

Special and common aspects of pdf/dvi/xdvi generators

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1 Introduction

This document is created with `lualatex` or that like with output format PDF. The package `tex4ht` is not loaded.

This document is about features the three generators on `latex`, `pdflatex`, `lualatex` and `xelatex` have in common and discusses also aspects under which they are specific. These programs are just underlying tex engines preloading the the L^AT_EX format. The names of the underlying engines just drop the inner syllable “`la`”. For `pdfltex` there is a user manual [THHB23], for `lualtex` there is a reference manual [HHHS23] and for `xetex` a reference guide [RHB23].

The first aspect we cover are the options (among those to display the version). It turns out, that the options are specific for the distribution. Apart from \TeX Live, there is a second important distribution, MiKTeX, which should also be treated.

We treat the options for \TeX Live in Section 2 and for MiKTeX in Section 3.

The second subject is treatment of metadata available for PDF files. The motivation here is privacy as part of security and creation of reproducible documents, e.g. for tests. The results of our research is collected in Section 4.

2 The options for \TeX Live

Note that in fact we use a variant of `luatex`, called `lua $\text{\textbf{h}}$ btex`.

This document is valid for versions of the underlying tex engine as given in Table 1. Moreover, our research refers to a specific distribution, \TeX Live.

converter	version
<code>pdf$\text{\textbf{f}}$latex</code>	pdfTeX 3.141592653-2.6-1.40.24
<code>xelatex</code>	XeTeX 3.141592653-2.6-0.999994
<code>lualatex</code>	LuaHBT $\text{\textbf{X}}$, Version 1.15.0

Table 1: Converters and the version this document refers to

We start with a synopsis of the options. Table 2 shows options of the converters under consideration. Note that in contrast to the other converters, `lualatex` defines options starting with `--` but it can also process the options if given with a single dash also. Conversely, converters other than `lualatex` can also deal with options starting with single dash. Options unknown to a converter never result in an error or even a warning; instead just an info message is displayed. This allows to create a configuration which works for all converters.

In Table 2 column “included”, each converter is represented by the starting letter of its name, so for each option it is known which converters know about it and conversely, which options each converter has.

The table allows furnishing configurations working for all converters. Some options are common to all converters

option	included			explanation
<code>(-)-cnf-line=STRING</code>	p	x	l	parse STRING as a configuration file line
<code>--credits</code>	-	-	l	Display credits and exit.
<code>--debug-format</code>	-	-	l	enable format debugging
<code>(-)-draftmode</code>	p	-	l	switch on draft mode (generates no output PDF)
<code>-enc</code>	p	-	-	Enable encTeX extensions such as <code>\mubyte</code>
<code>-etex</code>	p	x	-	enable e-TeX extensions
<code>(-)-[no-]file-line-error</code>	p	x	l	disable/enable file:line:error style messages
<code>--[no-]file-line-error-style</code>	-	-	l	aliases of <code>--[no-]file-line-error</code>
<code>-fmt=FMTNAME</code>	p	x	l	use FMTNAME instead of program name or a <code>%&</code> line ¹
<code>(-)-ini</code>	p	x	l	for dumping formats
<code>-ipc</code>	p	-	-	send DVI output to a socket as well as the usual output file
<code>-ipc-start</code>	p	-	-	as <code>-ipc</code> , and also start the server at the other end
<code>(-)-halt-on-error</code>	p	x	l	stop processing at the first error
<code>(-)-help</code>	p	x	l	display this help and exit
<code>(-)-version</code>	p	x	l	output version information and exit

¹in fact for `lualatex` the explanation deviates a bit: `--fmt=FORMAT: load the format file FORMAT`

