

A brief history of T_EX

Pax T_EXnica

The program on which
the sun never sets

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Prolog im Himmel

In the beginning there was ...

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Figure 1 The \TeX lion

First steps on the Earth

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- Most Western European languages (in the latin script) can be typeset.
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But ...

... still not satisfactory for the other European languages, and hardly usable for anything else.

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Kiedy TęXies żyją!



Figure 3 Żubr Bi-
ałowieskiej Puszczy

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Figure 4 Żubr Bi-
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The CM fonts for the latin script are enhanced over the years (CS, PL, QX, ...) and some standard is created (Cork, 1990: T1 encoding) DC, then EC).

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Figure 5 Żubr Bi-
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Fonts are written for the other “Western” alphabetic scripts (greek, cyrillic).

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The $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ engine itself is extended to deal with other scripts (right-to-left typesetting, etc.)

One of the first of those heavily modified extensions is called “extended $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ ”: $\varepsilon\text{-T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$.

“I am the α and the ...”

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Ω : the “definitive” answer to all typesetting problems of the world.

New concepts: Ω translations processes, extended font metrics (... but only metrics!).

Opening the PDF Pandora box: PDF T_EX !

Born in 1997 (ten years ago ...): for the first time, it was possible to produce PDF directly from T_EX .

Third-generation extensions: \aleph

An offspring of Ω and $\varepsilon\text{-TeX}$, developed by Giuseppe Bilotta. (original name: $\varepsilon\text{-}\Omega$).



Figure 6 L'alato leone di San Marco

X_YTEX: the multilingual lion rules the waves

Fonts, fonts, fonts! X_YTEX makes it possible to use very easily any font installed on the system and supports OpenType and Apple's AAT.



Figure 7 Stone lion
at Trafalgar Square

Flying Dutchmen: Lua_TE_X

The future:



Figure 8 De fiere
vlaamse leeuw

Flying Dutchmen: Lua_TE_X

The future:

- a scripting language is added,



Figure 9 De fiere
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Flying Dutchmen: LuaTeX

The future:

- a scripting language is added,
- all the extensions to the TeX engine are merged.



Figure 10 De fiere
vlaamse leeuw

The happy T_EX family

