

Geany \LaTeX – A \LaTeX plugin for Geany

Version 0.4

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1 About the plugin

Geany \LaTeX is a little plugin to improve support of \LaTeX on Geany. It implements a couple of maybe useful functions:

- Wizard to create new \LaTeX documents in a fast and easy way with a bunch of templates available
- A front end for add labels `\label` and references `\ref` and `\pageref` with getting suggestion from aux file of document
- Inserting special characters through menu
- Help entering the right field for BibTeX entries by providing templates
- Easy inserting format patterns like `\texttt` through menu
- Support on inserting environments by offering an dialog and recognising selections
- Shortcuts for inserting `\item` and `\newline`

2 Requirements

For compiling the plugin yourself, you will need the GTK ($\geq 2.6.0$) libraries and header files. You will also need its dependency libraries and header files, such as Pango, Glib and ATK. All these files are available at <http://www.gtk.org>.

And obviously, you will need have Geany with its header files installed (in case you are compiling the plugin on your own). If you have Geany installed from the sources, you should be ready to go. If you used a prepared package e.g. from your distribution you probably need to install an additional package, this might be called `geany-dev` or `geany-devel`. Please note that in order to compile and use this plugin, you need Geany 0.16 or later (Geany Plugin API v130 or higher).

Furthermore you need, of course, a C compiler and the Make tool. The GNU versions of these tools are recommended. Also there should be a working \LaTeX -environment on your System.

There is no special need in RAM or CPU so the plugin should run on all systems Geany is able to run.

3 Installation

Compiling and installing the code is done by the following three commands:

```
$ ./configure
$ make
$ make install %s
```

For more configuration details run `./configure --help`

If there are any errors during compilation, check your build environment and try to find the error, otherwise contact one of the authors¹

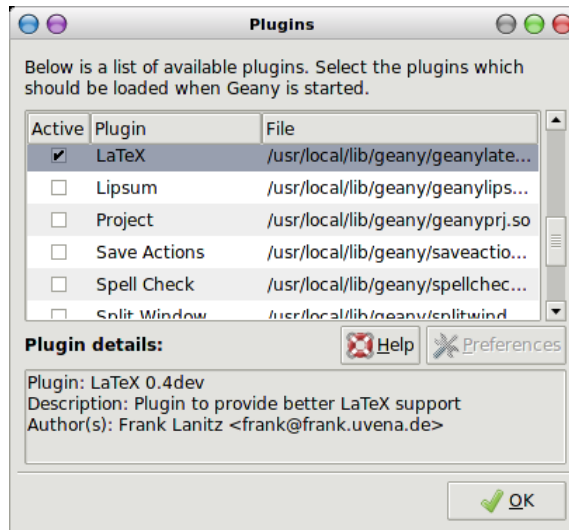


Figure 1: Plugin manager with Geany \LaTeX of Geany 0.16

4 Usage

After Geany \LaTeX has been installed successfully the plugin can be loaded through Geany's plugin manager and a new sub menu in the Tools menu will appear as well as new key bindings will be available inside Geany's key binding interface. Inside the sub menu you will find entries for functions supported by this version of the plugin. It will be called \LaTeX .

5 Features

Go into more detail on some features.

5.1 \LaTeX -Wizard

The \LaTeX -Wizard is implementing a easy way creating a number of default documents.

Document types that are currently supported by the wizard are:

- book
- report
- article
- letter (default letter class)
- presentation (\LaTeX beamer)

This can be set by choosing the needed entry form **Documentclass** pulldown menu.

Encoding is configuring the packages `inputenc` to for example `\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}` in case of the document encoding should be UTF-8. Also it sets the encoding Geany is using for the newly created document.

¹Contact data can be found at chapter 12, page 10.

