

BIBULOUS

A drop-in BibTeX replacement based on style-templates.

Bibulous Documentation

Release 1.0

Bibulous developers

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OVERVIEW

Bibulous is a drop-in replacement for BibTeX that makes use of style templates instead of BibTeX's BST language. The code is written in Python and, like BibTeX itself, it is open source.

Bibulous developed out of frustration with developing bibliography styles using BibTeX's obscure style file language, and from the realization that bibliographies are highly structured, so that they can be specified simply and flexibly using a template approach. With templates, one can develop entirely new bibliography styles in a matter of minutes, and often without having to refer to the user manual during the entire process.

At the same time, Bibulous incorporates a lot of the modern enhancements to BibTeX, such as the ability to work with languages other than English, better support for allowing non-standard bibliography entry types, functionality for enhanced citation styles, and increased options for author name formatting, among others.

Bibulous' "style template" files allow a user to visualize the entire bibliography format structure in a concise way within a single page of text. Moreover, the template is structured with its own mini-language, intended to allow users to create flexible formatting instructions quickly and easily. The example below illustrates the simplicity of the format.

1.1 Example

For a very simple bibliography, consisting of only journal articles and books, a style template file might only consist of just two lines:

```
article = <authorlist>, ``<title>,'' \textit{<journal>} \textbf{<volume>}: [<startpage>--<endpage>|<
book = [<authorlist>|<editorlist>|], \textit{<title>} (<publisher>, <year>)[, pp.~<startpage>--<endpage>]
```

The `[...|...]` notation behaves similar to an if...elseif statement, while the `<variable>` notation indicates that the field mapping to that variable name is to be inserted into the template there. And we can read the article template as indicating the following bibliography format: For articles, we first insert the list of author names (formatted according to the default form). If no `author` field was found in the bibliography entry, then insert `???` to indicate a missing required field. Next insert a quoted title, followed by an italicized journal name, and a boldface volume number (all required). Next, if the `pages` field was found in the entry's database, then parse the start and end page numbers and insert them here. If the `pages` field indicate that there was only one page, then use that instead. Or if the `pages` field is not present, then check to see if the `eid` is defined, and use it instead. However, if none of these three possibilities are available, then insert the "missing field" indicator `???`. Finally, put the year inside parentheses, and if the `note` field is defined in the entry, then add that to the end (following the period). If `note` is not defined, then just ignore it.

One can read the `book` template similarly, and find that it has different required and optional fields. The simplicity of the format allows one to customize databases to suit any use. For example, to use an `entrytype <?>` instead of `<book>`, then all that is necessary is to go into the template file and change `<book>` to `<?>`. Of, if you wish to add a new field, such as `translator`, then if it has been added to the `.bib` database file, one need only add some text to the template, say `[(: <translator>)]` to insert that into every bibliography entry which has `translator` defined for that entrytype.

1.2 Installing and instructions

Instructions for installing Bibulous, and for seamlessly integrating it into your normal LaTeX workflow, are given in the `INSTALL.rst` file. Users can also consult the user guide (`user_guide.rst`) for further information and tutorials. A FAQ page is also available.

1.3 Developers

Bibulous is a brand new project, and so it has so far been a solo effort. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome to join; just send an email to the developers mailing list and we will try to help you get involved and show you the ropes. And, this being the maintainer's first open source project, any suggestions by experienced developers are welcome.

Guidelines for developers are given in `developer_guide.rst`, and includes an overview of the project's strategy and overall code structure. Note that a bug tracking system has not yet been set up for the project.

1.4 License

Bibulous is released under the MIT/X11 license, meaning that it is free and open source, and that it can be used without restriction in other programs, commercial or not. The license is given in the file `LICENSE.txt`, the text of which is reproduced below.

