# LaTeX News

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## Five years of LaTeX 2ε

Since this is the 10th edition of LaTeX News, the (no
longer) New Standard LaTeX must have hit the streets
almost this long ago. In fact it was only the
beta-version that some people got just in time for
Christmas 1993, and since then there has been a lot of
tidying-up and smoothing of rough edges (not to
mention a few bug fixes!).

Maybe it is time for something more radically
different to emerge and be hungrily adopted by the
world; but don't panic, we shall be maintaining what
you have now for a long time yet. Amongst the more
polite things that have been written about our efforts,
we found that this quote (somewhat censored to protect
the guilty) well reflects some of our feelings about
working on LaTeX over the years: *the mere existence of
LaTeX 2ε is a great miracle.*

## Restructuring the LaTeX distribution

Since the (once) 'new' standard LaTeX has reached such
a venerable age, we are reviewing the way in which the
system is presented to the world.

An early intention is to define, given the wide variety
of good packages now available, what now constitutes a
useful installation of LaTeX. We also hope that such a
definition will help document portability if it leads to a
future in which a LaTeX class designer can reasonably
assume that a known list of facilities will be there for all
users (so that each class need not supply them).

As a first small step towards this definition, we shall
replace the `latex/packages` subdirectory on CTAN.
This directory was a curious mixture of the important,
such as the LaTeX tools, that any self-respecting LaTeX
installation ought to have, and the esoteric or
experimental.

The esoterica from packages will be moved to new
locations, as follows:

    expl3 to latex/exptl/project
    mfnfss to latex/contrib/supported/mfnfss

The subdirectory that replaces packages will be called
`latex/required`; all the other sub-directories of
`packages` will be moved there.

## LaTeX Project on the Internet

A new `latex-project.org` domain has been registered.
The web site is not yet fully functional but the old
LaTeX pages from CTAN are available at
`http://www.latex-project.org/` and the LaTeX bug
reporting address has been changed to
`latex-bugs@latex-project.org`.

## Restructuring the LaTeX package licenses

Several people have requested an easy mechanism for
the distribution of LaTeX packages and other software
"under the same conditions as LaTeX". The old
`legal.txt` file was unsuitable as a general licence as it
referred to specific LaTeX authors, and to specific files.

Therefore, in this release `legal.txt` contains just the
copyright notice and a reference to the new *LaTeX
Project Public License* (LPPL) for the distribution and
modification conditions. The tools, graphics, and mfnfss
packages also now refer to this license in their
distribution notices.

## Support for Cyrillic encodings

Basic Cyrillic support, as announced in LaTeX News 9,
is now finally an official part of LaTeX. It includes
support for the following standard Cyrillic font
encodings (this list may grow): T2A T2B T2C X2.

It also includes various Cyrillic input encodings (20 in
total, including commonly used variants and Mongolian
Cyrillic encodings). This provides platform independent
and sophisticated basic support for high-quality
typesetting in various Cyrillic-based languages.

For further information see the file `cyrguide.tex`.

## Tools distribution

The varioref package has been extended to support
textual page references to a range of objects: e.g., if
`eq-first` and `eq-last` are the label names for the first
and last equation in a sequence, then you can now write

    see~\vrefrange{eq-first}{eq-last}

This results in different text depending on whether both
labels fall on the same page.

Some additional user commands, as well as
building-blocks for writing private extensions, are
described in the accompanying documentation.