author's abstract]

SIEP KROONENBERG, De \TeX flyer: doe er wat mee! [The \TeX flyer: Do something with me!]; pp. 87–89

On the following two pages we present once more our printed \TeX flyer. The front describes the strong points of \TeX , and the back contains all the necessary information to give people a quick introduction to \TeX .

[Translation of author's abstract]

MAPS EDITORS, Foto's van de NTG-dag [Photos from the NTG meeting]; pp. 90–91

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WYBO DEKKER, Redactioneel [From the editor]; p. 1

Overview of the issue's contents.

PIET VAN OOSTRUM, Een uittreksel uit de recente bijdragen in het CTAN archief [Extracts from recent contributions in the CTAN archive]; pp. 2–4

This article describes a number of recent contributions to the CTAN archive. The selection is based on what I find interesting and what I think others will find interesting. It is thus a personal choice. There is no intention of giving a complete overview. Consider this a kind of menu to whet the appetite of the curious.

[Translation of author's abstract]

HANS HAGEN, The state of \ConTeXt ; pp. 5–7

In this article I will describe the current state of the \ConTeXt macro package and the forces that play a role in its evolution. I will also indicate the

directions in which we look for further developments.

[Author's abstract]

TACO HOEKWATER, \METAPOST developments; p. 8

This item on the current status of \METAPOST was reprinted in *TUGboat* 25(1), p. 105.

GIUSEPPE BILOTTA, The Aleph project; pp. 9–11

A brief introduction to the Aleph project, a \TeX extension providing most of Omega and $\varepsilon\text{\TeX}$ features.

[Author's abstract]

MAARTEN SNEEP, Producing graphs with \METAPOST ; pp. 12–18

Karel Wesseling described in *MAPS* 29 how several \METAPOST graphs can be aligned relative to each other, by including them in a \ConTeXt command `\startcombination[1*2]`. Here I describe a different approach to the same problem: aligning multiple graphs in a single figure. As a bonus, a description is added on how to create error-bars in a \METAPOST generated graph.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

DWIGHT APLEVICH, \Circuit_macros ; pp. 19–24

The evolution of the \Circuit_macros package is described, with some of the conventions for drawing circuit elements and some of the lessons learned.

[Author's abstract]

FRANS GODDIJN, Een briefhoofd maken [Making a letterhead]; pp. 25–31

Shortly after successfully compiling my first \TeX document, I wanted to switch over as many documents as possible to \TeX . And the notion of being able to typeset the letterhead at the same time as the text of the document seemed to me to be very nice. It seemed best not to clutter the individual letter files with code, so I put all the necessary commands into a separate style file. I also created a simpler letterhead to put on following pages if the letter is longer than one page. Thanks to the tips of Henk de Haan, I have been able to help others in the course of time to make their own letterhead.

[Translation of author's abstract]

BROOKS MOSES, \MetaPlot , \MetaContour , and other collaborations with \METAPOST ; pp. 32–39

Most methods of creating plots in \METAPOST work by doing all of their calculations in \METAPOST , or by doing all of their calculations in a pre-processing program. There are advantages to dividing the work more equitably by doing the mathematical and data-visualization calculations in a pre-processing program and doing the graphical and layout calculations in \METAPOST . The \MetaPlot package

provides a standard, flexible, interface for accomplishing such a collaboration between programs, and includes a general-purpose set of formatting macros that are applicable to a wide range of plot types. Examples are shown of linear plots with idiosyncratic annotation and two-dimensional contour plots with lines and filled contours on a non-Cartesian mesh.

[Author's abstract]

WILLI EGGER and HANS HAGEN, Support for typesetting Greek in ConTeXt; pp. 40–45

There are situations where one needs to typeset pieces of text in Greek. Until recently there was no direct support to do this in ConTeXt. With the integration of the module `greek` this has changed. The basics were built by Giuseppe Bilotta (Italy). The module uses a subset of the `cb-greek` fonts. The article describes the module and the way Greek text is coded. Several examples of Greek text are given.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

STEVE GRATHWOHL, A simple book design in ConTeXt; pp. 46–51

I show how a simple book design can be implemented in ConTeXt.

