

# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks: lowering the barrier to entry

Jonathan Kew

[jonathan@jfkew.plus.com](mailto:jonathan@jfkew.plus.com)

July 21, 2008

# Approachable TeX?

The screenshot shows the TeXnicCenter interface with the following components:

- File Explorer:** A tree view on the left showing the document structure, including sections like "Introduction", "Page headers and footers", "Vestaf(fancyhdr)", "Simple use of Vestaf(fancyhdr)", "A simple example", "An example of two-sided printing", "Redefining Vestaf(plain) style", "The default layout", "The scoop on Vestaf's marks", "Dictionary style headers", "Fancy layouts", "Two book examples", "Special page layout for foot pages", "Those blank pages", "Vestaf(N) of Vestaf(M) style page numbers", "Chapter or section related page numbers", "When to change the headers and footers?", "Headers and footers induced by the text", "A movie", "Thumb-indexes", "Fixed placement", "Multipage Floats", and "Contact information".
- Code Editor:** The main window displays LaTeX code for the `\extramarks` and `\Cwd` commands. It includes a search box for "Greek small letters" and a scroll bar. The code shows the definition of `\extramarks`, the use of `\Cwd` to create `\firstmark` and `\lastmark`, and a `\begin{verbatim}` block with `\the\extramarks` and `\the\sec:thumb`.
- Log Window:** At the bottom, a log window shows compilation errors:
  - [15] [16] LaTeX Warning: Reference 'fig:xmarks' on page 17 undefined on input line 1184.
  - [17] Undefined control sequence. 1.1249 \Cwdindex {firstmark}
  - [18] LaTeX Warning: Reference 'sec:thumb' on page 18 undefined on input line 1296.
- Status Bar:** At the bottom, it shows "Ln 1249, Col 5 UNDX OVR READ UP NUM BP".

# Approachable TeX?

The screenshot shows the WinShell interface for editing 'introduction.tex'. The left pane displays a project tree with a 'Table of Contents' section. The main editor shows LaTeX code for a chapter introduction, including a title, author information, and a copyright notice. The output window at the bottom reports several overfull and underfull boxes, indicating layout issues in the document.

**Projects**

- Current document
- WinShell
  - Files
    - winshell.tex
    - introduction.tex
    - menus.tex
    - howto.tex
    - future.tex
    - winshell.bbb
  - Table of Contents
    - 1 Introduction
    - 2 Menus
    - 3 How to...
    - 4 Future work and bug report
      - 4.1 Future work
      - 4.2 Bug report
    - Index
    - Document history
  - Figures
  - Tables
    - tab\_regex
  - Bibliography
  - Mittelbach:2004
  - introduction.tex, Li 251

**introduction.tex**

```
1 \chapter{Introduction}
2 \label{introduction}
3
4 \begin{htmlonly}
5 \begin{centering}
6 {\Huge \bfseries WinShell 3.2 - draft\\
7 \vspace{2cm}
8 {\Large Ingo H. de Boer}\\
9 \vspace{0.1cm}
10 {\large \today}\\
11 \vspace{1cm}
12 Current document revision\\
13 \htmlref{Ingo H. de Boer}{documenthistory}
14 \vspace{1cm}
15 email: \Email{idb@winshell.org},
16 url: \WWW{www.winshell.org}\\
17 \end{centering}
18
19 \begin{minipage}{\textwidth}
20 Copyright \copyright, 1998-2007 Ingo H. de Boer
21 \index{Copyright}
22
23 Permission to use, copy and distribute this software and its
24 documentation for any purpose is hereby granted without fee,
```

**Output**

```
menus.tex(539): Overfull \hbox (9.50954pt too wide) in paragraph at lines 539--542
menus.tex(768): Overfull \hbox (4.74168pt too wide) in paragraph at lines 768--774
menus.tex(892): Overfull \hbox (3.35886pt too wide) in paragraph at lines 892--906
howto.tex...
howto.tex(9): Underfull \hbox (badness 10000) in paragraph at lines 9--15
howto.tex(1): Underfull \vbox (badness 10000) has occurred while \output is active on page 31
future.tex...
winshell.ind...

-----
WinShell - 0 error(s), 0 warning(s), 3 overfull box(es), 4 underfull box(es)
```

Ready Li 1, Co 1 Main-TeX-Document : winshell.tex

# Approachable TeX?

The screenshot displays the Kile LaTeX editor interface. The main window shows a document titled "example.tex" with the following LaTeX code:

```
\documentclass{article}
\title{Example title}
\author{Joe Bloggs}
\begin{document}
\maketitle
This is example text, intended to make this screenshot slightly more interesting. There is very little point in reading this text, since it conveys no information whatsoever. However, you may read it if you wish.
Kile is a free editor for \LaTeX
\end{document}
```

The text "\LaTeX" is highlighted in blue, and a small tooltip box is visible over it, containing the text "\LaTeX" and "\LaTeXe".