-8bit	p	x	-	make all characters printable by default ²
(-)-interaction=STRING	p	x	l	set interaction mode (STRING=batchmode/nonstopmode/ scrollmode/errorstopmode)
(-)-jobname=STRING	p	x	l	set the job name to STRING
(-)-kpathsea-debug=NUMBER	p	x	l	set path searching debugging flags according to the bits of NUMBER
--lua=FILE	-	-	l	Load and execute a lua initialization script.
--luaonly	-	-	l	run a lua file, then exit
--luaconly	-	-	l	byte-compile a lua file, then exit
--luahashchars	-	-	l	the bits used by current Lua interpreter for strings hashing
(-)-[no-]mktex=FMT	p	x	l	disable/enable mktexFMT generation ³
-mltex	p	x	-	enable MLTeX extensions such as \charsubdef
-no-pdf	-	x	-	generate XDV (extended DVI) output rather than PDF
--nosocket	-	-	l	Disable the Lua socket library.
(-)-output-comment=STRING	p	x	l	use STRING for DVI file comment instead of date (no effect for PDF) ⁴
(-)-output-directory=DIR	p	x	l	use existing DIR as the directory to write files in
(-)-output-format=FORMAT	p	-	l	use FORMAT for job output; FORMAT is 'dvi' or 'pdf' ⁵
-output-driver=CMD	-	x	-	use CMD as the XDV-to-PDF driver instead of xdvipdfmx
-papersize=STRING	-	x	-	set PDF media size to STRING
-[no-]parse-first-line	p	x	-	disable/enable parsing of first line of input file
(-)-programe=STRING	p	x	l	set program (and fnt) name to STRING ⁶
(-)-recorder	p	x	l	enable filename recorder
--safer	-	-	l	Disable easily exploitable Lua commands.
(-)-[no-]shell-escape	p	x	l	disable/enable \write18SHELL COMMAND ⁷
(-)-shell-restricted	p	x	l	enable restricted \write18 ⁸
-src-specials	p	x	-	insert source specials into the DVI file
-src-specials=WHERE	p	x	-	insert source specials in certain places of the DVI/XDV ⁹ file.
(-)-syncTeX=NUMBER	p	x	l	generate SyncTeX data for previewers ¹⁰
-translate-file=TCXNAME	p			use the TCX file TCXNAME ¹¹
--utc			l	Init time to UTC

Table 2: Options of T_EX engines in T_EX Live

pdf_latex:

Usage: pdf_ltex [OPTION]... [TEXNAME[.tex]] [COMMANDS]

or: pdf_ltex [OPTION]... \FIRST-LINE

or: pdf_ltex [OPTION]... &FMT ARGS

Run pdf_lTeX on TEXNAME, usually creating TEXNAME.pdf.

Any remaining COMMANDS are processed as pdf_lTeX input, after TEXNAME is read.

If the first line of TEXNAME is %&FMT, and FMT is an existing .fmt file, use it. Else use `NAME.fmt', where NAME is the program invocation name, most commonly `pdf_ltex'.

Alternatively, if the first non-option argument begins with a backslash,

²for x_el_atex: don't use ^^X sequences

³(FMT=tex/tfm/pk) for pdf_latex; else (FMT=tex/tfm)

⁴For x_el_atex it is XDV instead of DVI and the remark (no effect for PDF) is missing

⁵x_el_atex offers option -no-pdf instead.

⁶l_ua_latex does not mention (and fnt)

⁷For l_ua_latex the explanation is disable/enable system commands

⁸For l_ua_latex the explanation is restrict system commands to a list of commands given in texmf.cnf

⁹DVI for pdf_latex; XDV for x_el_atex

¹⁰Explanation differs for l_ua_latex

¹¹TCX means T_EX character translation

interpret all non-option arguments as a line of pdfTeX input.

Alternatively, if the first non-option argument begins with a `&`, the next word is taken as the FMT to read, overriding all else. Any remaining arguments are processed as above.

If no arguments or options are specified, prompt for input.

3 The options for MiKTeX

Since at the time of this writing, the author has no MiKTeX at hand, the results for MiKTeX are based on documentation, rather than experimentation. The three engines are a bit different, also in their names.

Well this section is preliminary only. It turned out that Section 2 is valid only for distribution T_EX Live. So in this section we venture to find out the options for the other big distribution, MiKTeX. We shall also investigate whether there are further distributions.

Whereas the description [KB23] seems not to mention the options explicitly, the MiKTeX manual [Sch22] describes each program in Section II, 6, in particular also the tex converters. This is the source of the following tables.

