

General Delivery

From the President

Karl Berry, president (at) tug dot org

TeX development grants

The most exceptional recent news is about funding for TeX development. We are very excited and grateful to announce that an anonymous foundation has contributed \$10,000 to TUG to be used to encourage advances in TeX development.

Furthermore, our generous donor has made a second \$10,000 available as matching funds, and so we are seeking other contributors, both institutional and individual, to contribute a matching \$10,000 (thus making a total of \$30,000 available). Early matching contributions have already reached \$5,000 — we thank CAPDM Limited and many other donors for their support. To contribute, please see <https://www.tug.org/donate/dev.html>.

We expect to use at least some of these funds to augment existing efforts, rather than starting anything major from scratch. TUG's TeX Development Fund committee will have the responsibility for making allocations. As part of the gift, we were asked to develop a basic roadmap for future TeX development to help guide where the contributions are spent. The committee has already solicited input from some of the major extant TeX development projects, and will be soliciting additional input.

At the donor's suggestion, we will also be considering ways to improve the TeX experience specifically for "ordinary" users, such as students. This could include enhancements in front end software, new or improved documentation at that level, and other projects.

We are enthusiastic about this opportunity, and very much hope, as does our donor, that the results will be beneficial for all TeX users.

This is also an appropriate place to mention again our appreciation for the grant from Colorado State University, made to Professor Idris Samawi Hamid, which provided major funding for LuaTeX, as detailed in the last *TUGboat*.

<http://mirror.ctan.org>

Although CTAN has many mirrors around the world, the main way they have been used is by manually choosing one — so, more often than not, the backbone servers run by DANTE, UK-TUG and TUG end up getting used. With the surge in downloads from

the new releases of the biggest distributions (TeX Live 2007, MacTeX 2007, proTeXt, MiKTeX), the backbones have had to limit traffic rates.

The CTAN team and Randy Kobes at the University of Winnipeg have co-operated on developing a convenient method for using mirrors. Now, <http://mirror.ctan.org/some/ctan/dir> will automatically redirect to a (hopefully) near-by mirror. For example, <http://mirror.ctan.org/systems/textlive> (a /tex-archive is optional).

The choice of mirror is based on the originating IP address, out of the pool of mirrors that are known to be up-to-date. Of course, if there are problems of whatever kind, you can still choose a mirror yourself; the canonical list is at <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/CTAN.sites>.

Incidentally, Randy has created the same service for the GNU mirrors, accessible via <http://ftpmirror.gnu.org>.

Thanks to Randy and CTAN for making this available. We plan to use the new mirror.ctan.org url in *TUGboat*, where appropriate.

Interview corner

The Interview Corner on the TUG web site (<http://tug.org/interviews>) continues to grow. Recent interviews come from a wide variety of areas in the TeX world:

- David Carlisle, a member of the L^AT_EX team and participant in math-related W3C activities.
- Jin-Hwan Cho, maintainer of dvipdfmx and a strong supporter of TeX in Korea.
- John Culeton, who runs an indexing and typesetting business using TeX.
- David Fuchs, one of the original members of the Stanford TeX project.
- Jonathan Kew, author of X_YTeX.
- Haruhiko Okumura, who promotes and supports the use of TeX in Japan.
- Will Robertson, a relatively new contributor in the TeX community.
- Nicola Talbot, a L^AT_EX user, teacher, and package writer.

TUG 2007

The TUG 2007 conference will take place in San Diego, California, from July 17–20, at San Diego State University. For the schedule, registration and accommodation information (inexpensive on-campus housing is available), and more, visit the conference web site at <http://tug.org/tug2007>. Please join us and an excellent line-up of workshops and speakers. Hope to see you there!