In memoriam Jean-Pierre Drucbert

Jean-Michel Hufflen

Jean-Pierre Drucbert passed away in March 2009 ... quietly ... as he lived ... He was discreet yet efficient... in his own way... I personally worked in the same building[1] as him, for two years, from 1989 to 1991. At that time, I got by using LATEX, but had only a little experience, compared with my present ability. So several times I hesitated to start in implementing some functions and asked him for some advice. At the time, he told me: 'That's not obvious.' Or: 'That's difficult.' But a little while after that, he waved discreetly to me to join him... and he implemented the commands.

I had met him after hearing about his translation of Leslie Lamport's original LATEX book, incorporating much additional information. As far as I know, this work[2] was one of the first complete LATEX manuals in French, if not THE first. It has only been distributed privately; I personally thought that was a pity. Several times I suggested to Jean-Pierre that he should submit it to a publisher. But he was not interested in the limelight, it was not in his character. He was solitary, as if he bore some secret and deep-rooted pain, some dead-end despair. But he was always ready to help other people within his activities' scope. He left many packages[3] as a remarkable testimony of that.

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[1] At CERT ('*Centre d'Études et de Recherches de Toulouse*', that is, 'Toulouse study and research centre').

[2] Jean-Pierre DRUCBERT : *Utilisation de LATEX et BIBTEX sur Multics au CERT*. August 1988. CERT, IT-service group.

[3] See http://ctan.org/author/drucbert for a complete list including 'original' implementations and adaptations to French of existing ones.

Letters

Does not suffice to run latex a finite number of times to get cross-references right

Jaime Gaspar

Abstract. We present a LATEX file such that a cross-reference is wrong no matter how many times we run latex.

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It is well-known that we need to run latex several times to get cross-references right. This raises a natural question for mathematicians: for any LATEX file, does it suffice to run latex a finite number of times? We show that the answer is negative, by a counterexample. The LATEX file

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{forloop}
\begin{document}
 \newcounter{n}
 \forloop{n}{0}
          {\value{n} < \pageref{l}}{~\newpage}
 Last-page label here\label{l}.
 Label value: \pageref{l}.
\end{document}
```

is such that the cross-reference \pageref{l} is wrong no matter how many times we run latex. This file uses a little diabolical trick: a label l is created in the last page (line 7) and there are created (resorting to a for loop) \pageref{l} many new pages (lines 5 and 6), causing the document to have \pageref{l} + 1 pages, so the cross-reference \pageref{l} to the last page is wrong. (An even more diabolical counterexample that avoids a for loop is shown at http://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/30674.)

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