Use of TeX* and LaTeX within the NTG community

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Abstract

At the 1993 spring meeting of the Dutch TeX User Group (NTG) the NTG Board was asked to find out in what way TeX and LaTeX is used by its members. Main motivation for this question was to find out how important funding of the LaTeX-3 project for the members of NTG is. Therefore it was necessary to have insight in the use of TeX and related products/macro packages.

It was decided that the board should held a inquiry among the members and if possible present the results at the *fall 1993* meeting. This article describes the results of the survey.

Participation

At the moment the inquiry was held, NTG had about 125 individual members and 62 institutional members. A total of 73 inquiry forms was sent back. Of which 43 forms were filled in by individual members and 30 were filled in by institutional members (institutions were asked to fill out 1 form for the whole institute)

Institutes that returned the forms ranged from 2 to 200 – 300 TeX/LaTeX users. The table below shows the distribution of the institutes with respect to the number of TeX/LaTeX users.

# of TeX/LaTeX users	# of institutes
≤ 4	3
5 – 9	8
10 – 19	7
20 – 49	8
50 – 99	1
≥ 100	3

Table 1: *Number of TeX/LaTeX users per institute*

The use of TeX and LaTeX

The members were asked to indicate what percentage of their TeX/LaTeX work was don by using (plain) TeX and/or what percentage of their work was done by using LaTeX. As can be seen from the table members of the NTG prefer to use LaTeX much more than they use (plain) TeX.

Use of TeX/LaTeX in the (near) future

About 50% of NTGs members think that their use of TeX/LaTeX in the future will grow. No one thinks their use of TeX/LaTeX will decline in the (near) future.

percentage LaTeX	individual members	institutes
	%	%
≥ 90 %	56	73
70 – 89 %	16	10
50 – 69 %	2	7
30 – 49 %	-	3
10 – 29 %	7	3
≤ 9 %	14	3
can't indicate	5	-

Table 2: *% of work done with LaTeX*

future use:	individual members	institutes
	%	%
will grow	51	43
will be stable	40	53
will decline	-	-
don't know	9	4

Table3: *Future use of TeX/LaTeX*

Why/when is plain TeX used?

44 % of the individuals and 53 % of the institutional members are using *plain*-TeX to support or enhance macro packages, like LaTeX en (L)$\mathcal{AMS}$-TeX. *plain*-TeX is not used at 22% of the institutes and also not used by 15 % of the individual members.

Local macro packages are being developed by 29 % of the individual members by using TeX, this use is also found at 19% of the institutes.

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*In this and other places the term TeX is used whenever the system described in the THE TeXBOOK is meant

Macro packages in use

The following list lists in alphabetical order the distinct macro packages that have been named in the survey.

ARABTeX	BABEL
BEZIER	BIBTeX
DOC/DOCSTRIP	EPSF
EDMAC	Eplain
FANCYHEADINGS	GloTeX
Harvard macro's	(L)AMSTeX
MANMAC	MULTICOL
MultiTeX	NFSS2
-styles	Phyzzx
PICTeX	PSFIG
PSTRICKS	SHADOW
TABLE	TABVERB
TeXinfo	TeXsis
TUGBoat styles	own styles/macro
publishing companies	
(Elevated and Springer etc.)	

Frontends for TEX/LATEX that were mentioned: Scientific Word and NTS.

What is the importance of TEX/LATEX/$\mathcal{AMS}$-TEX?

The fast majority of the people that answered the survey think that LATEX is of great importance for them. For TEX the importance is felt less. L$\mathcal{AMS}$-TEX is felt to be of hardly no importance.

Nevertheless the great number of uncertainties about the LATEX-3 project, this project is regarded as important for the NTG members.

	individual members	institutes
	%	%
(totally) unimportant	44	38
(very) important	44	31

Table 4: *Importance of TEX*

	individual members	institutes
	%	%
(totally) unimportant	17	10
(very) important	74	83

Table 5: *Importance of LATEX*

	individual members	institutes
	%	%
(totally) unimportant	71	83
(very) important	-	-

Table 6: *Importance of (L)$\mathcal{AMS}$-TEX*

	individual members	institutes
	%	%
(totally) unimportant	21	21
(very) important	57	71

Table 7: *Importance of LATEX-3 project*

Should NTG actively support activities to come to successors for TEX/LATEX?

The fast majority thinks that NTG should actively support the development for the successors of TEX/LATEX.

support actively?	individual members	institutes
	%	%
yes	78	86
yes, but	7	7
don't know	15	7
no, but	-	-
no	-	-

Table 8: *Support actively new developments?*

Conclusion

Members of NTG mainly using LATEX as their primary interface to the TEX system. The expectation is that the use of TEX/LATEX will be stable with a tendency to grow in the (near) future. This expectation is partially based on the expectation that the work that is undertaken for the LATEX-3 project will succeed.