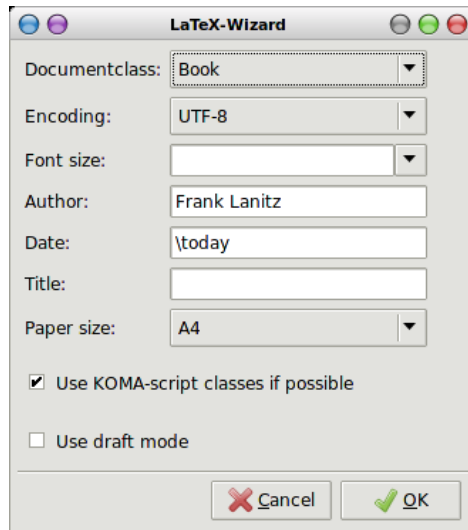


Figure 2: \LaTeX -Wizard of version 0.4

Font size as well as **Paper size** will set class option for font/paper size of the new created document. **Author**, **Date**, **Title** will be also passed to the corresponding command inside the file header.

Option **Use draft mode** will add `draft` to list of document options which allows some help during debugging of document.

Since KOMA script is quiet popular the option **Use KOMA script if possible** allows to activate the usage of KOMA script. If this options is activated instead of `book`, `scrbook` will be used as document class. Default is activated here.

The dialog can also be called by a shortcut. Please have a look onto section 6.1, page 7.

5.2 Inserting and replacing of special characters

At replacing a selected text will be parsed and all known special characters will be replaced by their \TeX substitute. This can be very useful on importing a large amount of text into your document including characters like `ö` or `»`. This can be also called using a keybinding (see 6.1, page 7).

5.3 Inserting References and Labels

An often used feature on writing of documents is adding and referring to labels. Geany \LaTeX is adding some support here for more comfortable adding new labels and reference offering a GUI.

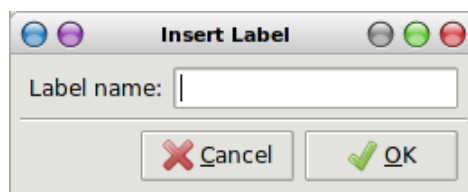


Figure 3: Insert label dialog on Geany \LaTeX 0.4

After an label was added Geany \LaTeX is offering a dialog for inserting normal references and page references to an label.

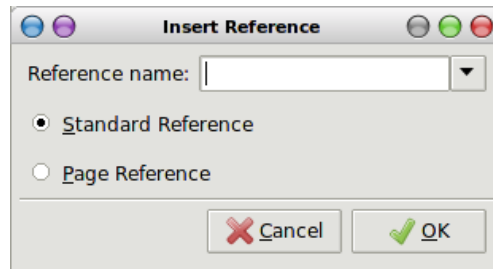


Figure 4: Insert reference dialog on Geany \LaTeX 0.4

The suggestions inside the pull down are based on the aux file creating by processing of *.tex file. The plugin is searching for a aux file for the current open *.tex file inside current directory. When first step was successful the file is parsed for `\newlabel{\}{\}{\}` and tries to interpret them properly. The found entries will be inserted into pull down sorted by alphabet.

Both, the inserting labels as well as the inserting reference dialog can be accessed by key binding also. See chapter 6.1 and 6.1 here.

5.4 BibTeX templates for catalogue entries

Geany \LaTeX is offering a number of often used templates for BibTeX catalogue entries. They can be access by the plugin submenu in Geany's tools menu:

- Article
- Book
- Booklet
- Conference
- Inbook
- Incollection
- Inproceedings
- Manual
- Mastersthesis
- Misc
- PhdThesis
- Proceedings
- Techreport
- Unpublished

When choosing an entry from list on menu a template with common used fields will be generated and inserted into the document. The template will be inserted on position of cursor which will no be moved during the process. As an example for a book, this will be inserted to the document:

```
@Book{
Author = {},
Editor = {},
Publisher = {},
Title = {},
Year = {},
}
```

5.5 Replacement of special characters

Geany \LaTeX is able to replace special characters to their \TeX substitute. This can be done in two different ways:

1. **On input:** If this switch is active all special characters will be replaced during typing of text. You can turn the switch on/off at Replacement of special characters submenu inside.
2. **Bulk replace of selected text:** A selected text will be parsed and all known special characters will be replaced by their \TeX substitute. This can be very useful on importing a large amount of text into your document including characters like ö or ». This function is available through the Replacement of special characters submenu on plugin's submenu of Geany's Tools menu.

