

CONTEXT System Documentation

abstract

A new website exists that contains documentation for the lower-level ConTeXt macros. The URL for this website is <http://tex.aanhet.net/context>. This website also contains a full mirror of the pragma-ade website.

keywords

macro programming, context, api, general, documentation

CONTEXT system documentation

All large macro packages for \TeX have the need for a number of low-level macros to ease the programming effort. This is definitely true for the `CONTEXT` package, where the extensive use of key-value pairs and the multilingual interface introduce extra complications to the already tricky art of \TeX programming.

There is a large set of manuals and other documentation already available for the user interface of `CONTEXT`, but nearly no documentation for the \TeX -programmer.

Some of the internal macros are real gems, and nearly all of them can also be used in 'normal' source documents. Although most of `CONTEXT` is described in the source code, sometimes the explanations are too technical for a casual user, and some of the documentation, especially the examples, is still in dutch.

The first series of articles will try to highlight the most general commands of the internal macro layer, using english examples, and removing most of the technical stuff (like the definitions of the macros themselves, and the optimization history).

Later documents will shift focus and start concentrating on questions like: 'How to write a command that uses `\framed` internally' and 'How to add new labels to the multilingual interface'.

All of these articles will be available on-line. Using the internet to make this information accessible makes more sense than a document in print. I consider it very likely that the documentation will grow and change over time to insert new examples and document newer macros.

CONTEXT mirror

While I was working on the first article in this series and setting up the needed internet server, the `CONTEXT` site at <http://www.pragma-ade.com> was nearly destroyed by hackers. This meant that the main `CONTEXT` pages were unreachable for quite some time. In order to prevent (or at least) lessen the chance of similar events happening in the future, Hans and I decided to add a `CONTEXT` mirror/backup site on the new webserver as well.

Where to find it

The website can be reached through the following URL: <http://tex.aanhet.net/context/>