The tufte-style-article class Sylvain Kern July 22, 2022

https://github.com/sylvain-kern/tufte-style-article

tufte-style-article is a Lass with a design similar to Edward Tufte's works. His designs are known for their simplicty, legibleness, extensive use of sidenotes in a wide dedicated margin and tight text and graphic integration. This class is however not a rigourous copy of E.Tufte's works, it is more of an inspiration. It also includes design features from *The Elements of Typographic Style*.¹

This documentation gives a glimpse of what the class looks like and does, while explaining how to install and use it. I tried to make it as exhaustive as I could; some parts can however still be unexplained or so do not hesitate to ask me if something remains unclear. I tested it on several LTEX distributions, but it can still spit unexpected errors. Feel free to ask me for information or report a malfunction if you encounter one!

I am aware that numerous Tufte or Bringhurst-based classes exist within the Lagent nerds community, I just wanted to create my own to really dig in this design grammar. Eventually, this is just my take on what I find well-presented and eye-pleasing in a document. Everybody can feel free to adapt, customize, or contribute to this class.

Before I dive into the details, I want to thank the members of tex.stackexchange.com, who are basically an endless source of knowledge. They basically prevented me from give up upon the first issue.

Edward Tufte is a statistician, computer scientist and professor at Yale University. His personal website: www.edwardtufte.com

1 ROBERT BRINGHURST, The Elements of Typographic Style, 1999.

See section 4 for known issues, questions about this class and bug reporting.

I give some information for contributors on section 3.

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1 Presentation and usage

For a minimal example of the features, see minimal.tex.

Dependencies

Here are the packages already loaded, so there is no need to re-include them in your document:

 droidsansmono geometry amsmath emptypage ragged2e mathtools fullwidth titlesec physics sidenotes titletoc xcolor caption tocloft mdframed fontenc fancyhdr tabularx libertinus booktabs graphicx libertinust1math microtype enumitem gillius amsfonts hyperref

etoolbox

- changepage
- · placeins
- xparse
- xpatch
- храссп
- biblatex
- · listings

Class definition and options

This class is named tufte-style-article. The preamble is therfore written as follows.

\documentclass[<options>]{tufte-style-article}

outer corner.

It is inherited from the article class, so all the options of the latter fit in tufte-style-article's options. There are also new ones for this class, which are:

raggedright Makes all paragraphs align on the left without right-justification, as it is the case in this very document.

parskip Separates paragraphs with a vertical space instead of indenting so that all text is rigorously left-aligned.

noheaders Deletes the current section reminder on page

header, just displays the page number on the top

E.Tufte prefers left over full justification because it reduces the variation of spaces between words. The irregularities on the right makes the lines also easier to follow. However, R.Bringhurst fully justifies the main text in his *Elements*, so I decided to give this choice to the user. Both indent paragraphs on the first line, except just after title headers.

THE BIG MARGIN 4

casual Makes all sections numberless. Puts them natively in the toc anyway.

sans Turns the font to sans serif Source Sans Pro, for extreme casualness.

colorful Brings a bit of color.

notufte Remove margins. Turns sidenotes to footnotes and makes figure captions appear under them.

Appropried for small casual reports or for pandoc conversion.

The big margin

As one may have noticed, there is a big outer margin, a design feature present in all E.Tufte's works but also in the *Elements of Typographic style*. I find this design –a *1.5-column* setup– to have many advantages over a regular one-column setup. Here are a few reasons why.

- The main text block has a reduced width of about thirteen words per line, which makes the eyes follow the lines easier.
- The layout is less constrained thanks to the negative space freed in the margin.
- The margin can be used to place elements that would break the main prose, such as sidenotes,² captions of figures, tables and other stuff, and even small figures. This tidies up the main text area while making margin stuff immediately noticeable, but not disturbing.
- The overall text-image inclusion comes tighter and more natural. All in all, this design is neither too crowded as everything is at its place, nor too empty due to huge blank margins.