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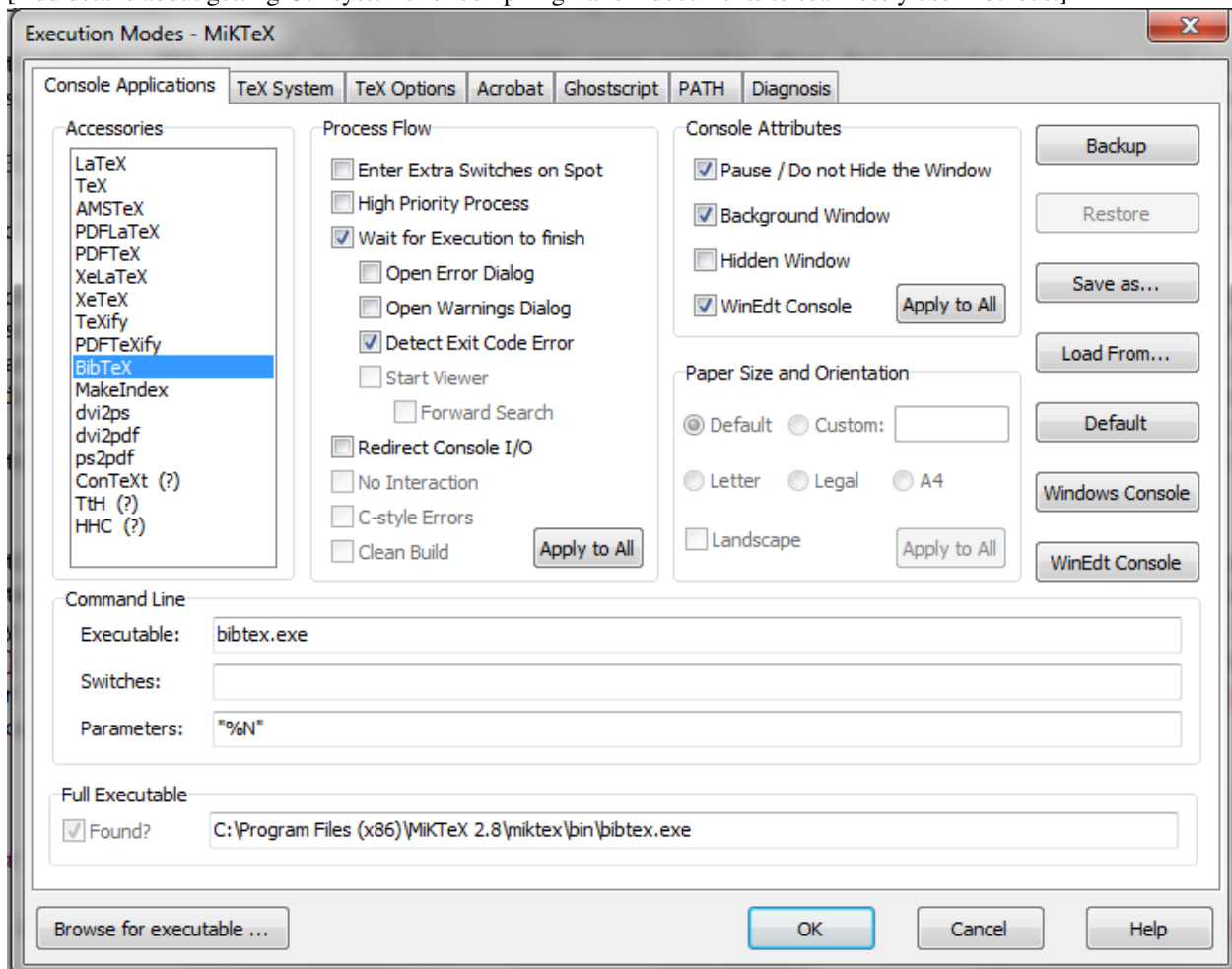
