

Discussion: Package selection in T_EX Live

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(Codename: “T_EX Live M”)

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T_EX Live

- ~140,000 files, ~4000 packages, ~4.5 GB
- highly non-trivial task for downstream packaging to package it nicely and correctly; distributions need to reinvent the wheel and re-implement `tlmgr` to fit their needs
- (build infrastructure for OpenCSW brought to the limits with so many files)

Goals

- Create a teTeX-like distribution starting from existing T_EX Live infrastructure with a subset of most popular & high quality packages
- Curated database with a complete dependency tree
- Reasonably complete to satisfy a large spectrum of users
- Basic test suite
- Make it easier to create packages for Linux distros
- Community effort!!!

Desired properties

- Allow a really minimalistic installation;
let the user install just X_YTeX, just Lua^ATeX,
just OpenType GUST fonts (no enc/tfm/map), ...
- Install all dependencies with `tlmgr install {name}`
- Users could opt-it for statistics collection (analyse just requested packages & collections, not all installed ones)
- Start with a small set of packages and keep adding new ones later based on user demand
- Users could still install missing packages from the official TeX Live repository

Plan

- Ask a small group of experienced users (StackExchange with high reputation) for a list of the packages they consider useful
- Assemble the initial list of packages
- Analyse dependencies (recursively)
- Set up a T_EX Live repository with some additional schemes including those
- Ask people to try to install and test some of those schemes and provide feedback about what is missing

- Finally include the general community to propose further packages (vote packages up and down, if enough people vote, include that package)
- Create some “marking scheme” for packages (1–5: quality, popularity, ...)

Work needs to be done

- Assemble a list of packages
- Find dependencies (time + programming)
- Support for optional dependencies
(like in Debian: “you might also want to install ...”)
- Create a separate repository with custom schemes
- Prepare a website to collect user feedback, statistics, ...
collaborate with CTAN

Many open question

- Name
- Handling old fonts
- Handling optional dependencies
- How to make reasonable schemes
Xe $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X} \Rightarrow \text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X} + \text{X}_{\text{E}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X} + \text{OpenType LM}$
- How to make it more friendly for distributors?
(./configure && make && make install)