To insert a numbered margin note, use \sidenote{<your note>}. This gives the following result in the margin.³

To insert an unnumbered piece of text in the margin, use \sidetext{<your text>}, which gives the following result in the margin.

All pieces of text in the margin are in \footnotesize and \raggedright, as defined in this class' macros.

To insert raw, unformatted text or graphics or whatever in the margin, use the command

\marginpar{<unformatted margin text>} and it will look like what appears here in the margin. Note how it is the same size as the main text.

2 Hello there!

3 This is a numbered note.

This is unnumbered margin text.

This is just unformatted text in the margin. It is in \nor-malsize, which makes it stick out way too much.

PARAGRAPHS 5

Paragraphs

The main text is structured in paragraphs. They can be left-aligned as it is the case here, or fully justified according to your taste, depending on the given class options. Likewise, the paragraphs are whether indented or separated with a vertical space.

The indents are one em wide, *i.e.* the size of the font in pt. If you choose a 11 pt size in the options declaration of the class, then the indent will be 11 pt wide.

This one and the following are paragraphs with vertical space separation. It works better for documents not intended to be read linearly, or when there is few text compared to figures, equations or anything which does not fit in the prose.

The vertical space looks like this, with a separation of one em. This is just some more text to fill the paragraph, and give a glimpse of the overall look. Quick reminder, load the vertical separation with the \parskip option in the class definition.

There is a way to make paragraphs stretch all the way to the margins, like this one. See how it continues and reaches for the most outer or inner margin. It also works for two-sided documents so that for odd pages it stretches to the right, and for even pages it stretched to the left. Of course, side notes might be difficult to use here, and I do not predict how \sidenote and \sidetext act here, but it may become handy to have an environment stretch a bit more than the regular text span.

LETEX may not get the formatting right upon first compilation, so if that occurs, just re-execute the compiling program and it should work properly.

Fonts

The main serif font is Linux Libertine, loaded with the libertinus package. I find it really legible and well-balanced, while being less harsh than Computer Modern, the default LTEX font. libertinus has full math support too with libertinust1math; here are some examples:

$$e^x = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{x^n}{n!} ;$$

$$\frac{\hat{\vec{p}}^2}{2m} |\Psi(t)\rangle + V(\hat{\vec{r}}, t) |\Psi(t)\rangle = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\Psi(t)\rangle ;$$

Although E.Tufte uses Monotype Bembo as his main serif font, Libertine seems to be a fair alternative, from the same family, and easy to get with LATEX.

$$x_{\pm} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a};$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-\alpha x^2} \, \mathrm{d}x = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha}}.$$

$$\psi(\vec{r}) = \frac{j}{\lambda} \iint_{S} \psi(\vec{r_0}) \frac{e^{jk|\vec{r} - \vec{r_0}|}}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r_0}|} \mathrm{d}S. \tag{1}$$

The sans-serif font is Gillius from the gillius package, which is almost identical as Gill Sans, E.Tufte's choice for sans-serif and book titling. It does not clash with Libertine while being elegant and readable. It particularly suits for titles or page headers as it can be seen on this document.

The mono font is Droid Sans Mono, from the droidmono package. It has a more of a sans-serif style unlike Courier or Computer Modern Teletype, LATEX's default mono font. I find it lighter and more adapted for code snippets. The typographic gray is also about the same as Libertine, so that little urls, emails or code references typed with Droid Sans will not stick out in the serif text.⁴

Figures, tables and floating stuff

The integration of floats with the Tufte layout is handled with the sidenotes package, loaded with the class definition. The following paragraphs show how to basically use the macros, and for more information, see the package documentation at https://www.ctan.org/pkg/sidenotes.

Figure integration

Edward Tufte's designs are known to be really tight when it comes to including images with text. The main pet peeve I had with one-column designs is when I included a small figure in the document, it had to visually break the text and generate large unpleasing blank spaces. Also, more often than not, the text width was too much for the images, resulting in huge one-liner captions for very small figures.

For examples of code writing with this class, see section code.

