

The `accsupp` package

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2019/12/05 v0.6

Abstract

Since PDF 1.5 portions of a page can be marked for better accessibility support. For example, replacement texts or expansions of abbreviations can be provided. Package `accsupp` starts with providing a minimal low-level interface for programmers. Status is experimental.

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*Please report any issues at <https://github.com/ho-tex/accsupp/issues>

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1 Documentation

1.1 Macros

Section “10.8 Accessibility Support” of the PDF reference [1] lists some features that can be added by operators for marked content.

`\BeginAccSupp {⟨options⟩}`

It puts the operator `BDC` in the page stream:

```
/Span
<<...>>      % property dictionary
BDC
```

The contents of the dictionary is controlled by `⟨options⟩`. See sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

`\EndAccSupp {⟨options⟩}`

It puts the operator `EMC` in the page stream. The only option is `pdfliteral`, see section 1.3.1.

Note: The caller is responsible for the placement of `\BeginAccSupp` and `\EndAccSupp` pairs. Especially page breaks are not allowed in between.

1.1.1 Feature options

The PDF reference [1] describes and explains the different features. The names of the feature options are the same as the key names for the property dictionary for operator `BDC`, see `\BeginAccSupp`.

ActualText: Provides a replacement text, see examples in section 2.

Alt: Provides an alternate description.

E: Provides the expansion of an abbreviation or an acronym.

Lang: Specifies the language.

1.1.2 Input methods

Except for **Lang** option **method** controls how the argument for **ActualText**, **Alt**, and **E** are interpreted.

method=plain: The string is only expanded and written without further treatment. Special characters are not protected, thus this method may result in an invalid PDF file.

method=escape: The string is expanded and special characters are escaped. The result is a valid PDF string.

method=hex: The string is given in hexadecimal notation. Section 2.1 shows an example.

method=pdfstringdef: If package **hyperref** is loaded, then its `\pdfstringdef` is used. This method is slow, but useful if the string contains arbitrary **TeX** code.

unicode: This option is needed, if the string is given as Unicode string (16 bit). Internally it adds the string prefix for Unicode. In case of **method=pdfstringdef** it passes the option to `\hypersetup`.

1.2 Workaround, option space

PDF specification says in “10.8.3 Replacement Text”

Just as alternative descriptions can be provided for images and other items that do not translate naturally into text (...), replacement text can be specified for content that does translate into text but that is represented in a nonstandard way. These nonstandard representations might include, for example, glyphs for ligatures or custom characters, or inline graphics corresponding to letters in an illuminated manuscript or to dropped capitals.

However, the **ActualText** is ignored in Acrobat Reader (until version 9 at least), if the content does not contain glyphs. Option **space** adds such an invisible glyph, a space character. The font name can be configured by option **spacefont**, the default font is **phvr8r**. The character slot is given by option **spacechar**, default is 32, the usual position of the space character.

These options can also be given as package options or in macro `\AccSuppSetup` that takes a key value list as argument. Usually only option **space** is necessary, if the contents does not contain glyphs otherwise. Option **space** is enabled by **space** or **space=true** and disabled by **space=false**. It is disabled as default. The option is evaluated by `\BeginAccSupp` and ignored by `\EndAccSupp`.

Note: Even with option **space** I get sometimes wrong texts when cut & paste from AR7/Linux or AR8/Linux, e.g.

```
Hello → Helo, Helol, Hell, ...
Hello World → Helo WorldW, Helo World, ...
```

I do not know what Acrobat Reader is doing here, thus feedback and insights are welcome.

1.3 Driver options

Driver options are package options only. The special \TeX compilers pdf \TeX , Lua \TeX and Xe \TeX are detected automatically. The default for unrecognized drivers can be set by defining $\text{\LaTeX}\text{ActualTextDriverDefault}$. This can be done in the configuration file `accsupp.cfg`.

1.3.1 Option `pdftex`

Package option `pdftex` is used for pdf \TeX in PDF mode. Additionally \BeginAccSupp and \EndAccSupp understand option `pdfliteral`. It controls the modifier keyword for \pdfliteral :

```
pdfliteral=direct ⇒ \pdfliteral direct{...}
```

1.3.2 Option `luatex`

Package option `luatex` is used for Lua \TeX in PDF mode. Additionally \BeginAccSupp and \EndAccSupp understand option `pdfliteral`. It controls the modifier keyword for \pdfextension literal:

```
pdfliteral=direct ⇒ \pdfextension literal direct{...}
```

1.3.3 Option `dvipdfm`

Package option `dvipdfm` and its aliases `dvipdfmx` `xetex` are used for drivers that support `dvipdfm` specials.

