

INFO-TEX

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Abstract

This article is a adaption of the message send to new users on the INFO-TeX distribution list. It describes some additional features of the LISTSERV (including some other mailing lists) and the additional FILESERV facility.

The INFO-TeX distributionlist can be joined by sending a mail message to:

LISTSERV@SHSU.BITNET (LISTSERV@SHSU.edu)
 – or –
 INFO-TeX-Request@SHSU.edu

The subject of the mail message is irrelevant, but the body should contain only one line:

SUBSCRIBE INFO-TEX "Your Real Name in Quotes"

While we appreciate your subscription to INFO-TeX and welcome your input, there are a few things we ask you to remember.

1 Introduction

If you should ever wish to have your name removed from the list of subscribers and no longer receive INFO-TeX, please send a mail message to¹:

LISTSERV@SHSU.BITNET (LISTSERV@SHSU.edu)
 – or –
 INFO-TeX-Request@SHSU.edu

stating in the text of the mail:

SIGNOFF INFO-TeX

Please remember to SIGNOFF of INFO-TeX should you have reason to lose or give up your account.

2 Other commands

LISTSERV has a few other command items for your convenience. You may want to include the command: HELP in the body of a mail message to it to see what it can do. Briefly, there are now options for SET INFO-TeX NOMAIL *and* SET INFO-TeX MAIL to turn on and off mail distributions from the list without signing off. Additionally, LISTSERV supports [NO]CONCEAL and [NO]REPRO. The command: QUERY INFO-TeX will check your current [NO]MAIL, [NO]CONCEAL, and [NO]REPRO status, and: LIST to retrieve a listing of all lists supported by our site.

3 Subject headers

The use of a brief and descriptive subject header for your messages is encouraged. A subject such as 'Help' is not very informative, while a subject such as 'Help with centering' or 'Help: centering in tabular' is very informative and useful.

4 The 'Reply-to:' address

The Reply-to: address for INFO-TeX is configured to the original sender of the message and not to INFO-TeX. All replies not specifically addressed will be forwarded to only the original poster and not the entire audience of INFO-TeX subscribers. If you would like your response to be sent to the list of subscribers, please send a copy to INFO-TeX@SHSU.BITNET (or INFO-TeX@SHSU.edu).

¹ Please do *not* send the SIGNOFF message to the list address, INFO-TeX@SHSU.BITNET (or INFO-TeX@SHSU.edu), as this is the redistribution address for the list. All posting to INFO-TeX are distributed to its worldwide list of subscribers. Please note that the LISTSERV which serves INFO-TeX is mail oriented only and is not conventional interactive LISTSERV.

5 Summary of replies

If you have posed a question to INFO-TeX and have received answers which address your problem, please post a summary of replies back to the list. Summary postings will be appreciated by the subscribers as they will be enabled to follow the thread of your problem and not wonder, *'what about the post regarding ...?'* Also, these postings often provide for further extensions of the original question. A suggested summary subject header is the original subject followed by the word 'Summary', such as *'Help: centering in tabular - Summary'*.

6 Archives

The archives of INFO-TeX are maintained on the Sam Houston State University file server, FILESERV@SHSU.BITNET (FILESERV@SHSU.edu)². To get a copy of any month's postings, send mail to FILESERV with the message:

```
SENDME INFO-TeX.yyyy-mm
```

where yyyy is the year and mm is the numeric representation of the month. For example, the message SENDME INFO-TeX.1990-12 will access the archives for December, 1990.

7 L^AT_EX style file collection

FILESERV@SHSU.BITNET (FILESERV@SHSU.edu) also supports a developing L^AT_EX style file collection. This service is being added, slowly but surely, for your use and convenience. To get a brief annotated listing of the current holdings and brief instructions on retrieving the files in the style file collection, send mail to FILESERV with the message: LIST STY³.

FILESERV also has a number of other TeX-related packages and files available. To get an annotated listing of all packages available, send the command SENDME FILELIST in a mail message to FILESERV. Further information about FILESERV can be obtained from a HELP message.

8 Anonymous FTP

Everything available from FILESERV is available for anonymous ftp retrieval from Niord.SHSU.edu [192.92.115.8]. The directory structure of FILESERV is [FILESERV.package_name]. For example, the STYLE archives exist in [FILESERV.STY]. A complete listing of files available may be retrieved from FILESERV by including the command: SENDME ADDITIONS in the body of a mail message to FILESERV. The listing of files is available for anonymous ftp retrieval in the directory [FILESERV.ADDITIONS] on Niord.SHSU.edu.

²Note that this is FILESERV and not LISTSERV.

³If you would like to assist in the development of this repository by contributing a file to the STY collection, please mail it to STY-Mgr@SHSU.BITNET (STY-Mgr@SHSU.edu)

9 CTAN

Users with access to Internet File Transfer Protocol (FTP) clients may now access the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN) archive collection from SHSU using anonymous FTP to the host pip.SHSU.edu (192.92.115.10). The CTAN is a coordinated archival project between *Aston University* (UK), *University of Stuttgart* (Germany), and *Sam Houston State University* which is intended to mirror the various authoritative archives on the network which house TeX-related files. As far as possible, hosts maintained by each of the sponsoring institutions are parallel within their anonymous ftp archive holdings in the area of TeX-related files. The hosts and their root CTAN directory hierarchies are:

Aston University
University of Stuttgart
Sam Houston State University

ftp host	CTAN root
ftp.TeX.ac.uk	pub/archive
ftp.Uni-Stuttgart.de	soft/tex
pip.SHSU.edu	tex-archive

10 Other lists

Sam Houston State University supports three other lists which INFO-TeX subscribers may be interested in: TeX-Pubs, ctt-Digest, and LitProg.