4 If you want inline pieces of code to stick out, don't worry, macros are provided. See section code. The 1.5-column design fixes this by putting all captions in the margins, as well as small enough figures, which tidies the document a lot.

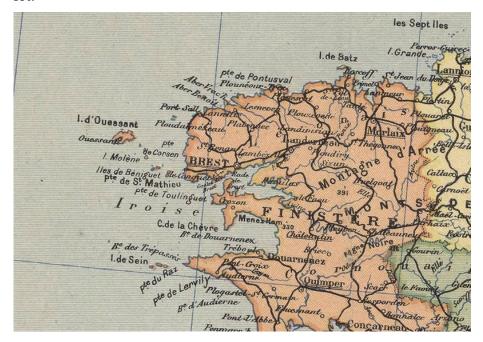


Figure 1. 1919 map of the Finistère in French Brittany. This figure is in the main text column, with a caption in the margin aligned with the top of the image. For images narrower than the text width, they will be outer-aligned so that they remain just next their caption.

To put a graphics in the text like in the figure 1, use⁵

```
\begin{figure}
  \sidecaption{<caption>\label{<label>}} % put this on top
  % \label HAS to be inside the \sidecaption
  \includegraphics[]{<>} % or tikz or anything
\end{figure}
```

To put a figure in the margin like the figure 2, use

```
\begin{marginfigure}
  \includegraphics[]{<>} % or tikz or anything
  \caption{<caption>\label{<label>}}
\end{figure}
```

For wide figures like the figure 3, use

```
\begin{figure*}
  \includegraphics[]{<>} % or tikz or anything
  \sidecaption{<caption>\label{<label>}}
```

5 The \label has to be inside the \sidecaption command, otherwise references with \ref won't work.

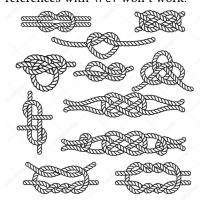
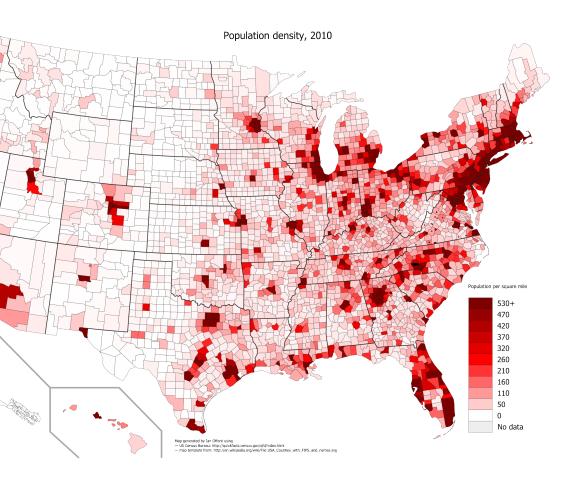


Figure 2. The most common sea boat knots. This image can be displayed rather small, so it fits in the margin. The caption is displayed below.

\end{figure*}



Shortcuts

I find typing figure environments repetitive for long (even short) documents, so I made the following macro for figures with \sidecaptions:

\textfig[<optional width>]{<file path>}{<caption>}{<label>}

The <optional width> is a number between zero and one wich determines the image width relative to the text width. The default value is 1, like on the figure 1.

The same macros are provided for images in the magins and wide images, respectively shown in figures 2 and 3.

Figure 3. The US census map from data collected in 2010 – www.ecpmlangues.u-strasbg.fr
This is a wide figure, stretching from the innermost to the outermost margin.

```
% figure in the margin
\marginfig[<optional width>]{<file path>}{<caption>}{<label>}
% wide figure
\widefig[<optional width>]{<file path>}{<caption>}{<label>}
```

If for any reason a figure caption has to be put in the main text block, just use the regular figure environment. The following shortcut macros will also do. The result of \plainfig is shown in figure 4.

```
% plain figure with textwidth
\plainfig[<optional width>]{<file path>}{<caption>}{<label>}
% plain figure with full width
\plainwidefig[<optional width>]{<file path>}{<caption>}{<
    label>}
```

