

Redactioneel

Shortly before publication, we heard the sad news that Kees van de Laan had died. Kees had an effect on everyone he met. My children were very young when I brought them to BachoT_EX, but they still remember Kees as, ‘the nice man with the big dog.’ This issue contains two articles by Kees, but begins with a testimonial written by Eric Frambach, Jerzy Ludwiczowski and Philip Taylor.

An friend of mine recently ask me to help him typeset a series of books. My friend is a successful magazine publisher, but he is unschooled in the mechanics of typesetting. However, the prospect of typesetting beautiful books has induced him to learn T_EX. As he adopts the edit-typeset-view work cycle the choice of tools, especially an editor, is fairly important. This edition of the MAPS could have been written especially for him, since it includes a review of several T_EX specific and T_EX aware editors. Here is a short summary.

Frans Absil describes T_EXShop, a basic, reliable and open-source T_EX editor running on Mac OS. T_EXShop displays three windows: an editor, a console and a integrated PDF viewer corresponding to the edit-typeset-view cycle we all know and love.

Willi Egger describes TextMate, a commercial text editor running on Mac OS. Support for T_EX and L^AT_EX include, e.g., syntax highlighting and keyboard shortcuts. ConT_EXt support is provided by an add-on bundle written by Patrick Gundlach. I particularly like TextMate’s ability to fold paragraphs; which helped me narrow my focus by hiding surrounding distractions.

Sytse Knypstra describes T_EXworks, an open-source and cross-platform T_EX specific editor. A particularly interesting feature is its integrated PDF viewer supports source/view synchronization; which allows one to switch between corresponding positions in the source and resulting PDF.

Siep Kroonenberg describes T_EXstudio – the primary T_EX editor in the University of Groningen’s T_EXLive installation, and particularly well suited

for new and aspiring T_EX users. Siep shows us what T_EXstudio can do by leading us through progressively harder examples from our first session, through typesetting bibliographies to configuring custom templates.

And for those interested in beautiful mathematics made visible, there are two articles by Kees van de Laan. The first is about his PSlib.eps PostScript library -- a collection of PostScript snippets to facilitate drawing in PostScript. This article first appeared in the proceedings from BachoT_EX 2014.

Kees’s second article is about drawing spirals in PostScript; a task made easier, and the resulting PostScript code more elegant, by using polar coordinates and PostScript’s user space rotation.

This issue contains two articles by Hans Hagen. For the connoisseur of fine editors, Hans Hagen has written a description of his favourite editor -- SciTE. Build on top of the scintilla editor framework, SciTE is an all-purpose editor; which Hans has customised to accommodate ConT_EXt. With the custom lexers that ship with ConT_EXt SciTE can understand T_EX primitives, ConT_EXt low level and user interface commands, Lua and MetaPost. For those, like myself, who prefer to use a general purpose editor with T_EX specific customisations, SciTE has few competitors.

In the second article, Hans demonstrates the flexibility of ConT_EXt MKIV by embedding Lua code inside MetaPost. This is a particularly handy approach when generating graphics from external data. Hans begins with a basic example, and then shows how predefined and custom ‘helper’ functions can help us organise and simplify our code.

I hope you will enjoy this issue of the MAPS. We are grateful to the authors for their contributions.

PS: The next MAPS will be a jubileum issue marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the NTG. If you have any reminiscences or T_EX experiences you would like to share, please consider writing an article.

Michael Guravage