1.3.4 Option `dvips`

Package option `dvips` and its alias `dvipsone` write pdfmark specials in the output. Unhappily these pdfmark operators are ignored by `ghostscript` (latest tested version is 8.54). Perhaps they are recognized by commercial distiller applications.

1.3.5 Turning off page stream compression

For debugging it is useful to have uncompressed page stream objects. This can be done afterwards via `pdftk`:

```
pdftk file.pdf output file-uncompressed.pdf uncompress
```

Or the PDF file is generated uncompressed:

```
pdf $\text{\TeX}$ : \pdfcompresslevel=0
```

```
dvipdfm: dvipdfm -z0 ...
```

```
dvipdfmx: dvipdfmx -z0 ...
```

```
ghostscript/ps2pdf: ps2pdf -dCompressPages=false input.ps output.pdf
```

2 Example

2.1 Example `\notparallel`

```
1 /*example1*/
2 %<<END
3 \documentclass{article}
```

```

4 \usepackage{accsupp}[2007/11/14]
5 \usepackage{centernot}
6 % U+2226 NOT PARALLEL
7 % \mathrel{...} prevents page break in between
8 \newcommand*\notparallel{\%
9   \ensuremath{%
10     \mathrel{%
11       \BeginAccSupp{method=hex,unicode,ActualText=2226}%
12       \centernot{\parallel}%
13       \EndAccSupp{}%
14     }%
15   }%
16 }
17 \begin{document}
18 \begin{equation}
19 A\notparallel B
20 \end{equation}
21 \end{document}
22 %END
23 </example1>

```

2.2 Example with `pdfstringdef`

```

24 <*example2>
25 %<<END
26 \documentclass{article}
27 \usepackage[unicode]{hyperref}
28 \usepackage{accsupp}[2007/11/14]
29 \begin{document}
30   \begin{equation}
31     \BeginAccSupp{
32       method=pdfstringdef,
33       unicode,
34       ActualText={%
35         a\textttwosuperior +b\textttwosuperior
36         =c\textttwosuperior
37       }%
38     }%
39     a^2 + b^2 = c^2
40   \EndAccSupp{}%
41 \end{equation}
42 \end{document}
43 %END
44 </example2>

```

3 Implementation

3.1 Package

```

45 <*package>
46 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
47 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
48 \endlinechar=13 %
49 \catcode123=1 %
50 \catcode125=2 %
51 \catcode64=11 %
52 \def\x{\endgroup
53   \expandafter\edef\csname ACCSUPP@AtEnd\endcsname{%

```

```

54      \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
55      \catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
56      \catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
57      \catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
58      \catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
59      \catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
60      \catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
61      \catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
62      }%
63  }%
64 \x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
65 \catcode13=5 % ^~M
66 \endlinechar=13 %
67 \catcode35=6 % #
68 \catcode64=11 % @
69 \catcode123=1 % {
70 \catcode125=2 % }
71 \def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
72   \edef\ACCSUPP@AtEnd{%
73     \ACCSUPP@AtEnd
74     \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
75   }%
76   \catcode#1=#2\relax
77 }
78 \TMP@EnsureCode{10}{12}%
79 \TMP@EnsureCode{33}{12}%
80 \TMP@EnsureCode{39}{12}%
81 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}%
82 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}%
83 \TMP@EnsureCode{42}{12}%
84 \TMP@EnsureCode{44}{12}%
85 \TMP@EnsureCode{45}{12}%
86 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}%
87 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}%
88 \TMP@EnsureCode{58}{12}%
89 \TMP@EnsureCode{60}{12}%
90 \TMP@EnsureCode{62}{12}%
91 \TMP@EnsureCode{94}{7}%
92 \TMP@EnsureCode{96}{12}%
93 \TMP@EnsureCode{254}{12}%
94 \TMP@EnsureCode{255}{12}%
95 \edef\ACCSUPP@AtEnd{\ACCSUPP@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