10.1 TeX-Pubs

TeX-Pubs is a redistribution list for TeX-related electronic-format periodicals, including TeXhax, UKTeX, TeXMaG, the *'Frequently Asked Questions'* and *'Supplementary TeX Information'* from the comp.text.tex newsgroup, and the TeX Users Group's *'TeX and TUG News'*. TeX-Pubs provides subscribers with a single address for handling the administrative details associated with a subscription to each of these journals, so you will need to subscribe or signoff only once instead of multiple times.

TeX-Pubs will provide you with copies of each of these electronic digests as soon as they are received for forwarding. To subscribe to TeX-Pubs, please include the command:

```
SUBSCRIBE TeX-Pubs "Your Real Name in Quotes"
```

in the body of a mail message to

```
LISTSERV@SHSU.BITNET (LISTSERV@SHSU.edu).
```

Note: this is a list-related request, so it goes to LISTSERV; file-related requests, such as archives, styles, and packages discussed above go to FILESERV.

10.2 secctt-digest

`ctt-Digest` is a (usually multi-part) digest of posts made to the `comp.text.tex` newsgroup which do not originate on `INFO-TeX` and do not include the periodicals distributed on `TeX-Pubs`. `ctt-Digest` provides subscribers of `INFO-TeX` and `TeX-Pubs` the ability to follow the complete threads of discussion appearing on the news side of the distribution. These threads often includes follow-ups associated with posts originating on `INFO-TeX`.

The digest is compiled and distributed daily at approximately 0200 Central time (U.S.) and posted in parts which do not exceed 85 512-byte blocks (approximately 42.5k) in order to accommodate size-sensitive mailers. The archives of `ctt-Digest` are retained on `Niord.SHSU.edu [192.92.115.8]` in the directory `[.COMP-TEXT-TEX]` as `COMP-TEXT-TEX.yyyy-mm-dd`, where "YYYY" is the year, "mm" is the numeric representation of the month, and "dd" is the day of the month. Users may also retrieve a specific day's digest by including, for example:

```
SENDME COMP-TEXT-TEX.1992-02-04
```

in the body of a mail message to `FILESERV@SHSU.BITNET (FILESERV@SHSU.edu)`, which would retrieve the digest for February 4, 1992. To subscribe to `ctt-Digest`, please include the command:

```
SUBSCRIBE ctt-Digest "Your Real Name in Quotes"
```

in the body of a mail message to `LISTSERV@SHSU.BITNET (LISTSERV@SHSU.edu)`.

10.3 Litprog

`LitProg` is an unmoderated discussion list on Literate Programming, primarily focusing on the `WEB` structure of programming introduced by Donald Knuth as implemented in various forms from `WEB` (such as `FWEB`, `CWEB`, and other forms). This includes general issues of style and philosophy, such as *'what is literate programming?'* or *'is literate programming compatible with writing portable programs?'*, as well as specific issues relating to particular literate programming systems, such as *'is it possible to use CWEB with ANSIC?'*.

Novices are welcome; it is intended that this group should be a place where newcomers can be welcomed into the fold as well as a place where seasoned literate programmers can discuss fine points of technique. If you would like to subscribe to `LitProg`, please

include the command:

```
SUBSCRIBE LitProg "Your Real Name in Quotes"
```

in the body of a mail message to `LISTSERV@SHSU.BITNET (LISTSERV@SHSU.edu)`.

11 User groups

The `TeX Users Group (TUG)` is a worldwide users group devoted to developments and applications of `TeX`. While membership in TUG is by no means required for participation on `INFO-TeX`, it is encouraged due to the wealth of information and services TUG can provide. TUG publishes *TUGboat*, and its newsletter, `TeX` and TUG News. Annual membership dues to TUG upon which it is highly dependent, provide *'hard copies'* of each of these, as well as an annual membership directory (9 periodicals in all).

TUG also has available a large library of ancillary guides and documents for `TeX`-related applications, in addition to sponsoring a number of seminars, meetings, and classes annually. For more information regarding TUG please contact:

```
TeX Users Group
P. O. Box 869
Santa Barbara, CA 93102 (USA)
Tel: (805) 899-4673
tug@math.ams.org
```

Please include your full name and a complete mailing address. If you have inquiries regarding the courses offered by TUG or its annual meeting, please contact the TUG offices at any of the addresses above.

Finally, please feel free to post to the list. It is provided to assist you with `TeX`-related problems. No question is *'too simple'*; questions which are *'too hard'* lead to doctoral dissertations and new products. `INFO-TeX` is mirrored to the `USENET comp.text.tex` newsgroup, so a very wide audience of skilled users is available for responding to posts on `INFO-TeX`. Please note that `comp.text.tex` is not mirrored back to `INFO-TeX`, so a posting to this mail address will be distributed to a larger audience than a post to the newsgroup (but will be distributed to the newsgroup). However, also please note that `ctt-Digest` now allows for receipt of a digested format of `comp.text.tex`.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions about `INFO-TeX`, please contact the list owner at the address on top of this article.