The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Build, Project, LaTeX, Wizard, Bookmarks, Tools, Settings, Help), a toolbar with various icons, and a sidebar with a "Relation Symbols" panel. The bottom status bar shows "Normal mode" and "Line: 11 Col: 32 INS NORM".

Below the editor, the "Log & Messages" panel displays the following output:

```
[LaTeX] example.tex -> example.dvi (latex)
[LaTeX] 0 errors, 0 warnings, 0 badboxes
[LaTeX] Done!

[ViewDVI] example.dvi (kviewerpart)
[ViewDVI] Done!
```

# Approachable TeX?

The screenshot shows the LaTeX Editor (L<sup>ed</sup>) interface. The main window displays the source code of a document, with line numbers on the left. The code includes comments and TeX commands for defining nationalities and spelling rules. A red error message is visible at the bottom of the editor: "LaTeX Font Warning: Some font shapes were not available, defaults substituted." Below the code, a "DVI Viewer Messages" window shows the output of the document, including the page number "Page 3 of 17".

On the right side of the interface, a "Correcting spelling errors for wordlist file: rules" window is open. It displays a flowchart showing the process of correcting spelling errors: "New" leads to "Evaluation", which leads to "Thought", which leads to "Spelling", which leads to "Suggest", which leads to "Typing", which leads to "Final word". Below the flowchart, there is a section titled "3.3 Types of spelling errors" which discusses various types of errors and how they are handled by the system.

```
1  nationality suffixes:
2  \(\wedge(-al), \wedge(-e), \allowbreak() \wedge(-can), \wedge(-er), eq(-ese),
3  \wedge(-i), \wedge(-ian)\)$, adjective and adverb suffixes:
4  \(\wedge(-all), \wedge(-ax), \wedge(-ic), \wedge(-ical), \wedge(-ed),
5  \wedge(-ive)\)$, \(\wedge(-al), \wedge(-ly), \allowbreak() \wedge(-ally)\)$,
6  Sample rules addressing vocabulary incompetence errors are shown
7  in Figure~\ref{fig:rules}.
8
9  \subsection{Other spelling error types}
10 The above-described errors are typical for a typed text.
11 If the way of introducing the text into a computer is different,
12 other spelling errors may appear.
13 The rules covering errors introduced during the optical character
14 recognition stage reflect such situations like misinterpreting
15 the pair of letters~\wedge(i) as a single letter~\wedge(m),
16 misinterpreting a letter~\wedge(e) as~\wedge(c), and similar.
17 In our implementation, we assume that the text is typed, so such
18 OCR-specific rules are absent from the set of rules examined in
19 the experiments described in Section~\ref{sec:experiments}.
20
21 \subsection{Gathering it all together}
22 There are a number of substitution rules that may lead to a lot
23 of suggestions.
24 Since higher cost means smaller relevance between the suggestion
25 and the original non-word, we define
26 a maximal cost of suggestion acceptance.
```

LaTeX Font Warning: Some font shapes were not available, defaults substituted

Output written on sc.dvi (17 pages, 103008 bytes).  
Transcript written on sc.log.  
13-07-2005 18:58:00: STOP

DVI Viewer Messages  
LaTeX

Row 523, Col 1 Page 3 of 17

Correcting spelling errors for wordlist file: rules

Figure 1 From idea to typed word

The classic data structure offering fast search is a hash table (Rosen, 1975). Its disadvantage is used to store properly the hash function and the list of the hash table to manage the problem of collisions. Michael perfect hashing (Crisp, Haines & Malspica, 1975) illustrates solutions but require storing the hash table in the speed of the number of words in the lexicon and the whole lexicon (quasi) compressed to some method).

Another popular data structure used for lexicon storage is a trie (Rosen, 1975). It is a character-oriented tree, in which every path from a root to a leaf corresponds to a list and branching is based on successive characters. A trie often has backing and some compression of lexicon. The trie, however, is typically incompatible to the lexicon size due to the need of storing pointers to the words. There are some works on reducing the space cost of the alternative systems of trie as C-tree (Bridy, 1976), PREFIXES (Shirahata, 1985), and Branch Elimination (Chang & Wilton, 1995).