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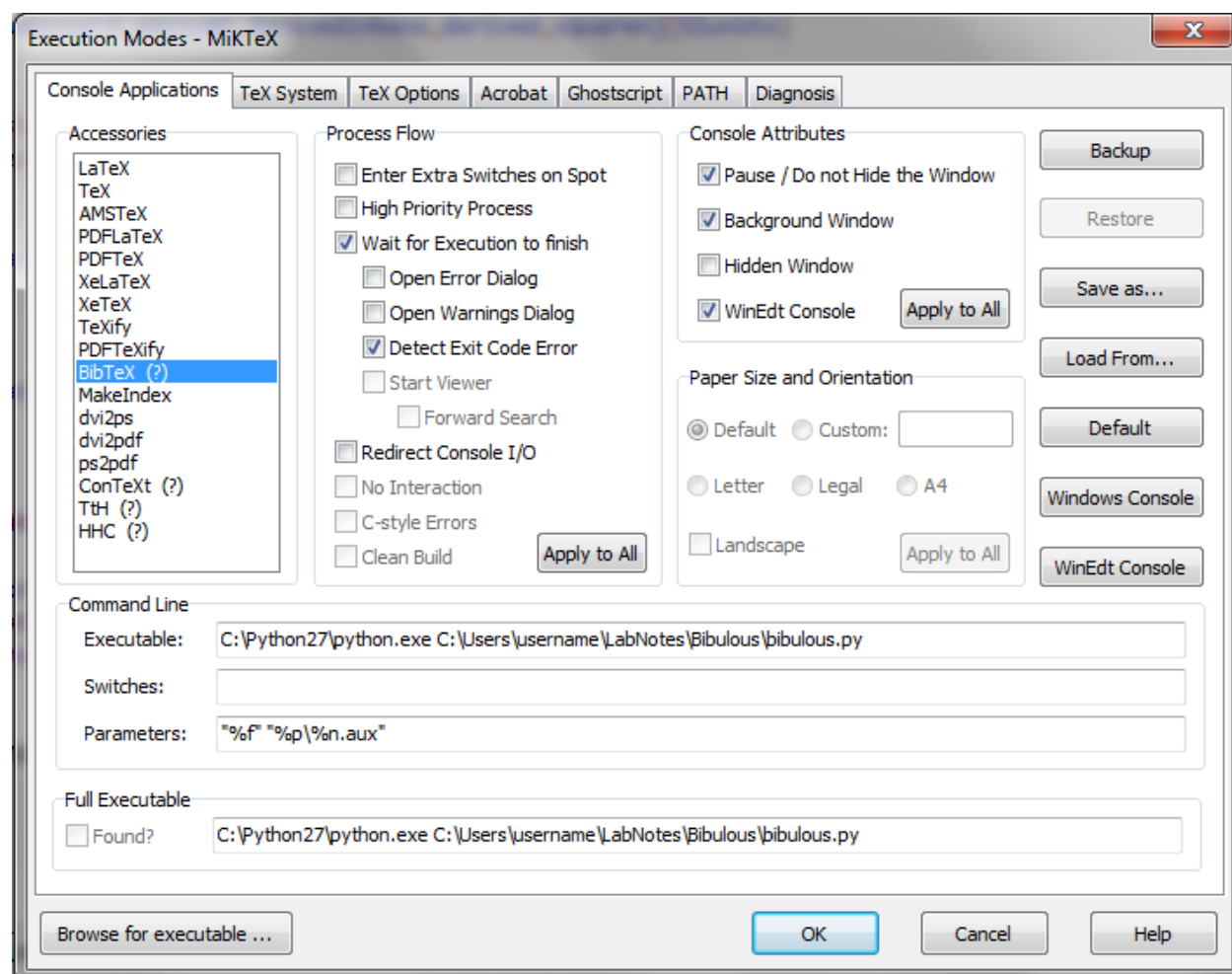