[Author's abstract]

ADAM LINDSAY, OpenType in ConTeXt; pp. 52–58

This is a summary of issues encountered and solutions implemented in order to support some advanced OpenType features in ConTeXt. This article describes an accompanying set of support files that address installation (using `TeXfont`), accommodating extended optical families, and some “pro” font features. The extended character set afforded by pro fonts enables support for comprehensive small caps and old-style figures. Although the typescripts and commands are described together, certain features (like variant encodings for `TeXfont` and optical typescripts) can be used independently of the other features described.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

HANS HAGEN, Fontgebruik [Font usage]; pp. 59–61

Hans Hagen presents a very extravagant title: a back page from an 1899 handbook. The editors of MAPS offer a prize for the best and most elegant TeX-recreation of this layout.

[Translation of editor's abstract]

FRANS GODDIJN, Conversies [Conversions]; pp. 62–66

A look back at 12 years with a software package that in one way or another has made friendships.

[From the author's introduction]

SIEP KROONENBERG, Exact layout with L^AT_EX; pp. 67–70

This article describes several techniques useful for implementing a professionally designed layout such as a letterhead.

[Author's abstract]

WYBO DEKKER, Boekdrukken en valkuilen [Book printing and pitfalls]; pp. 71–76

To set a book, that's one thing, but then to also get it nicely printed. . . I'd like to take you along the pitfalls. . . learn and have (malicious) fun.

[Translation of author's abstract]

ECKHART GUTHÖHRLEIN, Object-oriented graphics with MetaObj; pp. 77–86

MetaObj is a macro package for METAPOST, a programming language for graphics producing PostScript output, based on the well-known METAFONT. MetaObj is written and maintained by Denis B. Roegel. It has been released under the LPPL and is available from CTAN. MetaObj provides very high-level object-oriented macros, which simplify the construction of complicated drawings by defining objects of arbitrary complexity and combining them into larger structures. This is already reflected in the name of the package: MetaObj is short for “METAPOST Objects”.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

PATRICK GUNDLACH, contextgarden.net; pp. 87–90

The project contextgarden.net was started to enhance the documentation of ConTeXt. It consists of several web services that provide the technical base for documentation. A large amount of the content is provided by the visitors to the web site.

[Author's abstract (edited)]

HANS HAGEN, Fonts, more than a sample; pp. 91–94

Some time ago the NTG members received a colorful little booklet showing a lot of fonts. Since these fonts come with TeX Live, a ConTeXt user may be tempted to use them. The bad news is that fonts are always a bit troublesome in TeX distributions and recent changes in the TeX directory structure haven't made life easier. However, the good news is that it is doable to get these fonts working for you. Here I will present a few recipes, but I avoid discussing the ‘dirty details’. These are covered in the manuals.

[From the author's introduction]

WILLI EGGER and FRANS GODDIJN, Bloei der decadence [Flowering of decadence]; pp. 95–98

The book *Flowering of decadence* by Johan Polak has been out of print for many years, but it is now available as a PDF, freely downloadable via

the Internet. For those who want to read on the computer screen there is an interactive screen version, and another version is suitable for print. Both new editions of the book have been created via ConTeXt. This article describes some aspects of setting up this project. It was a complicated matter, due to the huge quantity of references to books, magazines, persons, place names and other terms. Our goal was to keep the process as simple as possible. Therefore we used no Plain TeX hacks, but rather simple methods typical of ConTeXt. Also we wanted a screen version of the book with a relatively small number of navigation files that could also be compiled as a paper version. A particular challenge was a piece of Greek text in a footnote.

[Translation of author's abstract]

HENDRI ADRIAENS and UWE KERN, Keys and values; pp.99–103

This article introduces the `xkeyval` package as an extension of the well-known `keyval` package. The package provides more flexible commands, syntax enhancements, and a new option processing mechanism for class and package options using the general `key=value` syntax. [Author's abstract]

TACO HOEKWATER, Boekbespreking vormwijzer [Book review]; pp.104–105

Book review of *Display: A guide to creating and (re)producing printed matter*, by K. F. Treebus.

[From the author's introduction]

[Compiled by Steve Peter]