

General information 3rd edition of the 4all \TeX CD-ROM

May 1th, 1995

Below you will find the most important items concerning the 3rd edition of the 4all \TeX CD-ROM.

1 Availability

The first 4all \TeX CD-ROM was introduced on June 9th 1994 at the 13th local NTG (Dutch \TeX Users Group) meeting in the Netherlands. Within 3 months all 600 copies were sold (all over the world) and the NTG decided to make a second edition that was introduced on September 15th. On this second edition NTG puts an extra 130 Mb in addition to the first release. In march 1995 the NTG sold the last copy of the second edition (i.e. 850 copies of the second release were sold). Therefore the NTG planned a third edition. . . At the end of May the NTG should be able to distribute the third edition and of course there are even more Megabytes on the third than on the second release. The NTG discovered that all the nice stuff would not fit onto one CD-ROM, so it became a double CD-ROM. This means more than one Gigabyte of \TeX related stuff.

2 Contents

4 \TeX is based on the famous, fast, and well-known em \TeX distribution. Besides that, the 4all \TeX (yes for all!) CD-ROM contains all related software as available as of April 1995.

So:

1. It contains the latest 4 \TeX version (3.27; network drive independent). 4 \TeX gives the user a user friendly interface with a large set of utilities.
2. 4 \TeX contains software in direct executable form.
3. 4 \TeX supports more than 60 formats including huge and big versions, \TeX , L^A \TeX , Cyrillic, Polish, Greek, \TeX info, LOLLIPOP, L^A \TeX 2 ϵ (official december 1994 release, patch level 3) etc.
4. 4 \TeX support many printer drivers (including colour deskjets, linotronics, matrix printers, 300/600 dpi laserprinters, laserjets, fax etc).
5. 4 \TeX supports graphics: both for previewing and printing. All functionality of e.g. BM2FONT, GHOSTSCRIPT 3.12, HP2XX, \TeX CAD, QFIG are included, ready to use!
6. 4 \TeX includes AMSPELL: a spell-checker for languages English (UK), English (USA), Dutch, German, French, Spanish and Italian.
7. 4 \TeX contains conversion utilities: WP to L^A \TeX / \TeX , MS-WORD/CHIWRITER/PC-WRITE/TROFF to L^A \TeX , DETEX, UNTEX, etc.
8. 4all \TeX contains a huge set of fonts: why waste your time generating fonts (fax, 300dpi, 600dpi, etc)? All fonts are available in .pk format and are not stored into fontlibraries, i.e. they can be used also for non-DOS systems!

9. 4all \TeX contains a huge set of .STY .MF .PK .TFM .BST etc files.
10. 4 \TeX includes METAFONT with automatic font generation.
11. 4 \TeX fully supports PostScript fonts. E.g. with automatic font generation using PS2PK! and with the utility MAKEFONT you can convert any PostScript font for use within \TeX .
12. With 4 \TeX you can view and print directly in e.g. Times.
13. 4 \TeX contains dbase utilities, supports MAKEINDEX, etc.
14. 4 \TeX uses default the integrated QEDIT 3.0 editor (you can change that in the 4 \TeX configuration file: use your favourite editor!). With the QEDIT editor you can even do block compilation: mark a small part of your (large) document, and *only* that part will be compiled and viewed.
15. 4all \TeX contains a *huge* set of documentation, including \TeX /L^A \TeX /METAFONT documentation and tutorials both for novices and gurus, including:
 - all MAPS issues (both Dutch and English articles; starting in 1988; about 2000 pages with high density information arranged in a large set of PostScript files),
 - all TEXHAX issues (1986-1995),
 - all TEX-NL issues (1989-1995),
 - all TEX-MAG issues,
 - all UKTEX issues (1988-1995),
 - A lot of tutorials in \TeX /L^A \TeX source (also .DVI, .PDF, and .PS files available),
 - The ' \TeX book' and the 'METAFONTbook' in \TeX source format,
 - FAQ about \TeX , PostScript, etc,
 - WEB/literate program related contributions.

All this documentation is available in PostScript as well as in PDF format. Using Ghostscript or the PDF reader (both on the CD-rom) you can print the documentation on any printer.

16. 4all \TeX contains SPECIALS: chess (including chinese), bridge, music, crossword, go, and more; *including all fonts*.
17. 4all \TeX contains Arabic, French, Cyrillic and Polish packages.
18. With 4 \TeX , it is very easy to generate completely new formats.
19. 4all \TeX contains a lot of .DVI, and PostScript utilities.
20. 4all \TeX contains GNUMPLOT.
21. 4all \TeX contains extensive bibliographies on \TeX -related topics.
22. It contains a 4 \TeX '1.44 Mbyte 3.5" disc distribution version'. You can install only 'one disc' (a basic em \TeX installation), *or* a number of discs, *or* all discs.

23. Because \TeX is extremely useful for the generation of HTML, PDF and other multimedia documents you will find a lot of those programs on the CD-ROM. Also a lot of useful Internet programs are supplied.

The 4all \TeX CD-ROM contains even more than that!!!

Hard disk requirement for running $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ (processing all your documents): less than 50kb!

The 4all \TeX CD-ROM is the *first* and (at least in the near future) the *only* CD-ROM with a:

ready-to-use MS-DOS full \TeX implementation including a *huge* set of documentation (and it also works under LINUX, OS/2 and WINDOWS in a DOS box).

