

INTRODUCTION



In the following we describe, the motivation, architecture and implementation of `mato`. `mato` is a set of tools to transform markdown formatted text into pdf files. It uses `groff`, GNU `roff`, for the production of pdfs.

Motivation

Here in this section, we present the motivation for creating `mato`. Please see [later](#)

Rendering performance

Using `groff` was primarily motivated by its very quick rendering times, as opposed to LaTeX for example. A prior version of `mato` even used LaTeX as a backend, or rendering engine. But upon trying `groff` it quickly became apparent, that it gave much better response times.

Installation size

But in addition to that, installation size of the rendering backend dependencies drove the decision to use `groff`. Modern LaTeX distributions, like TeX-Live can easily take up above 1GB of disk space and be very unwieldy to handle.

Community

Another point, why we chose `groff` is its really active and live community. The mailing list has constant activity and since quite some time the code base is being developed rather constantly.

Bugs that were reported are being addressed thoroughly and quickly. And discussions are friendly and in a welcoming tone.

ARCHITECTURE

In the [previous section](#) , we presented the motivation, why we

created mato.

IMPLEMENTATION

CONCLUSION