```

```

  Package identification.
96 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
97 \ProvidesPackage{accsupp}%
98   [2019/12/05 v0.6 Accessibility support by marked content (HO)]
99 \RequirePackage{pdffescape}[2007/02/25]
100 \RequirePackage{iftex}
101 \RequirePackage{kvoptions}

102 \SetupKeyvalOptions{%
103   family=ACCSUPP,%
104   prefix=ACCSUPP@%
105 }

```

3.2 Space setup

```

106 \DeclareBoolOption{space}
107 \DeclareStringOption[phvr8r]{spacefont}

```

```
108 \DeclareStringOption[32]{spacechar}
```

3.3 Driver detection and setup

Driver declarations.

```
109 \def\ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{%
110   \gdblarg\ACCSUPP@@DefineDriverKey
111 }
112 \def\ACCSUPP@@DefineDriverKey[#1]#2{%
113   \define@key{ACCSUPP}{#2}[]{%
114     \def\ACCSUPP@driver{#1}%
115   }%
116   \g@addto@macro\ACCSUPP@DisableOptions{%
117     \DisableKeyvalOption{ACCSUPP}{#2}%
118   }%
119 }
120 \let\ACCSUPP@DisableOptions\empty
121 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{pdftex}
122 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{luatex}
123 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{dvips}
124 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvips]{dvipsone}
125 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{dvipdfm}
126 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvipdfm]{dvipdfmx}
127 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvipdfm]{xetex}
128 \let\ACCSUPP@driver\relax
129 \InputIfFileExists{accsupp.cfg}{}{%
130   \providecommand*\ActualTextDriverDefault{dvips}%
131   \ifpdf
132     \ifx\pdfextension@\undefined
133       \def\ACCSUPP@driver{pdftex}%
134     \else
135       \def\ACCSUPP@driver{luatex}%
136     \fi
137   \else
138     \ifxetex
139       \def\ACCSUPP@driver{dvipdfm}%
140     \else
141       \ifx\ACCSUPP@driver\relax
142         \let\ACCSUPP@driver\ActualTextDriverDefault
143       \fi
144     \fi
145   \fi
146 }
```

Process options.

```
146 \ProcessKeyvalOptions*
147 \ACCSUPP@DisableOptions
```

Driver validation and loading.

```
148 \def\ACCSUPP@temp{pdftex}%
149 \ifpdf
150   \ifx\pdfextension@\undefined\else
151     \def\ACCSUPP@temp{luatex}%
152   \fi
153 \ifx\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@driver
154   \else
155     \PackageWarningNoLine{accsupp}{%
156       Wrong driver '\ACCSUPP@driver', using 'pdftex' instead%
```

```

157      }%
158 ed as
159   \let\ACCSUPP@driver\ACCSUPP@temp
160   \fi
161 \else
162   \ifx\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@driver
163     \PackageError{accsupp}{%
164       Wrong driver, pdfTeX is not running in PDF mode.\MessageBreak
165       Package loading is aborted%
166     }@\ehc
167   \expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\ACCSUPP@AtEnd
168   \fi
169 \def\ACCSUPP@temp{dvipdfm}%
170 \ifxetex
171   \ifx\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@driver
172   \else
173     \PackageWarningNoLine{accsupp}{%
174       Wrong driver '\ACCSUPP@driver', \MessageBreak
175       using 'dvipdfm' for XeTeX instead%
176     }%
177   \let\ACCSUPP@driver\ACCSUPP@temp
178   \fi
179   \fi
180 \fi%
181 \ifx\ACCSUPP@driver\relax
182   \PackageError{accsupp}{%
183     Missing driver option.\MessageBreak
184     Package loading is aborted%
185   }@\ehc
186   \expandafter\ACCSUPP@AtEnd
187 \fi%
188 \InputIfFileExists{accsupp-\ACCSUPP@driver.def}{}{%
189   \PackageError{accsupp}{%
190     Unsupported driver '\ACCSUPP@driver'.\MessageBreak
191     Package loading is aborted%
192   }@\ehc
193   \ACCSUPP@AtEnd
194 }%

