

Manuals in the distribution

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In addition to macros and resources, since the beginning of 2016 the distribution also contains more documentation and examples of presentations. About 30 manuals are now shipped, some 10 are being updated and not yet there, and probably more will follow. Those manuals are for MkIV but on the website we still provide all the MKII ones. The manuals use the mentioned fonts.

The ConT_EXt distribution is normally distributed as a zip file that can be unzipped in a TDS compliant file structure. We distinguish two sets of ConT_EXt and METAFUN files: MKII/MPII and MkIV/MPIV. The MKII variant normally uses pdfT_EX, stand-alone MetaPost and RUBY and Lua for its scripts. The more modern MkIV variant is bound to LuaT_EX and has no further dependencies as it used the engine as script processor. Nowadays most users will use MkIV, but we keep MKII around as reference.

In order to run ConT_EXt you also need fonts. The easiest way to get them on your system is to install the distribution from contextgarden.net, T_EXLIVE or, if possible, using the package manager of your operating system.

The following fonts are assumed to be present: DejaVu, Gentium (the TUG version), Latin Modern, the T_EXGyre collection (with Adventor, Bonum, Chorus, Cursor, Heros, Pagella, Schola and Termes), Xits, Euler, AlmFixed, Kurier, Iwona, Poltawski, Marvosym and CC-Icons. An absolute minimum is DejaVu (as a rather complete font), Latin Modern (as benchmark and de facto standard T_EX font) and Pagella (as an example of a nice looking font). Most font sets come with math support.

The documents describing the history of LuaT_EX and MkIV are **mk**, **hybrid**, **about**, **still** and the upcoming **onandon**. Because much of the content of these manuals also shows up in articles or is published in user group journals they are not put online directly. After all, their members, who also support the continuation of T_EX and friends,

should have some benefits. The first four are finalized and present but the last one will be added stepwise.

Some manuals describe core mechanisms, like **colors**, **fonts** and **languages**. These also discuss some of the ideas and technologies behind their concepts. There are two manuals that aim at math: **math** and **mathml**. The first one is work in progress and the second one is actually an old one that gets updated occasionally.

The **luatex** manual is also in the distribution but normal users won't need it. More interesting is **cid** which describes how we mix T_EX and Lua. A manual about using Lua and the modules that we ship for other purposes is in the making.

There are manuals describing subsystems like **charts**, **spreadsheets**, **steps**, **xtables**, **xml**, **units** and **columnsets**. Others introduce very specific typographic tricks, like **rules**, **templates** and **spacing**. Maybe somewhat alien are manuals like **sql**, **epub** and **swiglib**.

Whereas most manuals describe macros, styling and programming, the **tiptrick**, **tools** and **workflows** manuals are just collections of things that we think can be of help. A few more like these will show up some day. Things that we cannot group well are collected in **magazines** (aka **my ways**).

The manuals on bibliographies that we flag as **publications** (formally BIBT_EX handling) and chemistry (this used to be a PPCHT_EX manual) are coming soon. More work is needed to rewrite (update)

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details and **styledesign**. The **metafun** manual is currently being updated and will be there too.

These manuals are all kind of technical and maybe not always the best for new users. For that the ConT_EXt group has a group of people writing a series of manuals that will help users to get started. Of course the so called beginners manual **start** is part of the distribution.

Because users requested them, some of the manuals are available in printing on demand. For that Taco Hoekwater and PRAGMA ADE have set up a service. It operates on a break even approach although really breaking even is pretty hard. Reading from screen is fine but some manuals are written assuming that you read the whole story. Just browsing them on-screen will not reveal much details and sometimes questions on the mailing list demonstrate this.

In addition to the manuals there are examples of presentations. The presentation styles are being

cleaned up and in the process some examples are added. Most styles are just showing a specific kind of (maybe dated) way of presenting something. You're invited to roll out your own and the examples can be of help.

The commands that are available in ConT_EXt MkIV are described in documents that are described in files in the **interfaces** directory (XML files that start with **i-**). These files are coordinated by Wolfgang. Every new version comes with updated documents with names starting with **setup-** that describe the commands (per user interface language).

Last but not least we ship a test suite. This is a loosely organized set of files that is used for testing. Many of the (often small) files are made in the process of writing new macros or extending existing ones. Others are derived from questions and answers on the mailing list. Some use commercial fonts but most should run out of the box. Browsing this collection can learn the user a few tricks.