

to, idealize, isolate, discriminate, distinguish, screen, pigeonhole, pick over, sort, integrate, blend, inspect, filter, lump, skip, smooth, chunk, average, approximate, cluster, aggregate, outline, summarize, itemize, review, dip into, flip through, browse, glance into, leaf through, skim, refine, enumerate, glean, synopsisize, winnow the wheat from the chaff and separate the sheep from the goats.

As can be expected, these commands have their dutch and german counterparts:

english	dutch	german
<code>\starttabulate</code>	<code>\starttabulatie</code>	<code>\starttabulator</code>
<code>\definetabulate</code>	<code>\definieertabulatie</code>	<code>\definieretabulator</code>
<code>\setuptabulate</code>	<code>\steltabulatiein</code>	<code>\stelletabulatorein</code>

The preamble commands and column and row separators are independant of the interface.

Bug or Feature? misleading font messages

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abstract

T_EX error messages and warnings are not always that clear. Sometimes confusion is due to optimizations in T_EX the program. We will discuss the not always honest `\the\font`.

keywords

fonts, error messages

T_EX is written in a time when computer resources were not as generous as in our days. This means that in T_EX the program there are optimizations wherever possible. Sometimes these optimizations have unexpected side effects.

Make yourself a file saying:

```
\font\one =cmr10
\font\two =cmr10
\font\three=cmr10
```

```
\one One \message{\the\font}
\two Two \message{\the\font}
\three Three \message{\the\font}
```

When this file is run through T_EX, you will see that in all occasions, T_EX reports that font `\three` is used. This is

due to the fact that T_EX only loads a font once, which in itself is one of the reasons why preloading fonts in plain T_EX can speed up font definitions in production runs (the T_EXbook explains this).

The undesirable side effect is that, although the font is still accessible by the old name(s), the last name used in defining one is reported back in messages concerning for instance overfull boxes. The degree of confusion arising from this situation depends on the way the macro package names fonts. Especially when a fall back mechanism is implemented, users can start searching for the wrong causes of the problem. Imagine a message mentioning problems with typesetting text (an overfull box for example) where a sans serif font is referred to, while in fact a serif is used as fall back.

This side effect can reveal itself rather disguised in high level font mechanisms. It took both authors quite some time nailing down the origin of these confusing messages, especially because one would expect the opposite: report the old name. Finding the source of the problem was complicated by the fact that (depending on the application) it occurs independant of grouping, and therefore is pretty hard to trace. We hope that in a next release of E-T_EX there will be an appropriate warning issued in the log file when this low level optimization takes place.