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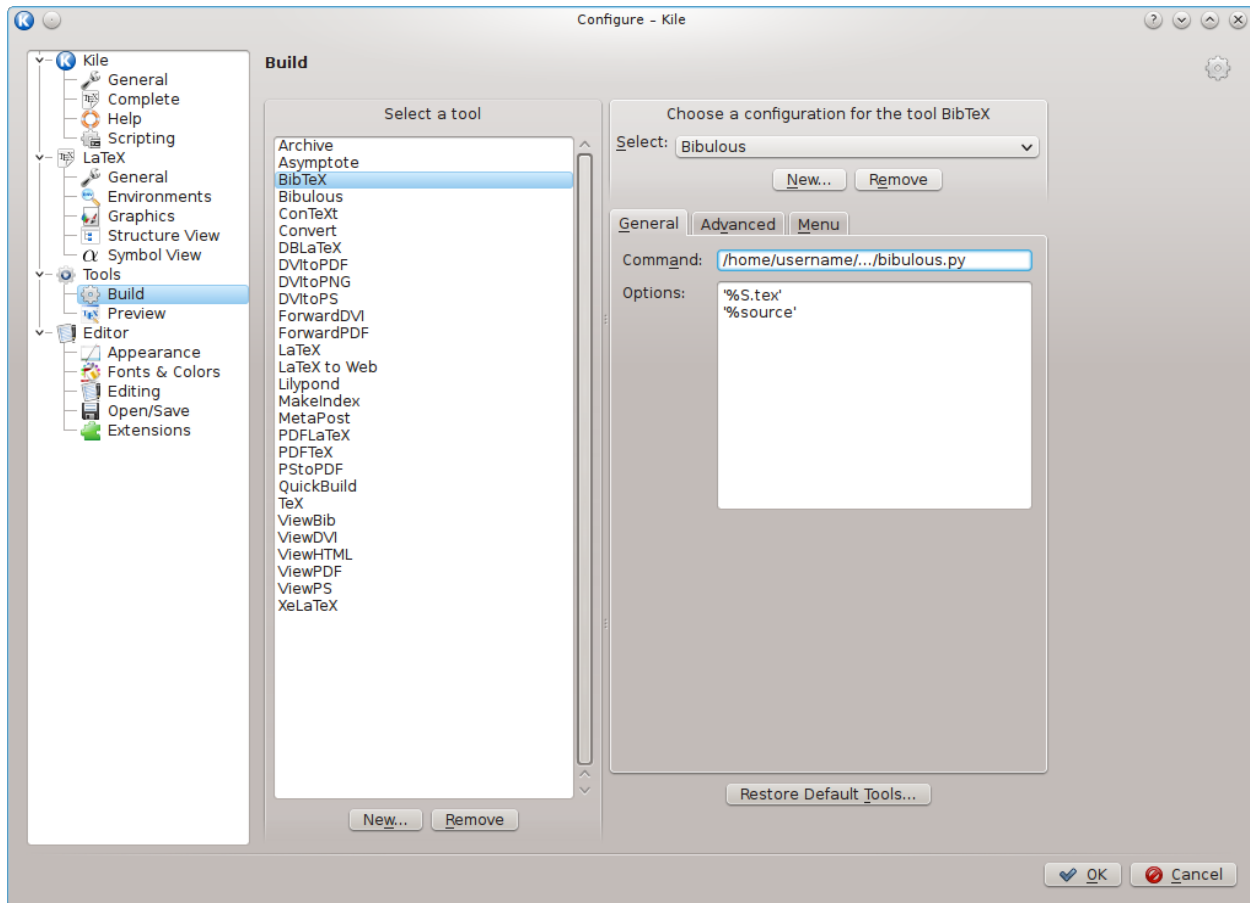
GETTING STARTED

