

WORKSHOP:

Converting a L^AT_EX 2.09 Style to a L^AT_EX 2_ε Class

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The workshop was well attended. There were over 55 people in attendance; a handout with an outline of the process was also provided. The main focus of the workshop was to provide enough information to begin converting an old L^AT_EX 2.09 style file into a L^AT_EX 2_ε class file. The objectives included:

- pointers to available documentation
- converting existing 2.09 style files to a class or package
- conversion steps

Documentation

There is a lot of documentation available with the distribution of L^AT_EX 2_ε (see `texmf/doc/latex/base`); those most helpful for converting style files to classes are:

- “L^AT_EX 2_ε for class and package writers” (file: `clsguide.tex`)
- “L^AT_EX 2_ε for authors” (file: `usrguide.tex`)

Additional books for specific issues include *The L^AT_EX Companion*, by Goossens et al., and L^AT_EX’s *A Document Preparation System*

Converting a style file to a class or package

General rule of thumb: if the commands can be used with any document class, then put them into a package; if not, then put them into a class file.

Conversion steps

- Does it run in compatibility mode?
- Does it depend on another style?
- Structure setup.
- Make it robust.

The workshop applied these steps to the University of Delaware thesis style file (`udthesis.sty` and `udthe12.sty`). Attendees were able to see the process of transforming the style file into a new class file, `udthesis.cls`.

Conclusion

The example of transforming `udthesis.sty` into `udthesis.cls` clearly showed how to convert a style file into a class file, where the original style was based on one of the standard style files such as `book`, `article`, or `report`.

The point was also raised that style files which had been built from a combination of many style files would be much more difficult to convert easily to a class file and most likely this would require starting from scratch.

Resources

There is a Powerpoint slide presentation

`LaTeXstyle2class.ppt`

available via anonymous ftp for download from

`zebra.us.udel.edu`

in

`pub/tex/TUG99/workshops/hoover`

Also in this directory are the University of Delaware thesis files, `udthesis.sty` and `udthesis.cls`.

Access from outside the University of Delaware is limited to the hours of 6:00pm to 8:00am (Eastern Standard Time) Monday through Friday, and all day on the weekends.