The first observation is that, for MiKTeX all options start with two dashes, whereas for T_EX Live this is the case only for luatex. One has to clarify, whether the maven latex plugin under consideration really works for MiKTeX.

option	included			explanation
<code>--alias=name</code>	p	x	1	Pretend to be program name, ... ¹²
<code>--aux-directory=dir</code>	p	x	1	Set <code>dir</code> as the directory to write auxiliary files to.
<code>--buf-size=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the the maximum number of characters ...
<code>--c-style-errors</code>	p	x	1	Change the way, error messages are printed.
<code>--credits</code>	-	-	1	Display credits and exit ¹³ .
<code>--disable-8bit-chars</code>	p	x	-	Make only 7-bit characters printable.
<code>--disable/enable-installer</code>	p	x	1	Disable/Enable automatic installation of packages.
<code>--disable-write18</code>	p	x	1	Disable the <code>\write18{command}</code> construct.
<code>--enable-write18</code>	p	x	1	Fully enable the <code>\write18{command}</code> construct ¹⁴ .
<code>--restrict-write18</code>	p	x	1	Partially enable the <code>\write18command</code> construct.
<code>--debug-format</code>	-	-	1	Enable format debugging ¹⁵ .
<code>--[dont-]parse-first-line</code>	p	x	-	[Dont p P]arse first line of input file under definite conditions ¹⁶
<code>--draftmode</code>	p	-	1	switch on draft mode (generates no output PDF) ¹⁷
<code>--enable-8bit-chars</code>	p	x	-	Make all characters printable.
<code>--enable-encTeX</code>	p	-	-	Enable encTeX extensions such as <code>\mubyte</code> ¹⁸ .
<code>--enable-etex</code>	p	x	-	Enable eTeX extensions.
<code>--enable-installer</code>	p	x	1	Enable automatic installation of packages.
<code>--enable-mltex</code>	p	x	-	Enable MLTeX extensions such as <code>\charsubdef</code> .
<code>--error-line=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the width of context lines on ...error messages.
<code>--extra-mem-bot=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the extra size ... for large data structures ...
<code>--extra-mem-top=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the extra size (in memory words) for chars, tokens,
<code>--font-max=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the maximum internal font number.

¹²Using this option is equivalent to copying the program file to name and invoking name.

¹³The same as for T_EX Live.

¹⁴Corresponds roughly to `(-)-shell-escape` in T_EX Live.

¹⁵The same as for T_EX Live.

¹⁶Similar for T_EX Live. Note that there is also a converse option.

¹⁷Some differences in formulation between the converter and also between distributions

¹⁸Corresponds with `-enc` in T_EX Live.

--font-mem-size=n	p	x	-	Set the size, in TeX memory words, of the font memory.
--half-error-line=n	p	x	-	Set the width of first lines of contexts in terminal error messages.
--halt-on-error	p	x	1	Quit after the first error.
--hash-extra=n	p	x	-	Set the extra space for the hash table of control sequences ...
--help	p	x	1	Give help and exit ¹⁹ ..
--hhelp	p	x	-	manual page in an HTML Help window ²⁰
--include-directory=dir	p	x	1	Add the directory <code>dir</code> to [those] to be searched for input files.
--initialize	p	x	1	Become the INI variant of the program.
--interaction=mode	p	x	1	Set the interaction mode (<code>mode=batchmode/nonstopmode/scrollmode/errorstopmode</code>).
--job-name=name	p	x	1	Set the name of the job (<code>\jobname</code>).
--job-time=file	p	x	-	Set the time-stamp of all output files equal to file's time-stamp.
--lua=FILE	-	-	1	load and execute a lua initialization script ²¹ .
--luaonly	-	-	1	Start LuaTeX as a Lua interpreter ²² .
--luaconly	-	-	1	byte-compile a lua file, then exit ²³ .
--luahashchars	-	-	1	the bits used by current Lua interpreter for strings hashing
--main-memory=n	p	x	-	Change the total size ... of the main memory array.
--max-in-open=n	p	x	-	Set the maximum number of input files ...
--max-print-line=n	p	x	-	Set the width of longest text lines output.
--max-strings=n	p	x	-	Set the maximum number of strings.
--[no-]mktex=fmt	-	-	1	Enable/Disable <code>fmt</code> generation, where <code>fmt</code> must be either <code>tex</code> or <code>tfm</code> .
--nest-size=n	p	x	-	Set the maximum number of semantic levels simultaneously active.
--no-c-style-errors	p	x	1	Don't change the way, error messages are printed.
--no-pdf	-	x	-	generate XDV (extended DVI) output rather than PDF
--nosocket	-	-	1	Disable the Lua socket library.
--output-comment=string	-	-	1	Use <code>string</code> for DVI file comment instead of date.
--output-directory=dir	p	x	1	Write output files in <code>dir</code> ²⁴ .
--output-driver=CMD	-	x	-	use <code>CMD</code> as the XDV-to-PDF driver instead of <code>xdvipdfmx</code>
--output-format=format	p	-	1	Use <code>format</code> for job output (one of: <code>dvi</code> , <code>pdf</code>) ²⁵ .
--papersize=STRING	-	x	-	set PDF media size to <code>STRING</code>
--param-size=n	p	x	-	Set the the maximum number of simultaneous macro parameters.
--pool-free=n	p	x	-	Set the minimum pool space left after loading the format.
--pool-size=n	p	x	-	Set the maximum number of characters in strings, ...
--quiet	p	x	-	Suppress all output, except errors.
--record-package-usages=file	p	x	-	Record all package usages and write them into <code>file</code> .
--recorder	p	x	1	Enable the file name recorder ²⁶ .
--safer	-	-	1	Disable easily exploitable Lua commands ²⁷ .
--save-size=n	p	x	-	Set the the amount of space for saving values outside of current group.
--src-specials	p	x	-	Embed source file information in the DVI file ²⁸ .
--stack-size=n	p	x	-	Set the maximum number of simultaneous input sources.
--string-vacancies=n	p	x	-	Set the minimum number of characters ...
--syncTeX=n	p	x	1	Generate SyncTeX data for previewers ²⁹
--tcx=tcxname	p	-	-	Use the <code>tcxname</code> translation table ...

