
Ab Epistulis

Steve Peter

TUG is only as strong and vibrant as its members, and I'd like to encourage as many to get involved as possible. 2013 is an election year for TUG, both for president and for several directors' positions. The deadline for nominations is May 1, and an official announcement appears elsewhere in this issue.

CTAN

As described in Gerd Neugebauer's article in this issue, the main <http://www.ctan.org> website has been updated and relaunched. The new site provides the information and functions of the old site in a new look & feel. This is a first step towards an improved user experience. Some of the features of the new site:

- Informative landing page
- Improved upload form with forwarding to the master hosts
- Browsing of the CTAN tree
- Listing, registering and monitoring of the CTAN mirrors
- Browsing the Catalogue (packages, authors, and topics)
- Availability of different skins to suit your taste

Most existing URLs have been preserved. If you encounter any problems, please see <http://www.ctan.org/contact>. Thanks to Gerd and all for their hard work.

Another aspect of CTAN has changed recently as well: the tug.ctan.org URL now points to the University of Utah, which provides improved connectivity. We recommend that CTAN mirrors in North America use it as their master source. Thanks to Nelson Beebe and colleagues, Jim Hefferon, and the CTAN maintainers, for making the move possible.

We continue to use and recommend the "multiplexor" URL <http://mirror.ctan.org> for CTAN references, to make use of nearby mirrors.

Conferences

Several major conferences are planned for this year. In chronological order:

- EuroBachTeX 2013: Bachotek, Poland, May 1–5, 2013 (<http://gust.org.pl/bachotex/2013>).
- 7th ConTeXt Meeting and TeXperience 2013: Břevlín, Czech Republic, Sept. 23–29, 2013.
- TUG 2013: University of Tokyo, Komaba, Tokyo, Oct. 23–26, 2013 (<http://tug.org/tug2013>).

Regarding the TUG 2013 conference: registration is now open, and the website has the usual call for papers and other organizational information, in both English and Japanese. July 15 is the combined deadline for presentation proposals, bursary requests, and the early registration discount. Please see <http://tug.org/tug2013>.

Interviews and reviews

The TUG website features several new interviews since the last time I wrote. Board member David Walden continues to highlight some of the most creative people in the TeX world on an ongoing basis. If you haven't spent some time recently poking around the interview corner, you owe it to yourself to do so (<http://tug.org/interviews/>).

In addition to interviews, the website also has new book reviews, coordinated by board member Boris Veytsman. *PSTricks: Graphics and PostScript for TeX and LaTeX* by Herbert Voss was reviewed by Boris, and *Just My Type: A Book About Fonts* by Simon Garfield was reviewed by Dave Walden. See <http://tug.org/books/#reviews> for a complete listing of all reviews.

In addition to reviews, the TUG website has a section (<http://tug.org/books/>) that offers a listing of books of either TeX or typography interest. A small portion of the sales benefits TUG so that we may continue to support various projects.

Also on our books site, CSLI Publications is now offering a 20% discount for TUG members on all their books, including the newly reissued (and corrected) *Digital Typography* by Donald E. Knuth. Such discounts are only one of the benefits available to you as a TUG member. Check out <http://tug.org/books/#discounts> for all the currently-available discounts.

Finally

On a lighter note, Don Knuth was featured in the web comic *xkcd*. Go to <http://xkcd.com/1162/> and hover your mouse over the comic until you see the popup message.

Lastly, Marc van Dongen has kindly created and made available a nicely illustrated calendar for 2013 of TeX material. Links are on the main TUG website.

Happy TeXing!

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