The new LATEX: LATEX2ε

June 1994

The LATEX3 project team is pleased to announce the release of the new standard version of LATEX. It is upwardly compatible with existing LATEX documents, and contains new features including the long-awaited graphics extensions.

Over the years many extensions of LATEX have been developed. This is, of course, a welcome development, since it shows that the LATEX system is in a healthy state. It has, however, had one unfortunate consequence: there were several incompatible systems all claiming to be LATEX.

The new LATEX puts an end to this unsatisfactory situation – it gives access to all extensions such as SLiTEX, AmSLATEX, and PSLATEX, based on a single format. This will end the proliferation of mutually incompatible dialects of LATEX.

We have also introduced a small number of often-requested features (such as more control over float placement) and an improved interface for writers of document classes and packages.

The new LATEX is described in a new edition of 'LATEX: A Document Preparation System' by Leslie Lamport (to appear during 1994) and 'The LATEX Companion' by Goossens, Mittelbach and Samarin, both published by Addison-Wesley.

From now on there will be a new distribution of LATEX twice a year, in June and December.

The new LATEX can be retrieved by anonymous ftp from the CTAN archives:

```
ftp.tex.ac.uk   /tex-archive/macros/latex/base
ftp.shsu.edu    /tex-archive/macros/latex/base
ftp.dante.de    /tex-archive/macros/latex/base
```

Important note: *During the transition phase to the new release the directory name may actually remain*

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/tex-archive/macros/latex2e/base
```

This is only until the archive sites have updated their collection.

Apologies and Thanks

For obvious reasons, we have not been able to incorporate everyone's suggestions for improvements or fixes to LATEX.

We are nevertheless very grateful to everyone who has made suggestions and/or reported bugs and other problems with old versions and with the beta-test versions. We hope that all of your reports have been answered by one of us: if not, please let us know. We have given them all serious consideration and, in many cases where we have not been able to act on them now, we have added them to the list of things that need further attention in the future. Also, of course, many of them could be developed into useful LATEX packages, by you!

For the LATEX3 Project

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