¹⁹The same as for TeX Live.

²⁰This option is only available on Windows systems.

²¹The same as for TeX Live.

²²Could be the same as for TeX Live.

²³Could be the same as for TeX Live.

²⁴Similar as for TeX Live.

²⁵`pdflatex` and `lualatex` differ a bit in text. Seems similar to TeX Live.

²⁶The same as in TeX Live.

²⁷The same as for TeX Live.

²⁸Similar as in TeX Live.

²⁹Explanation with more detail than for TeX Live.

<code>--time-statistics</code>	p	x	-	Show processing time statistics.
<code>--trace[=tracestreams]</code>	p	x	-	Enable trace messages.
<code>--trie-size=n</code>	p	x	-	Set the amount of space for hyphenation patterns.
<code>--undump=name</code>	p	x	l	Use name as the name of the format to be used, ...
<code>--utc</code>	-	-	l	Init time to UTC ³⁰ .
<code>--version</code>	p	x	l	Show version information and exit ³¹ .

Table 3: Options of T_EX engines in MiKTeX

Strange, there are `--enable-etex` and `--enable-mltex` but no way to disable. Maybe disable is the default.

```
miktex-pdfTeX [option...] [[file] | [\command...]]
```

```
miktex-luatex [option...] [[command...] | [file]]
```

The following options are ignored:

```
--8bit, --etex, --parse-first-line, --no-parse-first-line
```

These are always on.

```
--default-translate-file=tcxname, --translate-file=tcxname
```

These are always off.

```
miktex-xetex [option...] [[file] | [\command...]]
```

4 Treatment of metadata for the PDF format

Whereas `xelatex` always produces a XDV file internally as an intermediate step, when creating a PDF file, with the option `-no-pdf` one can eliminate creation of the PDF file and writing of the intermediate XDV file instead. For conversion, of the XDV file to PDF, the option `-output-driver=CMD` is used which defaults to the command `xdvipdfmx`. Besides direct creation of a PDF file, we consider creation via XDV file using `xdvipdfmx`. The XDV format is an extension and in fact a variant of the DVI format.

For the other compilers in contrast, the option `-output-format=dvi/pdf` determines the output format which is PDF by default and there is no intermediate format for PDF. When creating DVI files instead, these files can be converted into PDF by explicitly invoking something like `dvipdfmx`, `dvipdfmx` or `xdvipdfmx`. In my current distribution T_EX Live, the programs `dvipdfm`, `dvipdfmx` and `xdvipdfmx` are all binary identical.

Nevertheless, they turn out to yield different results. One reason found below is, that the name with which the program is invoked goes into the result. It is likely that this is the only reason.

As a consequence of the workflow of `xelatex`, `\ifpdf` provided by package `iftex` always enters the `\else` branch for `xelatex`.

To display metadata, we use `exiftool` and `pdfinfo`.