The 4all \TeX CD-ROM contains a *unique set* of \TeX and \LaTeX software for both MS-DOS and non MS-DOS users!

Unbelievable but TRUE!

3 Computer system requirements

The ready-to-use $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ system is available for PC MS-DOS 8086/80286/80386/80486/pentium systems. However, the *major* part of the software on the 4all \TeX CD-ROM is system *independent*.

Further you need:

- a hard disk/diskette drive of 50kb (yes: 50.000 *bytes*), or more. . . ,
- a CD-ROM drive (of course),
- no memory requirements,
- any printer.

4 How to install

The $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ system on the 4all \TeX CD-ROM can be installed within 1 minute (!) and the first \TeX example can be previewed and printed within the next 10–20 seconds. After an installation of the CD-ROM i.e. after running the installation program `inst4tex` one can start $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ by typing

```
> 4tex sample
```

With the current installation program it is also possible to copy (parts) of the $\text{em}\TeX$ system onto a hard disk (in case you want to speed things up).

5 Price

- The price of the double CD-ROM including a 110+ pages manual (when ordering from the NTG office) is:

**** 60 Dutch guilders ****

(or the equivalence in dollars).

- The price includes shipping (even by air mail for outside Europe!)
- *Add 15 guilders* if you pay to NTG with a bank cheque or non-Dutch bank transfer (this is *not* recommended and costs the NTG/you the additional 15 guilders).

6 How to order the 4all \TeX CD-ROM

There could be a possibility that **\TeX Local User Groups (LUGs)** are also (re)selling the 4all \TeX CD-ROM. *So please contact your local LUG first!*

NTG is selling the 4all \TeX CD-ROM directly to all LUGs for bookstore pricing.

At the moment we are rearranging the way one can order the CD-ROM. Just wait until the official announcement or contact the NTG office at the end of May.

NTG
P.O. Box 394
1740 AJ Schagen, The Netherlands
e-mail: `ntg@nic.surfnet.nl`

7 $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ discussion list support

Yes there is already a lot of $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ support using the world-wide $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ discussion list.

How to subscribe

send the one line message:

```
subscribe 4tex your_personal_name
```

to the listserv manager:

```
listserv@nic.surfnet.nl
```

How to use

send your questions/bugs/remarks/suggestions to:

```
4tex@nic.surfnet.nl
```

How to retrieve old e-mails

All discussions will be archived. In order to receive a list of all archived files, send the one-line message:

```
INDEX 4TEX
```

to the listserv manager:

```
listserv@nic.surfnet.nl
```

In order to retrieve one of the monthly archived e-mail file, send the one-line message (for month 05 in year 94):

```
GET 4TEX LOG9405
```

to the listserv manager:

```
listserv@nic.surfnet.nl
```

The $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ authors Wietse Dol (`w.dol@lei.agro.nl`) and Erik Frambach (`e.h.m.frambach@eco.rug.nl`) are monitoring this fast growing $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ list!

For very special requests/questions use:

```
4tex-support@eco.rug.nl
```

$\mathcal{A}\TeX$ discussion list e-mails can also be found on the 4all \TeX CD-ROM.

8 The $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ manual

The price of the $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ manual only (without the 4all \TeX CD-ROM) is:

In Holland/Belgium: f. 20,- (including shipping).

Other countries : \$ 15 (including shipping).

9 4all \TeX ftp availability

On anonymous ftp-site:

```
archive.cs.ruu.nl
```

in directory:

pub/TEX/MSDOS/4alltex
 or on CTAN in directory:
 pub/tex/systems/msdos/4alltex
 you will find:

- the 4all \TeX distribution version (an earlier version of $\mathcal{A}\TeX$) in directories of about 1.44 Mbyte.
- updates of the 4all \TeX CD-ROM.

10 Latest update

Just a quick list of the additions in $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ version 3.27 compared to the earlier release 3.25:

- $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ has extended the documentation with HTML files, PDF files etc.
- All documentation is available in PostScript format but also in PDF format. With the PDF reader it is possible to print the documentation on any printer/system.
- (as complete as possible) version of $\text{L}\text{A}\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}2_{\epsilon}$ (patch level 3) (e.g. with PSNFSS),
- upgrades DVI-drivers from Eberhard Mattes (e.g. it is now possible to preview with the VESA resolution 1024x768),
- upgrades em \TeX
- updates of the $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ batchfiles, in order to e.g.:
 - include your own PostScript fonts into $\mathcal{A}\TeX$;
 - include your own PostScript family into $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ (by using the fontinst package);

- printing to a PostScript file/printer using partial fontloading
- the usual bugfixes (and introducing new ones)

11 Future improvements

Of course $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ is continuously under development. In a next release you can expect e.g.:

- latest version of other ($\mathcal{A}\TeX$ -related) products,
- update DVI drivers,
- and more.

If some essential packages and/or files are missing on the 4all \TeX CD-ROM, please contact the authors on:

`4tex-support@eco.rug.nl`

Some of the above extensions and further improvements will be available as additional installation files from the internet archives and from the Dutch FGBBS bulletin board service of NTG (phone: +31 85 217041).

For more information, please contact:

Dutch (language oriented) $\mathcal{A}\TeX$ Users Group (NTG)
 P.O. Box 394
 1740 AJ Schagen
 The Netherlands
 e-mail NTG board: `ntg@nic.surfnet.nl`