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## Editorial Comments

Barbara Beeton

### Copyright protection for typefaces

In the last issue this column included an item concerning the decision, finally, to allow some copyright protection in the U.S. to computer programs which define typefaces.

An article containing extensive background on this topic, “Protection for Typeface Designs, A Copyright Proposal”, by Terrence J. Carroll, can be found on the Web at <http://www.aimnet.com/~carroll/copyright/typeface.html>. It was originally published in the *Santa Clara Computer and High Technology Law Journal*, Volume 10 (1994), No. 1.

### More on PS fonts

A tutorial concerning the use of PostScript fonts with  $\LaTeX 2\epsilon$  has been created by David Wright and is available at <http://www.phys.washington.edu/~wright/texfonts/>.

The tutorial covers the  $\LaTeX$  font model, the preparation of `tfm` files for PS fonts, the construction of encodings and font families, and the configuration of `dvips` to use PS fonts. It’s well worth a look.

### CyrTUG membership now free of charge

In May, Irina Makhovaia announced that CyrTUG membership is now free of charge. Information can be obtained from the CyrTUG Web page, at <http://www.cemi.rssi.ru/cyrtug/>.

A working group under the sponsorship of CyrTUG has been actively developing a new  $\LaTeX$ -compatible character layout for Cyrillic fonts; reports on various facets of this work were made at Euro $\TeX$ 98. The work is all but done, and the resulting fonts and  $\LaTeX$  support should be available soon.

### IBM’s techexplorer

Shortly before this issue went to press, Bob Sutor of IBM’s Interactive Scientific Publishing group announced the imminent availability of the new “professional edition” of the `techexplorer` Hypermedia Browser. Development of this tool began as an experiment to see whether a subset of  $\LaTeX$  could be extended to support interactive viewing of documents for a computer algebra system.

Experimental versions of `techexplorer` have been available for about two years, and earlier this year a version of the product was stabilized as the “introductory edition”, a no-charge version that is functional in a browser environment, but doesn’t permit

certain useful options such as printing. These additional features will be available in the “professional edition”.

The big surprise is the suggested retail price of the “professional edition” — \$29.95. At that price, it shouldn’t be a hardship even for students and other potential users with limited means. Congratulations to IBM on their enlightened policy.

Details should be forthcoming at <http://www.software.ibm.com/enetwork/techexplorer/>.

### New Omega for Mac

In April, Tom Kiffe announced that Omega 1.5 had finally been ported to the Macintosh, including the entire suite of programs. However:

The programs are for PowerPC only and won’t run on older 68k Macs. MPW tool versions will be forthcoming later. To use these programs you will need a complete C $\LaTeX$  3.0 installation.

The programs and installation instructions can be found at <http://www.kiffe.com/cmacometa.html>, and they are also posted on CTAN in `systems/mac/cmactex/cmacometa/`.

### Euro $\TeX$ ’98 — The Tenth European $\TeX$ Conference

The 10<sup>th</sup> European  $\TeX$  Conference was held in St.-Malo, France, from March 29–April 1, as one facet of the “Second Week on Electronic Publishing and Typography” (WEPT’98). I was privileged to attend, and was delighted to renew many old acquaintances among  $\TeX$  users and participants in the other conferences as well.

Some of the “hottest” topics were fonts (particularly cyrillic and math, as well as one fascinating study in developing, with METAFONT, fonts particularly suitable for use in telephone directories) and tools for use on the Web and in electronic publishing (`pdf $\TeX$` , HTML, XML, and `techexplorer`). (Summaries of the articles from the Proceedings appear in this issue starting on page 222.)

My reason for attending was to carry some news concerning an initiative to obtain Unicode assignments for math symbols that are not presently included in that collection, and are, for this and other reasons, difficult to use in Web-based documents. The Unicode Technical Committee has received our proposal, and a member of the committee with quite a bit of knowledge of technical publishing has been assigned to work with us. I expect to report on the outcome of this project later in the year.

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