An acyclic directed graph (ADFG) can be considered a generalization of the trie. If all outgoing edges of all nodes are unique, we obtain a restricted ADFG. This data structure is discussed here as similar to the use of a trie solution.

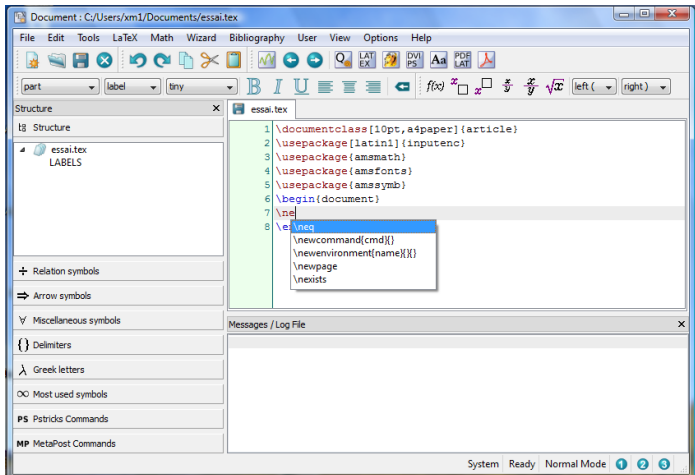
The simple approach is to store directly each group of each lexicon word and rules for changing letters resulting in a word dictionary. If one word is added, then the lexicon, writing errors are accepted not to use and the obtained forms are deleted. For example, the lexicon contains an acyclic directed graph (ADFG) of the root word *unavailable* might go like this, *unavailable* is added from the lexicon, changing an results in *unavailable* which is also added from the lexicon, changing *unavailable* into *unavailable* is present in the lexicon, the next word *unavailable* is judged correct. Such a method requires too space, but substantially may lead to the compression of some words, as well as allow us to append to all our forms. For example, a new word *unavailable* is being, but changing one results in the word *unavailable* to the next word *unavailable* to judge an incorrect. This method also will not work for some languages like Finnish and Turkish, since they need such more sophisticated processing.

A better approach is to store only a cost function for each word together with rules of its definition. Therefore we have here together all correct forms of the word. This solution is used in such applications as Ispell (Kremata, 2002) and Aspell (Edwards, 2005). These examples from English use *hashmap* which means that for placed form, however, is also correct, *hashOCC* allowing *hash*, *hashes*, *hashing*.

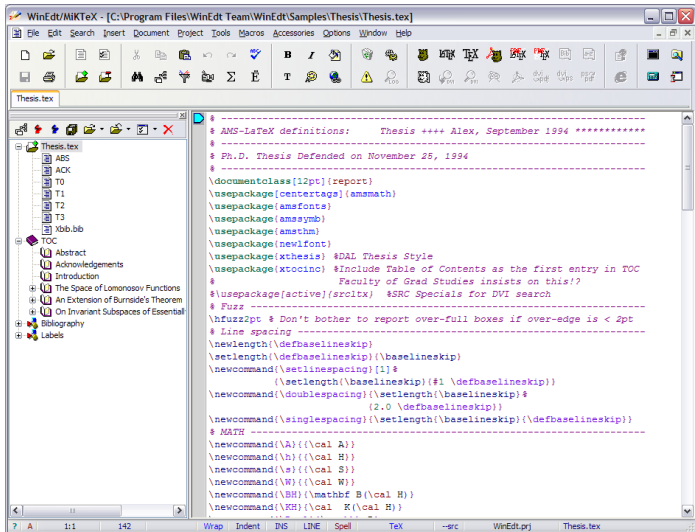
3.3 Types of spelling errors

Types of errors of these methods (Figure 1). An error may occur at each of them. In the first step, *evaluation*, an idea translation into a thought word. Usually it is enough, but sometimes may not be the best, i.e., one may need to write a few letters of a word and to monitor which of the adjacent positions should be used in that particular case. An error may be a negative position, e.g., an *unavailable*, or *unavailable*, or *unavailable*, one may create a negative form changing the lexicon use like perfect -> *unperfect*. As

