

## Queries

Editor's note: When answering a query, please send a copy of your answer to the TUGboat editor as well as to the author of the query. Answers will be published in the next issue following their receipt.

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### Volunteers Needed: PSfrag hackers

Hey folks,

If you haven't used it before, PSfrag is a cool little package first created by Craig Barratt (formerly of Stanford University) to mix Encapsulated PostScript figures with  $\LaTeX$ / $\TeX$  constructions. Basically it lets you replace pieces of text in an EPS figure with an equation or some other typeset text. That way, you can use your favorite drawing package to build your figures without having to lament its lack of support for scientific text or equations.

It supports  $\LaTeX 2_{\epsilon}$  using DVIPS or DVIPSone from Y&Y to handle the DVI to PostScript conversion. (And with a little help from CTAN, it even supports Plain  $\TeX$ .) PSfrag is available on CTAN (`/archive/macros/latex/contrib/supported/psfrag`), and is included with  $\TeX$ . It's fairly well documented, too (see `texmf/doc/latex/psfrag` in the  $\TeX$  tree, for example.)

I took it over from Craig several years ago, and incorporated some improvements provided by the  $\TeX$  community. More recently I gave it a complete overhaul to make it more portable and easier to use. In fact, if you haven't used it in a couple of years, you should get the latest version and try it.

Unfortunately, I'm finishing my career as a graduate student very soon, and I'm not going to have the freedom to work on it like I used to. I will continue to support PSfrag with bug fixes as time permits, but I'll probably be slow — and I certainly will not be adding any new features. (Perhaps this is a good thing!) Eventually I may even have to stop supporting PSfrag altogether — after all, if I stop *using* it (gasp!), I may no longer remain qualified to support it!

So I'd like to hear from volunteers to take over the reins to support PSfrag. Maintaining PSfrag does require some skill in both  $\TeX$  macros and the PostScript language — some of the macros are pretty tricky! You can certainly count on us veterans for help, of course. Ideally, I'd like to see two or three people collaborate on PSfrag support, with one leading.

If you are interested:

1. Grab the latest version from CTAN, unpack it, and play with the code. See with you think! Do you think you can handle it?
2. Respond to the PSfrag maintainer's mailing list at `psfrag@rascals.stanford.edu` with your intentions. Obviously we don't want people working in the dark! Still, you will want to look at the code first to see if it suits you.

Thanks, everyone!

PSfrag mailing list: `psfrag@rascals.stanford.edu`

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### Features for a WYSIWYG $\LaTeX$ editor

I am a University student in Australia and I am working on my thesis topic *A WYSIWYG Editor for  $\LaTeX$* . Therefore, I would like to gather some information from  $\LaTeX$  users around the world on what they think of  $\LaTeX$  and what they expect from a WYSIWYG  $\LaTeX$  editor.

#### Survey

1. What do you expect from a WYSIWYG  $\LaTeX$  Editor (e.g. any features you would like such as undo, or other features specific to  $\LaTeX$ ?) Please list as many as you can think of.
2. What  $\LaTeX$  system (such as MikTeX for Windows) do you currently use? And what platform do you use  $\LaTeX$  on?
3. Do you use any of the current WYSIWYG  $\LaTeX$  editors (such as WysiTeX) and if so, please name them.
4. If your answer to 2) is *yes*, could you list some of the shortcomings in the existing packages and what would you suggest to improve on those packages?
5. Why would you use  $\LaTeX$  instead of other text formatting applications such as Microsoft Word for Windows?
6. Would you rather have ... (pick one of two)  
Full WYSIWYG editing (i.e., Built-in display) or "Code input option + preview" (External previewer)

If possible, please forward your reply to my email address, below. Thanks!

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