

The Future of T_EX

At the Texas and Cork conferences, birds-of-a-feather (BOF) sessions were held to discuss the future of T_EX. In particular, the attendees were concerned about the maintenance of T_EX when Prof. Knuth no longer wished to be involved, and about the possible evolution of incompatible T_EX-like products should this occur. These discussions gave rise to a number of questions, which were presented to the TUG Board during the Cork meeting for formal response. The questions are shown here, and were also communicated to Prof. Knuth by one of the BOF attendees. Prof. Knuth has been kind enough to provide a definitive response as to the future of T_EX and of METAFONT; this response is given on the following pages, along with a commentary by the TUG President, Nelson Beebe.

1. Does the TUG Board acknowledge the need to maintain and develop T_EX when Prof. Knuth decides to be no longer involved?
2. Does the Board agree that TUG should oversee and coordinate changes to T_EX in an attempt to improve the program as well as to establish a single standard?
3. What mechanism can be established to enable TUG to maintain control over T_EX without stifling further necessary development?
4. Does the board agree that fundamental research into unsolved typographical problems is necessary to improve T_EX and that TUG should promote and seek funding for such research?

*Future of T_EX BOF
Cork, 12 Sept 1990*

Attendees of the "Future of T_EX" Birds-of-a-Feather Session at T_EX90, Cork:

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Christine Detig
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