Minimalist User Guide to Write Ph.D. Thesis

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1 Introduction

The aim of this manuscript is to guide the new user to understand and to progress in the use of LaTeX.

2 Installation

There are many possibilities to compile a LaTeXdocument. Texlive is widely available and it is easy to install. Texlive is available on most Unix-like distributions such as OpenBSD and FreeBSD. But, Texlive is also available on other platforms, such as Windows, Mac and Linux.

The most simple, efficient, method to install texlive is to use apt-get on Devuan based systems. The command look as follows:

- apt-get install –no-install-recommends texlive

You would have an editor that allow you to write on terminal, X11, but also on operating systems, such as Mac OS X or Windows. If you would like to work anywhere on any operating system, a good choice is to install the editor **vim**, which is available on most platforms. There is also a great editor **emacs** is very powerful. Both are good companions of Texlive.

This method will allow you to install required packages of about 150 Mb for Texlive and less than 50 Mb for **vim**.

3 Description

There are several templates for Ph.d. thesis, which are available in the reference Spartrekus [1]. It describes 11 examples of Ph.d. thesis templates. The first templates are very basic and it allows make a less complex manuscript.

The example 05 gives a cover with a picture of the university. The examples, numbered with more than ex.6, are more complex and they give a beautiful looking.

The most difficult part is probably the references which need to be formatted in order appearance. There is a nice example from Spartrekus [2]. This example gives a Makefile, which allows to automatically bring the manuscript in form, and to display it using mupdf.

4   Conclusion

The main results of this manuscript were to give a short overview of LATEXand to give a minimalist approach to build simple manuscripts. It gave several information about:

- Installation of Texlive on a Devuan based system

- Possible choice of editor such as **vim** and **emacs**

- Good starting examples for Ph.D. templates, which can be later adapted depending on user preferences.

- Simple method to build the references of the manuscript, avoiding software bloat and without having large installation.

- The installation and method are based on well known softwares, which have more than 20 years of user application (vim, emacs, bibtex,...).

References

[1] Spartrekus, "Phd thesis templates," 2017. `https://github.com/spartrekus/Phd-Thesis-Simple-Examples`.

[2] Spartrekus, "Using cross-referencing," 2017. `https://github.com/spartrekus/Tiny-minimal-example-for-references-latex`.