# Approachable TeX?



# Approachable TeX?



```
WinEdt/MiKTeX - [C:\Program Files\WinEdt Team\WinEdt\Samples\Thesis\Thesis.tex]
File Edit Search Insert Document Project Tools Macros Accessories Options Window Help
Thesis.tex
Thesis.tex
ABS
ACK
T0
T1
T2
T3
Xbib.bib
TOC
Abstract
Acknowledgements
Introduction
The Space of Lomonosov Functions
An Extension of Burnside's Theorem
On Invariant Subspaces of Essential
Bibliography
Labels
%-----
% AMS-LaTeX definitions: Thesis ++++ Alex, September 1994 *****
%
% Ph.D. Thesis Defended on November 25, 1994
%-----
\documentclass[12pt]{report}
\usepackage[centerpage]{amsmath}
\usepackage{amsfonts}
\usepackage{amssymb}
\usepackage{amsthm}
\usepackage{newfont}
\usepackage{xthesis} %DAL Thesis Style
\usepackage{xtocinc} %Include Table of Contents as the first entry in TOC
% Faculty of Grad Studies insists on this!?
%\usepackage{active}{srcitx} %SRC Specials for DVI search
% Fuzz
%-----
%hfuzz2pt % Don't bother to report over-full boxes if over-edge is < 2pt
% Line spacing -----
\newlength{\defbaselineskip}
\setlength{\defbaselineskip}{\baselineskip}
\newcommand{\setlinespacing}[1]{%
  (\setlength{\baselineskip}{#1 \defbaselineskip})
\newcommand{\doublespacing}{\setlength{\baselineskip}{%
  (2.0 \defbaselineskip)}
\newcommand{\singlespacing}{\setlength{\baselineskip}{\defbaselineskip}}
% MATH -----
\newcommand{\A}{(\cal A)}
\newcommand{\H}{(\cal H)}
\newcommand{\S}{(\cal S)}
\newcommand{\W}{(\cal W)}
\newcommand{\BH}{(\mathbf B(\cal H))}
\newcommand{\KH}{(\cal K(\cal H))}
? A 1:1 142 Wrap Indent INS LINE Spell TeX --src WinEdt.prj Thesis.tex
```

# Approachable TeX! 😊

The screenshot shows the TeXShop application interface. The top menu bar includes Apple logo, TeXShop, File, Edit, Format, Macros, Typeset, Preview, Window, and Help. Two windows are open:

- webexample**: A source code editor window showing LaTeX code:

```
\documentclass[11pt]{article}
\usepackage[colorlinks=true, urlcolor=blue]{hyperref}

\title{On TeXShop}
\author{Richard Koch}

\begin{document}

\maketitle
\section{Introduction}

This is a short description of
mathematical documents. See
(TeXShop homepage)

\end{document}
```
- webexample.pdf**: A preview window showing the rendered PDF. The title is "On TeXShop", the author is "Richard Koch", and the date is "April 26, 2005". The first section is "1 Introduction". The text under this section reads: "This is a short description of TeX, a program which can typeset mathematical documents. See TeXShop homepage." The phrase "can typeset mathematical" is circled in red in the original image.



## A T<sub>E</sub>X environment for newcomers

*The introduction of TeXShop caused a T<sub>E</sub>X-boom among Macintosh users.<sup>1</sup>*

One of the outstanding success stories of the T<sub>E</sub>X world in recent years has been Dick Koch's TeXShop environment for Mac OS X. Why has TeXShop proved so popular, among newcomers as well as experienced T<sub>E</sub>X users?

- clean, uncluttered user interface presenting only the essentials
  - “power user” features are not thrust on the new user
- simplified workflow based on PDF rather than DVI output
- user interface touches:
  - magnifying-glass tool
  - source ↔ preview synchronization

---

<sup>1</sup><http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TeXShop>

## So what is T<sub>E</sub>Xworks?

The T<sub>E</sub>Xworks project is an effort to build a similar T<sub>E</sub>X front-end program that will be available for all today's major desktop operating systems—in particular, MS Windows (XP and Vista), typical Linux distros, and other X11-based systems, in addition to Mac OS X.

T<sub>E</sub>Xworks was begun following discussions at a number of TUG meetings, particularly some conversations between Karl Berry, Dick Koch and Jonathan Kew. Initial design and development has received generous sponsorship through the T<sub>E</sub>X development fund.

## Development approach

In order to deliver a free, robust, capable, portable application in a reasonable amount of time, T<sub>E</sub>Xworks is being built on the foundation of two key open-source tools:

- the Poppler library for PDF support
- the Qt application framework

These in turn rely on additional components such as Freetype, Fontconfig, X11, zlib, etc., but Poppler and Qt are the primary dependencies of T<sub>E</sub>Xworks itself.

