Editorial comments

Barbara Beeton

R.I.P. Walter Schmidt

Walter A. Schmidt (15 August 1960–12 October 2021) was best known in the TEX community for his support of fonts, in particular the support of PostScript standard fonts via the `psnfss` package. An article in *The PracTEX Journal*, "Font selection in LATEX, The most frequently asked questions" (`tug.org/pracjourn/2006-1/schmidt/`), remains useful after 15 years, although some fonts mentioned there have been superseded by newer OpenType versions. His listing on CTAN (`https://ctan.org/author/schmidt`) shows 41 entries, including the German translation of the "Short Introduction to LATEX 2ε". He reorganized and updated the font metric files for the Lucida Type 1 distribution from TUG and PCTEX. He was a long-time member of DANTE, and one of the organizers of the Stammtisch (monthly local meeting) in Erlangen.

R.I.P. Chuck Geschke

Charles Matthew ("Chuck") Geschke (11 September 1939–16 April 2021), together with John Warnock, founded Adobe Inc. in 1982, after failing to convince Xerox that their work at Xerox PARC on the page description language Interpress was commercially viable.

Based on this work, Adobe developed PostScript, which was adopted by Apple and integrated into one of the first desktop publishing systems. The integration of a laser printer with a personal computer provided an attractive platform for individual use of TEX. In 1992, PostScript was followed by the Portable Document Format (PDF). Although there was resistance to PDF for some years, while emphasis was on the dynamic Web, the importance of print was finally recognized, and PDF is now the default format for nearly all print applications, personal or at commercial scale.

TEX has been used pervasively with both PostScript and PDF almost since the formats became available. So Geschke's contribution to the TEX world, although indirect, was clearly a crucial one.

R.I.P. Rogério Brito

Rogério Theodoro de Brito, of São Paulo, Brazil, succumbed to COVID-19 in April 2021. He was the maintainer of the `algorithms` bundle of packages (`algorithm` and `algorithmic`) and participated in other free software projects, in particular Debian, where he was a contributor for more than 15 years.

Computers & Typesetting

The entire series of *C&T* has been updated following the 2021 tuneup (`tug.org/TUGboat/tb42-1/tb130knuth-tuneup21.pdf`). In addition to hardcover volumes (the softcover versions have been discontinued), e-versions (PDF) have been created; some users may find these more convenient than a physical book.

TUG members are eligible for a substantial discount on the printed volumes or the e-volumes until the end of the year. (A discount on an e-plus-paper combination is available to all and the TUG discount may not be added.) See the notice by Pearson/Addison-Wesley at the end of this issue.

Hyphenation patterns and non-TEX uses

During the past month, considerable activity has taken place on the list `tex-hyphen@tug.org`. The usual traffic consists of notices regarding updates to existing patterns for various languages and announcements regarding additional languages. (There are currently patterns for around fifty languages on CTAN, some with multiple versions supporting historical dialects or variations due to spelling reforms.) But the recent flurry has been concerned with the potential use of the patterns for projects and applications not related to TEX, and questions regarding the implications of the various licenses that are attached to the pattern files. I wasn't aware that use of the TEX hyphenation patterns is so widespread,

A thorough exposition of the hyphenation effort appeared in the 2016 article "Hyphenation in TEX and elsewhere, past and future", by Mojca Miklavec and Arthur (Reutenauer) Rosendahl, `tug.org/TUGboat/tb37-2/tb116miklavec.pdf`. This both addressed TEXnical considerations and presented an extensive discussion on the available licenses, in particular the LPPL. While some of the provisions of the LPPL are highly desirable (such as the provisions relating to having a recognized maintainer), it was determined that in other respects the LPPL is not ideal for files of hyphenation patterns.

The recent discussions have also pointed out that neither the GPL nor the LPPL are typically desired for hyphenation patterns, barring personal choice, since they require that any project incorporating a module under their license must itself be licensed compatibly in its entirety.