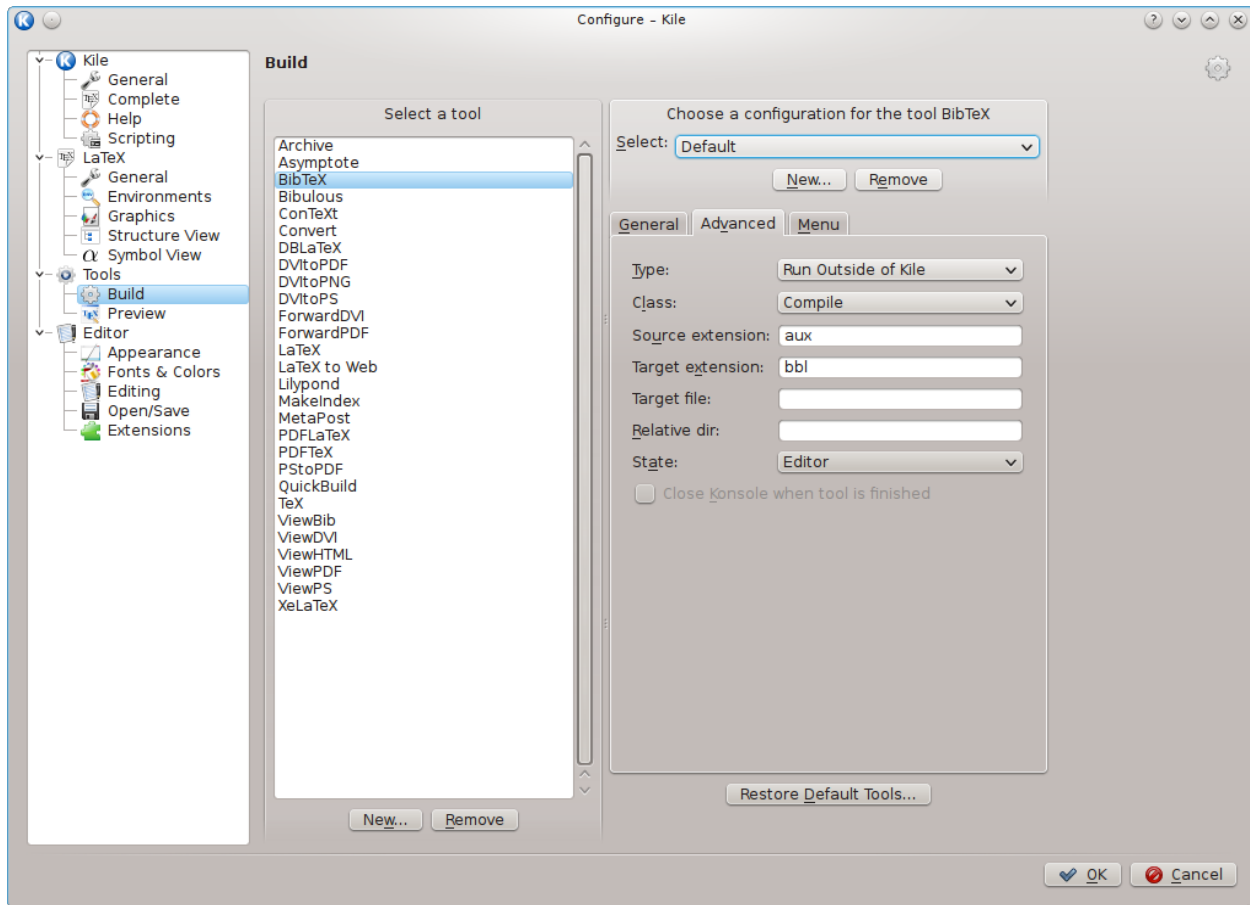
For general users, all that is needed is place the main `bibulous.py` file into the Python path. For users interested in using the auxiliary commands, `bibulous_authorextract.py` and `bibulous_citeextract.py` must also be in the Python path, and must be in the same directory as the main file.

[Add details about getting Gui systems for compiling LaTeX documents to seamlessly use Bibulous.]









INDICES AND TABLES

- *genindex*
- *modindex*
- *search*