The current code also relies on the Hunspell library for spell-checking, but this may change in the future.

Although Qt is particularly associated with the KDE desktop environment, it has a long history as a cross-platform application framework, and underlies a number of major applications (both free and commercial) on Windows and Mac OS X as well as Linux/X11.

# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks features

## 1. Simple GUI text editor

- Unicode support using standard OpenType fonts
- multi-level undo/redo
- search & replace, with (optional) regex support
- comment/uncomment lines, etc.
- T<sub>E</sub>X/L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X syntax coloring
- auto-completion for easy insertion of common commands
- templates to provide a starting point for common document types

# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks features

## 2. Tools to execute T<sub>E</sub>X and related programs to create PDF

- extensible set of T<sub>E</sub>X commands (with common commands such as pdftex, pdflatex, xelatex, context, etc. being preconfigured)
- also support running BibT<sub>E</sub>X, Makeindex, etc.
- any terminal output appears in a “console” panel of the document window; automatically hidden if no errors occur
- “root document” metadata so “Typeset” works from an `\included` file

# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks features

## 3. Preview window to view the output

- anti-aliased PDF display
- automatically opens when T<sub>E</sub>X finishes
- auto-refresh when re-typesetting (stay at same page/view)
- TeXShop-like “magnifying glass” feature to examine detail in the preview
- one-click re-typesetting from either source or preview
- source ↔ preview synchronization based on Jérôme Laurens’ SyncT<sub>E</sub>X technology

# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks features

1. Simple GUI text editor
2. Tools to execute T<sub>E</sub>X and related programs
3. Preview window to view the output

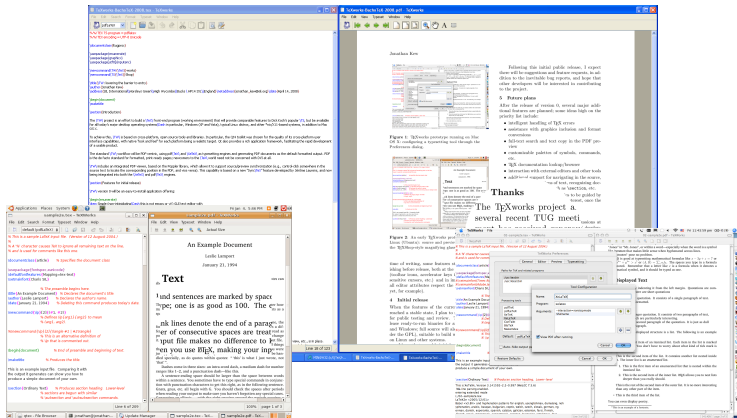
# T<sub>E</sub>Xworks features

1. Simple GUI text editor
2. Tools to execute T<sub>E</sub>X and related programs
3. Preview window to view the output
4. Additional “power user” features
  - advanced editor features such as code folding
  - interaction with external editors and viewers
  - customizable toolbars, palettes, etc.
  - *but only if they can be added without cluttering or complicating the interface and the initial user experience*



# Demo

## Current pre-alpha T<sub>E</sub>Xworks application



# Invitation

TeXworks is a free and open source software project, and you are invited to participate.

- use the prototype for some real work, and give feedback on what's good, what's bad, what's broken
  - if there's a current binary download available for your platform, try that
  - get the code and try building it on your platform; provide bug reports (and fixes!) for whatever problems show up
- dig in to the code, and submit patches to implement your favorite missing features

# Invitation

TeXworks is a free and open source software project, and you are invited to participate.

- write documentation and tutorials for newcomers to TeXworks and TeX; both standalone documentation and pages suitable for on-line help are welcome
- review and enhance the command completion lists available for the integrated editor
- provide well-commented templates for various types of document
- design icons for the toolbars, etc.; TeXworks has some nice icons from Qt and the Tango project, but others are merely rough placeholders

# Invitation

T<sub>E</sub>Xworks is a free and open source software project, and you are invited to participate.

- use the Qt Linguist tool to localize the user interface for your language
- package T<sub>E</sub>Xworks appropriately for your favorite GNU/Linux or BSD distribution, or create and maintain a proper installer for the Windows or Mac OS X platform

## For more information

- T<sub>E</sub>Xworks home page on tug.org:  
<http://tug.org/texworks/>
  - should include links to everything else
- development is hosted at Google Code:  
<http://code.google.com/p/texworks/>
  - source code repository
  - downloads of binary packages
  - issue tracker
  - wiki for developer notes