That cuts down the number of suitable licenses, and it appears that the MIT license is the most appropriate in this case. A request was sent out through the list to maintainers of the pattern files to (re)consider the licenses applied to their patterns, and responses concerning license changes are still

doi.org/10.47397/tb/42-3/tb132beet

coming in. Some maintainers have updated their license and submitted the updated version directly to CTAN, while others have requested that this be done by the team maintaining the hyphenation pattern infrastructure.

To determine the current license status for a particular set of patterns, it's best to check the files of interest on CTAN. The list archives are public, so the discussion can be reviewed at `lists.tug.org/tex-hyphen`.

Update on *TUGboat* DOIs

As reported in volume 41:3, Document Object Identifier (DOI) information is being added to the *TUGboat* archive. Going forward, the identifier appears below the bottom of the first column of each item to which a DOI has been assigned; earlier content will not be reprocessed to add this notation.

For all issues in the archive, the notation "(doi)" will be added for each item in the online TOC for the issue, linked to a separate page that contains the bibliographic information for the item as well as a summary of its content and the reference list, if one is present. This page provides a quick way for a prospective reader to decide whether to read the full article, and will be present even for articles that are still closed to non-members. These pages are now present for issues starting with 41:3, and will be created for earlier issues as (human) time permits.

News from GUTenberg

GUTenberg, the French TEX user group, has been reconstituted and resumed issuing its publication, *La Lettre*. The latest issue, No. 44, can be read online from a link on the organization's website, `www.gutenberg.eu.org`. As for previous issues, a single font was chosen to set the PDF version. The font for No. 44 is Libertinus, a variant of Linux Libertine; an article in the issue gives the history and a description of the distinct features of both the original and the other members of the family. (An illustration of the available ligatures includes "fj", a feature usually absent.)

Also linked from the website is a collection of videos from GUTenberg's June meeting, which took place online.

An overview of TEX history

An online document by Arno Trautman, still under construction, promises to untangle all the terminology associated with TEX since its creation. Entitled "An overview of TEX, its children and their friends ...", it can be found at `github.com/alt/tex-overview/blob/master/tex-overview.pdf`.

Still lacking a table of contents, active links, and other features expected from a "finished" document, it is nonetheless a useful reference. The author invites contributions and corrections. I expect to give it a go, and suggest that other longtime TEX users might find this worthwhile as well.

MacKichan Software is no more

MacKichan Software, creators and suppliers of the Scientific Word and Scientific Workplace software, has ceased operation. The notice on their website, `mackichan.com`, carries this information:

> Scientific Word 6.1 for Windows is now available for FREE
>
> A link to it and some installation programs is available HERE. In time, the source will be posted on Github.

These two programs provided an input format that many users found easier to master than direct LATEX input, and produced as output a LATEX file that could be submitted directly to many journals. Scientific Word was essentially a word processor; Scientific Workplace included a third-party computer algebra system.

Details of the closure are given on the cited website.

More Knuth references

A featured article in the August 2021 issue of *The American Organist*, entitled "A Pipe Dream Come True", was written by Jan Overduin, the organist who performed the premiere of Don's *Fantasia Apocalyptica* at Don's 80th birthday celebration in Sweden. Both a personal account of his interaction with Don, how the collaboration came to be, and a detailed description of the work, Overduin's introduction conveys his enthusiasm for its concept and realization. Examples of the musical references include quotations from modern popular music as well as traditional religious and secular works. Although the essay is written for a musically literate audience, it should be comprehensible to anyone who appreciates music, even without specialized training.

Finally, yet another interview about Don's work as a computer scientist has been posted online at `youtube.com/watch?v=lFkyhz_yDCs`. Part of the Simons Institute series on the Foundations of Computing, it covers both old and new territory. A reference has been added to the growing list of links to Don's interviews on the TUG website (`tug.org/video`).

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`https://tug.org/TUGboat`