```

3.4 Main macro

```

195 \DeclareBoolOption{unicode}
196 \DeclareStringOption[page]{pdfliteral}
197 \DeclareStringOption{Lang}
198 \def\ACCSUPP@method{escape}
199 \define@key{ACCSUPP}{method}{%
200   \Qifundefined{ACCSUPP@method@#1}{%
201     \PackageError{accsupp}{%
202       Ignoring unknown method '#1'%
203     }@\ehc
204   }{%
205     \edef\ACCSUPP@method{\#1}%
206   }%
207 }
208 \let\ACCSUPP@Lang\relax
209 \def\ACCSUPP@temp#1{%
210   \expandafter\ACCSUPP@temp\csname ACCSUPP@#1\endcsname{#1}%
211 }

```

```

212 \def\ACCSUPP@@temp#1#2{%
213   \let#1\relax
214   \define@key{ACCSUPP}{#2}{%
215     \def#1{##1}%
216     \ifx#1\empty
217       \def#1{()}%
218     \else
219       \csname ACCSUPP@method@\ACCSUPP@method\endcsname#1%
220     \fi
221   }%
222 }
223 \ACCSUPP@temp{Alt}
224 \ACCSUPP@temp{ActualText}
225 \ACCSUPP@temp{E}

226 \newcommand*{\BeginAccSupp}[1]{%
227   \begingroup
228   \setkeys{ACCSUPP}{#1}%
229   \edef\ACCSUPP@span{%
230     /Span<<%
231     \ifx\ACCSUPP@Lang\relax
232     \else
233       /Lang\ACCSUPP@Lang
234     \fi
235     \ifx\ACCSUPP@Alt\relax
236     \else
237       /Alt\ACCSUPP@Alt
238     \fi
239     \ifx\ACCSUPP@ActualText\relax
240     \else
241       /ActualText\ACCSUPP@ActualText
242     \fi
243     \ifx\ACCSUPP@E\relax
244     \else
245       /E\ACCSUPP@E
246     \fi
247     >>%
248   }%
249   \ACCSUPP@bdc
250   \ACCSUPP@space
251   \endgroup
252 }
253 \newcommand*{\EndAccSupp}[1]{%
254   \begingroup
255   \setkeys{ACCSUPP}{#1}%
256   \ACCSUPP@emc
257   \endgroup
258 }
259 \def\ACCSUPP@space{%
260   \ifACCSUPP@space
261     \begingroup
262     \ifundefined{ACCSUPP@Font}{%
263       \global\font\ACCSUPP@Font=\ACCSUPP@spacefont\relax
264     }{}%
265     \leavevmode
266     \setbox\z@\hbox{\ACCSUPP@Font\char\ACCSUPP@spacechar}%
267     \wd\z@\z@
268     \ht\z@\z@
269     \dp\z@\z@

```

```

270      \copy\z@%
271      \endgroup%
272  \fi%
273 }%
274 \newcommand*{\AccSuppSetup}{%
275   \setkeys{ACCSUPP}{%
276 }

3.4.1 Input methods

277 \def\ACCSUPP@method@plain#1{%
278   \csname @safe@activestrue\endcsname%
279   \edef#1{%
280     %
281     \ifACCSUPP@unicode%
282       \string\376\string\377%
283     \fi%
284     #1%
285   )%
286 }%
287 \onelevel@sanitize#1%
288 }%

289 \def\ACCSUPP@method@escape#1{%
290   \EdefEscapeString#1{%
291     \ifACCSUPP@unicode%
292       ^^fe^^ff%
293     \fi%
294     #1%
295   }%
296   \edef#1{(#1)}%
297 }%

298 \def\ACCSUPP@method@hex#1{%
299   \edef#1{%
300     <%
301     \ifACCSUPP@unicode%
302       FFFF%
303     \fi%
304     #1%
305     >%
306   }%
307 }%

308 \def\ACCSUPP@method@pdfstringdef#1{%
309   \ifACCSUPP@unicode%
310     \@ifundefined{hypersetup}{}{%
311       \hypersetup{unicode}%
312     }%
313   \fi%
314   \@ifundefined{pdfstringdef}{}{%
315     \PackageError{accsupp}{%
316       Method ‘pdfstringdef’ requires package ‘hyperref’%
317     }%
318     \let\ACCSUPP@temp\empty%
319   }%
320   \begingroup%
321     \setbox0=\hbox{%
322       \pdfstringdef\ACCSUPP@temp#1%
323       \global\let\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@temp%
324     }%

```

```

325     \endgroup
326   }%
327   \edef#1{(\ACCSUPP@temp)}%
328 }

329 \ACCSUPP@AtEnd%
330 
```