³⁰The same as for T_EX Live.

³¹The same as for T_EX Live.

4.1 Reproducibility

The first observation is, that invocation of `xelatex latexEngines` produces different PDF output for each run. Likewise, `xelatex -no-pdf latexEngines` produces different XDV output for each run. As turns out later, this is because the creation time goes into the result.

Thus, it is plausible that, to obtain reproducibility, we invoke the compiler as

```
SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1 xelatex          latexEngines
SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1 xelatex -no-pdf latexEngines
```

The second result is, that creating the PDF file and the XDV file that way is reproducible.

Now it is time to see differences directly and thus switch off compression which is done independent of the compiler by an according header

```
\DocumentMetadata{uncompress}
```

described in [MF23], Section 2. Seemingly, this writes additional info like meta info date but also resurrects all other dates and also influences trailer identifier in a way, that the document is no longer reproducible, even when specifying `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1`.

This is about to be fixed, but essentially, it is just an inconvenience.

Thus, we take refuge to switching off compression via

```
\special{dvipdfmx:config z 0}
```

This is specific for `xelatex`, but it keeps reproducibility.

It turns out, that this compression setting does not refer to the XDV file, which seems always compressed, but solely to the PDF file. The PDF files differ mainly in the time stamp but also in some hashes which may depend on the time stamp.

Now let us experiment with `xdvipdfmx`. Even if we start with a reproducible XDV file, the PDF file created by `xdvipdfmx` changes with each invocation. This changes when also `xdvipdfmx` is invoked with fixed time.

```
SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1 xdvipdfmx latexEngines
```

As mentioned above, in the distribution T_EX Live current at time of this writing, the programs `dvipdfm`, `dvipdfmx` and `xdvipdfmx` are all binary identical. Nevertheless, they seem to lead to different output. Possibly, the invocation name goes into the result. To find out, we do not allow compression. It turns out that the names go into the result as the producer.

Using the package `hyperref`, one can overwrite a lot of metadata. Details are found in the manual [RO22], Section 5.10. In particular, the producer can be set `unknown`. As a result, the trailer identifier is the only remaining difference. Seemingly, the producer goes into this whether displayed or not. The trailer identifier cannot be overwritten by `hyperref`, but only in a way specific for `xelatex`:

```
\special{pdf:trailerid [
  <00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff>
  <00112233445566778899aabbccddeeff>
]}
```

makes even the XDV to PDF converter transparent.

In [RO22], Section 5.10, also the creator is found, which is `LaTeX with hyperref` independent of the L^AT_EX compiler. This shall be overwritten if there are security concerns.

As long as the tool chain and settings remain constant, invocation of latex compiler `xelatex` and backend XDV to PDF converter specifying `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` suffices

to guarantee reproducibility. This setting refers to creation date 1970:01:01 01:00:00+01:00 and if the file exist, this is the modification date. From the point of view of reproducibility, there is ok, but it is not the truth. Thus, it makes sense to overwrite this with the string `unknown`. If the file is overwritten, the same considerations apply to the modification date. Both can be overwritten with package `hyperref`.

One question remains: how does `hyperref` manipulate the metadata and in a second step, can we do this directly without using `hyperref`.

Now let us switch to the other two L^AT_EX compilers. Both write the banner information indicating above all the type of compiler and the version. As checked by switching compression of, `xelatex` does not write any banner information. Again, as long as the compiler does not change nor changes its version or its distribution, the banner does not corrupt reproducibility. On the other hand, removing it would stabilize and generalize reproducibility somewhat: stabilize because the banner contains version information and thus breaks reproducibility at version change, and it breaks reproducibility when changing the compiler of course. Also, privacy or security is an argument in favor of eliminating the banner. The package `hyperref` offers no way to change the banner; this can be done only in a machine specific way. The details are described in Section 4.2 below.

The same is true for the trailer identifier. Strictly speaking it need not be suppressed for reproducibility, but to make the result independent of the DVI to PDF converter as is explained in the context of `xelatex` above.

Creating DVI files with `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` yields reproducible results. As expected, these settings are also necessary for translating DVI into PDF.

4.2 Security and Stability of Reproducibility

Security is here privacy. Hiding information makes attacks more difficult. Stability of reproducibility consists in stability as regards new versions of the same tools in the tool chain and the aspect of change of a tool.