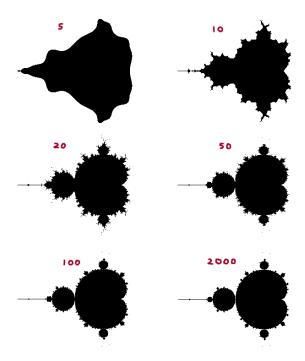


Figure 4. The Mandelbrot set with different depths of iteration. This caption is not in the margin but in the main text area. It can sometimes be useful with really really long captions. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris. Nam arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetuer id, vulputate a, magna. Donec vehicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo. Cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices. Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat. Integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus. Morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci dignissim rutrum.

Tables

Table environments work the same as figures, as is is shown in tables 1 and 2.

To typeset the table 1, use the following code, which is just a table environment with a \sidecaption. For table 2, use the table* environment with either \sidecaption or \caption.\FloatBarrier is there to make sure the floats appear in order. ⁶

^{6 \}FloatBarrier works for all floating environments, including figures.

The Standard model of Elementary Particles.

Three generati	Interactions (bosons)			
I	II	III		
	QUARKS		GAUGE	SCALAR
u up	c charm	t top	g gluon	H higgs
d down	s strange LEPTONS	b bottom	γ photon Z boson	
$oldsymbol{e}$ electron $oldsymbol{v_e}$ el. neutrino	μ muon ν_{μ} mu. neutrino	$τ$ tau $ν_τ$ tau neutrino	W boson	

Table 1. The elementary particles included in the standard model. This is a table with a \sidecaption.

port de Douarnenez (Finistère).

2021	Sam.	24 juille	t 2021		Dim.	25 juillet	2021	Lun. 2	26 juille	t 2021
coef.	heure	hauteu	coef.		heure	hauteur	coef.	heure	hauteu	r coef.
81	05:46	6.24	88	рm	00:21	0.92		01:08	0.88	
	11:55	1.19		Ьm	06:34	6.34	92	07:19	6.33	92
85	18:06	6.59	91	рm	12:41	1.10		13:26	1.12	
				bm	18:52	6.67	93	19:36	6.63	91

```
\begin{table}[!htb]\small
```

\sidecaption{The elementary particles included in the
standard model. This is a table with a \texttt{\
textbackslash sidecaption}.\label{tab:table-text}}
\begin{tabular}{llll}

\toprule

\multicolumn{3}{1}{\textbf{Three generations of
matter (fermions)}} & \multicolumn{2}{1}{\textbf{
Interactions (bosons)}} \\

I & II & III & & \\

\multicolumn{3}{c}{\textsc{quarks}} & \textsc{gauge}

& \textsc{scalar} \\

\textbf{u}~~up & \textbf{c}~~charm & \textbf{t}~~top

& \textbf{g}~~gluon & \textbf{H}~~higgs \\

Table 2. Table des marées à Douarnenez du 23 au 26 juillet 2021, Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine, maree. shom. fr.