For both functions there are also shortcuts available.

5.6 Inserting of Environment

Geany \LaTeX is offering a feature for inserting environments into your documents. It can be chosen from a pulldown menu and will be inserted at current position of cursor. If there is a selection active, the selection will be included into environment.

```
\begin{your_environment}
% ... selected text ...
\end{your_environment}
```

In case of an empty (= no selection) an empty environment with

```
\begin{your_environment}
...
\end{your_environment}
```

will be inserted to the document.

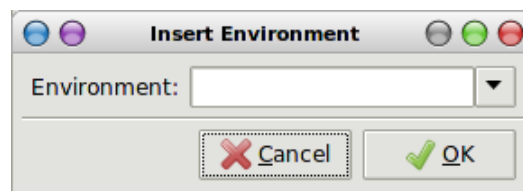


Figure 5: Insert environment dialog on Geany \LaTeX 0.4

5.7 Format

Geany \LaTeX is able to help on formation of text. For doing this its offering you to insert often use format patterns to your document. Patterns that are currently supported are:

- Italic
- Boldfont
- Underline
- Slanted
- Typewriter
- Small Caps
- Emphasis

Geany \LaTeX will add the correct format pattern to the document. If there is an selection active, that pattern will be placed around so the selected text will be formatted with this chosen style.

6 Configuration

No general configuration is needed to use the plugin. Nevertheless if you want improve and make usage of all feature, you can define some key bindings using Geany's key binding interface from inside the preferences dialog.

6.1 Key bindings

Keybindings which are available:

Table 1: List of available keybindings

Shortcut	Description
Run LaTeX-Wizard	Starts the LaTeX-Wizard for creating a new document
Insert \label	Runs the dialog for inserting a new label into your document.
Insert \ref	Starts an dialog for easy inserting \ref and \pageref into your document. The dialog is supporting easy parsing of aux files so it can suggest a couple of already set labels.
Insert linebreak \\	Inserts a a newline \\ into the document.
Turn input replacement on/off	A shortcut for turning input replacement on or off. When input replacement is activated special characters like € are replaced by there T _E X substitute like \v{e}
Replacement of special characters	A selected text will be parsed and all known special characters will be replaced by their T _E X substitute. This can be very useful on importing a large amount of text into your document including characters like ö or ».
Run insert environment dialog	Runs a dialog for easy inserting an environment. If there is some text selected, the environment will be placed around.
Insert \item	This shortcut will add an simple \item to the document. This can be very useful during writing of lists with a huge number of items.
Format selection in bold font face	Format a selection with bold font face. This is done be adding \textbf{...} around selection.
Format selection in italic font face	Format a selection with italic font face. This is done be adding \textit{...} around selection.
Format selection in typewriter font face	Format a selection with typewriter font face. This is done be adding \texttt{...} around selection.

7 Donating to the plugin

If you like the plugin, there are a number of ways, hwo to donate the development of the plugin.

7.1 Extending plugin

7.1.1 Adding a new translation

Currently the plugin is available in English and German language but we are always looking for other translations to. There are two major topics in translation:

1. **Translation of plugin:** Adding a new translation and improving an existing one is easy to do. After catching the source tarball and extracting you can find all needed files inside the po folder. Please contact the authors if you plan to update/add a translation to ensure nobody else is currently working on and avoid double work and to get some further information about translation (see chapter 12).
2. **Translation of documentation:** Since this document is currently only available in English it would be helpful for not English speaking people to have a translated version. If you like to do an translation, please also contact one of the authors for details (see chapter 12).

7.1.2 Adding a new feature

New features are always highly welcome. The TODO file inside source code archive gives a good idea of current wished features and which are being worked on. Also you can have a look onto the feature request tracker of geany-plugins project at http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?group_id=222729 whether you find something interesting. Of course we are also open for not in the sources mentioned before listed items. Just contact one of the authors (see chapter 12).

7.2 Testing & bug reporting

Geany \LaTeX is tested mainly on x86 and x86.64 architecture running GNU/Linux. Also it was tested on some Windows 32 versions like XP SP3 very briefly. Since there are also other systems available, testing on other platforms and maybe reporting of issues is highly appreciate.