From Section 4.1 come the recommendation to set the following pieces of information to unknown:

Creator This is uniformly L^AT_EX with `hyperref` as long as `hyperref` is loaded, except for `beamer` class (which loads `hyperref` implicitly) for which it is L^AT_EX with `Beamer class`. If `hyperref` is not loaded, the creator is T_EX except for `xelatex` which shows compiler and creation date. Thus, it is advisable in general for security but without `hyperref` for sake of stability of reproducibility.

Producer This is `xdvipdfmx` with version for creating DVIs and in general for `xelatex`. For creating PDF with `pdflatex` or with `lualatex`, it is something like `pdfTeX-1.40.25` or `LuaTeX-1.17.0`. This shall be hidden for sake of security and stability of reproducibility.

CreationDate Note that despite of its name, in fact it is both date and time. It is wrong if using `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` and shall thus be hidden.

ModDate same as **CreationDate**.

PTEX.Fullbanner is not written by `xelatex`, but for both `lualatex` and `pdflatex`. It can be suppressed in a compiler specific way, but not through `hyperref`. The banner exposes tools, versions and distributions. Thus, it shall not be exposed for sake of security and stability of reproducibility.

trailer identifier Suppressing this is not necessary for reproducibility. It is just independence of the DVI/XDV to PDF converter and thus a matter of stability of reproducibility. It has only a very weak aspect of security.

The downside is that, even without setting `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1`, created PDF files stop to be individual for each creation run as is intended for PDF files. We decided that the date offers enough individuality to refrain from the trailer identifier.

All these pieces of information and a bit more are suppressed by including `headerSuppressMetaPDF.tex`. Observe that to that end the package `hyperref` is used whenever possible because this technique is not specific for the latex compiler. Only banner and trailer identifier are suppressed in a compiler specific way.

Besides code, `headerSuppressMetaPDF.tex` provides additional info in the comments, but for details specific for the individual compilers see [HHHS23], Section 3.2.2 for `lualatex`, [THHB23], Section 7.2 for `pdflatex`. Seemingly, `xelatex` is quite different from the other compilers and tends to write fewer pieces of information. It uses an external XDV to PDF converter, `xdvipdfmx` by default. By placing `\special` commands in the TEX file, the user can pass information to the XDV to PDF converter also controlling meta info to some extent. Some details are given in the manual for `xdvipdfmx`, [Tea20], Section 4.1.1.

4.3 Reproducibility revisited

The next question is, whether the setting `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` is really needed for reproducibility, if both `CreationDate` and `ModDate` are suppressed. The answer is yes, because date and time go into the trailer identifier, whether they are stored somewhere or not. It is the intention of the trailer identifier to make PDFs distinguishable when they stem from another build run even if the conditions are the same. To turn it the other way round, the trailer identifier is to corrupt reproducibility. Since it is implemented through a time stamp, setting `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` fixes the trailer identifier. If we refrain from this setting, still the trailer identifier can be set explicitly and this must be done to ensure reproducibility. As indicated in Section 4.2, for `xelatex`, even the creator may contain date and time information and shall thus be eliminated.

If a document contains a date inserted via command `\date`, and the date is given by `\today`, then this is only reproducible with setting `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH` to some fixed value and `FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1`. Even without `\date{\today}`, `xelatex` seems to use hashes depending on time corrupting reproducibility. To be more precise, creation of XDV is reproducible, whereas conversion to PDF is not. So, for sake of uniformity and stability of reproducibility, these settings `SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH=0 FORCE_SOURCE_DATE=1` are heavily recommended, both for the \LaTeX compiler and for the converter DVI/XDV to PDF.

If reproducibility is only required for tests, then the date can be given; it is just neglected for tests. For productive documents the date is important. If reproducibility is an issue for productive documents, the date cannot be given.

4.4 Security revisited

Both `lualatex` and `pdflatex` write the filename in `PTEX.FileName`. This is a security issue, whereas the number of pages, `PTEX.PageNumber` is not. It is also useful.

For the `trapped` setting, the author wonders for `pdflatex`, how `hyperref` can switch this individually, whereas the compiler specific setting allows only setting to `unknown` in conjunction with other settings.

5 To be clarified

Note that `xelatex` works as the other engines for PDF, whereas it has XDV instead of DVI as alternative format. Thus, the format DVI is ignored. See the manual.

6 References

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