

LaTeX

LaTeX is an immensely powerful typesetting package. It is not a word processor, and is in many ways superior to any word processing package, except for one thing. It is hard to get started.

I am going to discuss two ways to make that getting started easier

- how to build your own LaTeX class to style reports as you would like them
- how to generate LaTeX documents (and pdfs) straight from text files.

Classes

LaTeX looks like this

```
\documentclass{article}
\begin{document}
Hello World
\end{document}
```

Then discuss packages, classes, making pdfs etc.

Getting hold of LaTeX

Writing Own class

There are two types of file that contain user-defined style information - classes (*.cls*) and packages (*.sty*). A package can be included with any kind of class (article, book) and it will work sensibly. It usually includes things like author information. A class is much harder to work with other classes - a book class will work badly if it tries to coexist with a newsletter class.

We want a business-report class, that we shall use to define how all the memos and reports we send out to the business shall look. It will try and mimic a Word document as corporate style usually gets defined like that.

starting <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/advice/latex.html> <http://www.ccrnp.ncifcrf.gov/~toms/latexforbeginners.html>
<http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/~matloff/LaTeX/LookHereFirst.html>

texlive

<http://www.tex.ac.uk/cgi-bin/texfaq2html?label=dvips-pdf> <http://www-h.eng.cam.ac.uk/help/tpl/textprocessing/>
<http://online.redwoods.cc.ca.us/instruct/darnold/StaffDev/Index.htm> <http://www.ling.upenn.edu/advice/latex.html>
understanding fonts