

CSE-1402 Practical Session #7

Preparation - A Product User Manual in \LaTeX

School of
Computer Science & Software Engineering,
Monash University,
Clayton, 3800, Australia

September 3, 2003

Student Handout

Abstract

Prac Session Objectives: The student will further consolidate experience gained with using a \LaTeX template, learn several new commands, and will produce a user manual for a software tool, developed for viewing `troff` format files.

- Using and Compiling \LaTeX markup.
- Generating \LaTeX PostScript and PDF output.
- Generating \LaTeX HTML output.
- Producing a structured \LaTeX document.

1 Reading Material (No Marks)

If you did not do so for the previous three pracs, download a copy of Tobias Oetiker's excellent \LaTeX tutorial which is posted at:

<http://www.tug.org/begin.html#tutorials>

Please revise Chapter 1 through to Chapter 2, as you will find this useful for this practical session and also helpful for coming lectures.

Please read through the skeleton file `template.tex` and look up the \LaTeX markup commands used in this file within the \LaTeX tutorial document and your lecture notes, especially list environments.

2 Preparation Tasks (0.5 Mark)

This practical session will involve further use of \LaTeX , but also incorporates some further practice in the use of `vi` and `RCS`. Assume the software tool you wrote a specification for last week has been altered to view `nroff` instead. You will now prepare a user manual for `nroff` format file viewer. Assume the tool has all of the relevant features which you defined in the specification you prepared in the preceding Prac. This practical session demonstrates the importance of carefully writing specifications, in practice you will need to use them in the production of other documents.

A feature you will incorporate into the viewer is the ability to view the formatted (compiled) `nroff`, as well as the `nroff` source. The viewer should include the ability to 'highlight' `nroff` commands in different colours. The viewer will support the following 'highlight' colours:

- All layout markup commands in shades of green.
- All document content in black.
- Background in white.

You can assume the readers of the manual are novices and may not understand what `nroff` format files are used for, and do not understand `nroff` syntax. This needs to be explained briefly. Make sure that the descriptions are simple and concise, and do not confuse the reader (assume the reader is a Year 11 student).

1. Using `gvim` or `vi`, produce a 1,400 word user manual for a viewer which can display `nroff` format files.

2. The body of the manual will describe the operating modes and features of the viewing tool. The skeleton file for this document does not reflect the required structure of the document, but contains some hints.
3. This document will be the basis of your assessed work in the **Lab Work**, therefore it is essential that you do this work thoroughly.
4. Students with \LaTeX installed on their home systems are encouraged to attempt a compile under WinShell.

3 Lab Work Tasks

1. The **Lab Work Tasks** for Prac #7 will rely on the practice and notes you produce working through the **Preparation Tasks**. Therefore the more effort you put into the preparation, the better the grade you can produce in the **Lab Work Tasks**.
2. Details of the **Lab Work Tasks** will be made available before the Prac, in electronic form.
3. Please show your tutor the work you did to complete the **Preparation Tasks**.

4 Revision Status

\$Id: Prac-7-Prep.tex,v 1.2 2003/09/03 01:43:02 carlo Exp carlo \$

\$Log: Prac-7-Prep.tex,v \$
Revision 1.2 2003/09/03 01:43:02 carlo
Revised layout and content