7.3 Packaging

Geany \LaTeX is part of the geany-plugins project even though there are releases independent of a major release of the project. Therefor there are two things you can do here:

1. Package the plugin for your operating system or distribution. As you might can imagine, the authors unfortunately cannot support all possible platforms.
2. Help to keep releases and packages of geany-plugins project up to date for current version of Geany.

7.4 Improving and extending of documentation

Documentation is never complete. There are spelling mistakes, paragraphs that needs to be extended or rewritten because they are not clear or topics that were missed out at all.

The documentation is written in \LaTeX so all you need is to get the tex file from doc folder and add or update the content. After this, just send a diff or complete file to one of the authors.

7.5 Propaganda

And of course, tell others of Geany and this plugin. If you like to do a talk about Geany \LaTeX and/or Geany in general, there is some code available on <http://git.geany.org/talks/> you might can use as a start point for preparing your own presentation. If your favourite language is not yet available there, please feel free to do your own translation and in best case send your translation to one of Geany's² development team so it can be added to archive.

8 Development

8.1 Development version

You can checkout the current source code from the Subversion repository at Sourceforge.net. Get the code from:

svn checkout <http://geany-plugins.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/geany-plugins/trunk/geanylatex>

²Check for addresses <http://www.geany.org>

8.1.1 Sending a patch

If you want to create a patch, please respect the license of Geany \LaTeX as well as intellectual property of third. Patches that should be included to the default distribution must be licensed under the same conditions as Geany \LaTeX by the copyright owner.

9 Known issues

At time of the the documentation was created no issue were known. Since this is only a snapshot, you will find more recent information for all reported issues bug tracking system of SF at

http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?group_id=222729

10 Recommendations to improve work with \LaTeX and Geany

Geany is offering a number of nice features, that can be used to make daily work more easy without need to write a new plugin or extend Geany \LaTeX .

10.1 Geany's code snippet function

Geany is allowing you to define code snippets and inserting them easy during writing a document. This gives you some more flexibility than to create new commands.

A possible snippet for snippets.conf could be:

```
[LaTeX]
frame=\begin{frame}\n%ws%\frametitle{%cursor%}\n%ws%%cursor%\n\end{frame}
block=\begin{block}{%cursor%}\n%ws%%cursor%\n\end{block}
itemize=\begin{itemize}\n%ws%\item %cursor%\n\end{itemize}
enumerate=\begin{enumerate}\n%ws%\item %cursor%\n\end{enumerate}
description=\begin{description}\n%ws%\item %cursor%\n\end{description}
```

A snapshot of authors' last version for LaTeX can be found on <http://www.geany.org/Download/Extras>

10.2 Other useful plugins

As mentioned before a number of useful functions were already implemented with other plugins. Below you will find a list with the authors's recommendations. More nice plugins can be found on Geany's plugins page at <http://www.geany.org>.

10.2.1 GeanyLipsum

This plugin implements an easy way for inserting Lorem Ipsum text into a document. The length of the inserted text if configurable so the plugin can be very helpful on testing layout.

Homepage: <http://frank.uvena.de/en/Geany/geanylipsum/>

10.2.2 geanyVC

When working on bigger documents an version control system like Subversion could be useful to keep versions. GeanyVC is adding a easy to use frontend for a number of popular version controll systems such as git, Subversion, CVS, Bazaar or Mercurial.

Homepage: <http://plugins.geany.org/geanyvc/>

10.2.3 tasks out of the addons plugins

A plugin that is recognising `TODO` or `FIXME` tags inside a document and allows to easy jump to these entries. This function is similar to the `todo` package but doesn't require recompiling of the document. Recognised tags will be inserted to another tab in Geany's message widget.

11 License

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12 Bugs, questions, homepage

If you found any bugs or want to provide a patch, please contact Frank Lanitz ([frank\(at\)geany\(dot\)org](mailto:frank(at)geany(dot)org)). Please also do so, if you got any questions and visiting <http://frank.uvena.de/en/Geany/geanylatex/> didn't help you to figure out the answer. Visiting the website is also a good start if you want to check for any update on this plugin.