3.5 Drivers

3.5.1 Driver `pdftex`

```

331 <*pdftex>
332 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
333 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-pdftex.def}%
334   [2019/12/05 v0.6 accsupp driver for pdfTeX (HO)]%

335 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
336   \pdfliteral\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{\ACCSUPP@span BDC}%
337 }
338 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
339   \pdfliteral\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{EMC}%
340 }

341 
```

3.5.2 Driver `lualatex`

```

342 <*lualatex>
343 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
344 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-lualatex.def}%
345   [2019/12/05 v0.6 accsupp driver for pdfTeX (HO)]%

346 \protected\def\ACCSUPP@pdf@literal{\pdfextension literal}
347 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
348   \ACCSUPP@pdf@literal\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{\ACCSUPP@span BDC}%
349 }
350 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
351   \ACCSUPP@pdf@literal\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{EMC}%
352 }

353 
```

3.5.3 Driver `dvipdfm`

```

354 <*dvipdfm>
355 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
356 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-dvipdfm.def}%
357   [2019/12/05 v0.6 accsupp driver for dvipdfm (HO)]%

358 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
359   \special{pdf:content \ACCSUPP@span BDC}%
360 }
361 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
362   \special{pdf:content EMC}%
363 }

364 
```

3.5.4 Driver `dvips`

```

365 <*dvips>
366 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
367 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-dvips.def}%
368   [2019/12/05 v0.6 accsupp driver for dvips (HO)]%
```

```

369 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
370   \special{ps:[\ACCSUPP@span/BDC pdfmark]}%
371 }
372 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
373   \special{ps:[/EMC pdfmark]}%
374 }
375 </dvips>

```

4 Installation

4.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN¹:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/accsupp/accsupp.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/accsupp/accsupp.pdf](#) Documentation.

Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘accsupp’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/accsupp.tds.zip](#)

TDS refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for T_EX Files” ([CTAN:pkg/tds](#)). Directories with `texmf` in their name are usually organized this way.

4.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the `accsupp.tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip accsupp.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

4.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain T_EX:

```
tex accsupp.dtx
```

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

<code>accsupp.sty</code>	→ <code>tex/latex/accsupp/accsupp.sty</code>
<code>accsupp-pdftex.def</code>	→ <code>tex/latex/accsupp/accsupp-pdftex.def</code>
<code>accsupp-luatex.def</code>	→ <code>tex/latex/accsupp/accsupp-luatex.def</code>
<code>accsupp-dvipdfm.def</code>	→ <code>tex/latex/accsupp/accsupp-dvipdfm.def</code>
<code>accsupp-dvips.def</code>	→ <code>tex/latex/accsupp/accsupp-dvips.def</code>
<code>accsupp.pdf</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/accsupp/accsupp.pdf</code>
<code>accsupp-example1.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/accsupp/accsupp-example1.tex</code>
<code>accsupp-example2.tex</code>	→ <code>doc/latex/accsupp/accsupp-example2.tex</code>
<code>accsupp.dtx</code>	→ <code>source/latex/accsupp/accsupp.dtx</code>

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`’s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

¹[CTAN:pkg/accsupp](#)

4.4 Refresh file name databases

If your TeX distribution (TeX Live, mikTeX, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, TeX Live users run `texhash` or `mktexlsr`.

4.5 Some details for the interested

Unpacking with L^AT_EX. The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

plain TeX: Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

L^AT_EX: Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using L^AT_EX for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need L^AT_EX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{accsupp.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

Generating the documentation. You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdfL^AT_EX:

```
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist accsupp.idx
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist accsupp.idx
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
```

5 References

- [1] Adobe Systems Incorporated, *PDF Reference*, 6th edition, 2006. http://www.adobe.com/devnet/acrobat/pdfs/pdf_reference.pdf

6 History

[2007/03/21 v0.1]

- First version.

[2007/11/14 v0.2]

- Various bug fixes.
- Catcode section rewritten, test added.

[2010/01/16 v0.3]

- `\AccSuppSetup` added.
- Options `space`, `spacefont`, `spacechar` added.

[2016/05/16 v0.4]

- Documentation updates.

[2018/03/28 v0.5]

- LuaTeX support added.

[2019/12/05 v0.6]

- Documentation updates.

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