

Migration to ConT_EXt?

First experience with
ConT_EXt typesetting

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5th ConT_EXt meeting (September 19–24, 2011, Bassenge-Boirs, Belgium)



*Once a dozen of years,
the man have to change
flat, wife, or a job.*

Czech saying

Because of limitation in the mentioned categories,
I decided to change the typographic system.



Four important events

1. 2005 – Czech translation of
ConT_EXt An Excursion
2. 2008 – Hans at Faculty of Informatics,
Masaryk University in Brno
3. 2010 – 4th ConT_EXt Meeting in Břežlov

and
4. ?–2010 – long-term problems with type-
setting in L^AT_EX



About this talk

- Sharing beginner's experience in ConT_EXt
- Who is a beginner?
- Pseudorandomly chosen topics
- Facts vs opinions
- Feedback to developers and writers the documentation?



Olšák vs. L^AT_EX

Why L^AT_EX has been created:

1. to screen out the relative complexity of T_EX from “terminal” user;
2. to create own language for input texts;
3. to enable formatting of simple documents by prepared styles;
4. to make easy exchange of documents and their new re-formatting.

Olšák, Petr. Proč nerad používám L^AT_EX. [Why I do not like to use L^AT_EX.]
Zpravodaj Československého sdružení uživatelů T_EXu [Bulletin CSTUG],
1–2/1997, pp. 89–99.



Eleven reasons/problems

1. T_EX language insufficiency,
2. Screening out the complexity of T_EX,
3. Secreting facts,
4. Non-distinguishing between L^AT_EX and T_EX,
5. Own language of input texts,
6. Structure markuping,

(by Olšák, 1997)



Eleven reasons/problems

7. Dividing the work,
8. Prepared styles,
9. Complexity of L^AT_EX macros,
10. Portability of documents,
11. Differences in L^AT_EX versions.

(by Olšák, 1997)



Comparing L^AT_EX and ConT_EXt

Screening out the relative complexity of T_EX

L^AT_EX:

! Extra alignment tab has been changed to \cr

... a problem ...

Comparing L^AT_EX and ConT_EXt

Screening out the relative complexity of T_EX

ConT_EXt:

```
! Misplaced \omit
  \!ttuse #1->\ifnum #1>\plusone \omit
      \global \TABLEdivisionfalse \scratchcou...
1.274 ... value \VL ... values\use{3}
      \MR\HL
```

... a problem ...

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Grid typesetting

OK

plain: macro by Olšák (1996)

LATEX:

flexible vertical spaces

floating objects

captions

packages

multicolumn layout...

... a problem ...

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Grid typesetting

OK

ConTEXt:

`grid=yes`

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Layout maintenance

OK

Displaying:

```
\showlayout
```

```
\showframe
```

```
...
```

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Layout maintenance

OK

Setting values:

Set value	\showlayout values			
100pt	textwidth	3.5141cm	100.0pt	\textwidth

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Layout maintenance

Setting values II.:

Set value	\showlayout values		
100pt	textwidth	3.5141cm	100.0pt
3.5141cm	textwidth	3.5136cm	99.9858pt

(three values instead of two)

... a problem ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Layout maintenance

Supported: pt, mm

My favourite units:

Didot points and ciceros!

Solved in ConTeXt on TEXlive 2011, so I'm happy.

unhappy ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

Supported languages:

LATEX, XeLATEX, babel... bother the user with a long list while compiling the document:

unhappy ...

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

unhappy ...

LaTeX2e <2009/09/24>

Babel <v3.81> and hyphenation patterns for english, dumylang, nohyphenation, german-x-2009-06-19, ngerman-x-2009-06-19, ancientgreek, ibycus, arabic, armenian, basque, bulgarian, catalan, pinyin, coptic, croatian, czech, danish, dutch, ukenglish, usenglishmax, esperanto, estonian, farsi, finnish, french, galician, german, ngerman, swissgerman, monogreek, greek, hungarian, icelandic, assamese, bengali, gujarati, hindi, kannada, malayalam, marathi, oriya, panjabi, tamil, telugu, indonesian, interlingua, irish, italian, kurmanji, lao, latin, latvian, lithuanian, mongolian, mongolianlmc, bokmal, nynorsk, polish, portuguese, romanian, russian, sanskrit, serbian, slovak, slovenian, spanish, swedish, turkish, turkmen, ukrainian, uppersorbian, welsh, loaded.

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

ConTEXt: reports (1) the default language:

```
languages          > language en is active
dealing with the user interface,
```

(2) no information about `\mainlanguage`,
and (3) cryptic information for patterns, eg.:

```
mkiv lua stats    > loaded patterns
- cs::16 en::2 en-gb:en:13 en-us:en:14 sk::17
```

(using Mojca's and Hans' comments)

OK

confusing ...

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

OK

New commands?

```
\showlanguages
```

```
\showlanguage
```

```
\showlanguage[cz,sk,us,...]
```

ConTEXt proposal

documentation ...

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

```
\language[us]  
US: Testing \quotation{quotation} marks...  
\language[cz]  
CZ: Testing \quotation{quotation} marks...  
\language[sk]  
SK: Testing \quotation{quotation} marks...
```

... a problem ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Language settings

US: Testing “quotation” marks...

CZ: Testing „quotation“ marks...

SK: Testing “quotation” marks...

... a problem ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Slovak quotation marks

OK

```
\setupdelimitedtext[quotation][1][left={„}, right={"}]
```

or:

Use Czech settings as a default one for Slovak language.

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt as a Typographic System

Alignment

OK

- left vs. right
- simple way for new alignments

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

‘Block-Last-Center’ alignment

```
\installalign{blocklastcenter}{%  
  \leftskip=0pt plus1fil \rightskip=0pt plus-1fil  
  \parfillskip=0pt plus2fil\parindent0pt  
}
```

OK

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Typographic System

Fonts

- hanging punctuation
- protrusion
- Linux Libertine

OK

confusing ...

documentation ...

ConTEXt As a Compiler

Elapsed time for compilation *OK*

Speed vs comfort:

- key-value processing
- automation of repeated compiling
- the slowest

unhappy ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Compiler

Elapsed time for compilation *OK*

Speed vs comfort:

- key-value processing
- automation of repeated compiling / `--once` option
- the slowest
- `--noconsole`

unhappy ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Compiler

Warning messages

Tables with extra column (once more):

- a warning is added to the table
- dangerous!!
- log file?
- different behaviour when one or two extra columns

confusing ...

... a problem ...

ConTEXt proposal

ConTeXt As a Compiler

Log file

- better arranged log file
- more detail information
- log file is equal to STDOUT
 - tool (options) for reducing the amount of lines

confusing ...

ConTeXt proposal

ConTEXt As a Superstructure over the Plain

Concept of commands

OK

Logical:

- start/stop pairs, creating of pairs
- definefloat: start/stop, place, placelist
- setup commands
- brackets vs. braces

- starttext/stoptext as a group

ConTEXt As a Superstructure over the Plain

Relation to plain

OK

LATEX:

overlays the plain structures or replace them
by own ones

ConTEXt:

‘well-educated’

does not endeavour to overlay the plain basis,
plain is expected and welcome

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(by Olšák, 1997)



ConTEXt As a Tool for Beginners

Documentation

OK

- A lot of manuals – detail, well-designed, inspirational...

documentation ...

ConTEXt As a Tool for Beginners

Documentation

- A lot of manuals (>1,000 pages), not updated(?)
- This Way
- My Way
- Other sources (journals, proceedings, discussion, etc.)

confusing ...

documentation ...

ConTEXT As a Tool for Beginners

Documentation

- `wiki.contextgarden.net` – inconsistent:

sometimes very useful, sometimes notm relevant, partly very detail, partly only in outline, partly incomplete, searching engine

confusing ...

documentation ...

ConTEXt As a Puzzle:-)

What Will Happen If...

... You Forget The First def-command?

```
\def\kap#1{\section{#1}}  
\def\pkap#1{\subsection{#1}}
```

```
...text1...  
\kap{My first section...}  
...text2...
```

ConTEXt As a Puzzle:-)

What Will Happen If...

...text1... MY FIRST SECTION... ...text2...

confusing ...

ConTEXt proposal

documentation ...

ConTEXt as a Tool for Beginners/Students

Improving Documentation?

- simple
- structured
- updated
- all macros described
- consistent

documentation ...

THE END.

Acknowledgement:

The participation at 5th ConT_EXt meeting in Bassenge-Boirs, Belgium, has been supported by Czechoslovak T_EX User Group (CSTUG).



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