This is a wide table, called with the table* environment. The caption is also a \sidecaption.

```
\begin{table*}[!htb]\small\sffamily
   \multicolumn{14}{l}{\textbf{Table des marees au port
   de Douarnenez (Finistere).}} \\
       \toprule
           & \multicolumn{3}{c}{\textbf{Ven. 23 juillet
   2021}} & \multicolumn{3}{c}{\textbf{Sam. 24 juillet}
   2021}} & & \multicolumn{3}{c}{\textbf{Dim. 25 juillet}
   2021}} & \multicolumn{3}{c}{\textbf{Lun. 26 juillet}
   2021}} \\
           & heure & hauteur & coef. & heure & hauteur &
   coef. & & heure & hauteur & coef. & heure & hauteur &
   coef. \\
       \cmidrule(lr){2-4}\cmidrule(lr){5-7}\cmidrule(lr)
   {9-11}\cmidrule(lr){12-14}
       \textsc{bm} & 04:54 & 6.06 & 81 & 05:46 & 6.24 & 88 &
    \textsc{pm} & 00:21 & 0.92 & & 01:08 & 0.88 & \\
       \textsc{pm} & 11:05 & 1.38 & & 11:55 & 1.19 & & \
   textsc{bm} & 06:34 & 6.34 & 92 & 07:19 & 6.33 & 92 \\
       \textsc{bm} & 17:17 & 6.39 & 85 & 18:06 & 6.59 & 91 &
    \textsc{pm} & 12:41 & 1.10 & & 13:26 & 1.12 & \\
       \textsc{pm} & 23:33 & 1.10 & & & & \textsc{bm}
   & 18:52 & 6.67 & 93 & 19:36 & 6.63 & 91 \\
       \bottomrule
   \end{tabularx}
   \sidecaption{%
       %
```

```
}
\end{table*}\FloatBarrier
```

To produce tables in the margin like table 3, use the margintable environment like in the following.

```
\begin{margintable}[]\small
    \caption{Major, minor and perfect music intervals. ST.
   stands for \textit{semitones}. This table is in the
   margin. \label{tab:table-margin}}
    \begin{tabular}{rl}
        \toprule
        \textbf{ST.} & \textbf{Intervals} \\
        \midrule
        0 & unison \\
        1 & minor second \\
        2 & major second \\
        3 & minor third \\
        4 & major third \\
        5 & perfect fourth \\
        6 & aug. 4\textsuperscript{th} / dim. 5\
   textsuperscript{th} \\
        7 & perfect fifth \\
        8 & minor sixth \\
        9 & major sixth \\
        10 & minor seventh \\
        11 & major seventh \\
        12 & octave \\
        \bottomrule
    \end{tabular}
\end{margintable}
```

Table 3. Major, minor and perfect music intervals. ST. stands for *semitones*. This table is in the margin.

ST.	Intervals
0	unison
1	minor second
2	major second
3	minor third
4	major third
5	perfect fourth
6	aug. 4 th / dim. 5 th
7	perfect fifth
8	minor sixth
9	major sixth
10	minor seventh
11	major seventh
12	octave

CODE 14

Code

Code can be inserted, whether with simple code boxes or captioned snippets that look like the following.

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
   printf("Hello world!");
   return 0;
}
```

Listing 1. Hello world in C. This is a captioned code snippet.

The background is a light gray that helps make the code stick out just enough without distracting the eye too much. The code itself is syntax colored according to the used language. There are several environments for code boxes, explained below.

For a simple code box with neither line numbering nor caption, the macro environment is the following.

```
\begin{codebox}{<your language in lowercase>}

<
Your code. It can contain all special characters such as { }
    ( ) [ ] \ % (the percent mark here is grayed just because
    on this very code box the language is set on latex)
It break lines.
It will end only when reading the %\end{codebox} below.
>
\end{codebox}
```

For a code box *with* line numbering –still without a caption– use the following environment.

```
\begin{codeboxnum}{<your language in lowercase>}
<your code>
\end{codeboxnum}
```

For captioned code snippets, the same environments exist, as shown as follows. For example, the listings ?? and 2 are respectively unnumbered and numbered code snippets.

This supports most of the classic languages. Here are some examples for the language option:

```
c,
c++,
python,
java,
latex...
```

If a specific language is not recognized, use the text option instead: it will display the code without syntax coloring.

CODE 15

```
\begin{snippet}{<language>}{<caption>}{<label>}
This code will be displayed in a captioned code box, without
    line numbering.
\end{snippet}
\begin{snippetnum}{<language>}{<caption>}{<label>}
This code will be displayed in a captioned code box, with
    line numbering.
\end{snippetnum}
```

Small pieces of code can be useful to put in flow of the text. This class provides a command to things like this: public int size() {}. Use the following to insert a piece of code in the text.

```
\inlinecode{<language>}{<your code>}
% if there are curly braces in your code
\inlinecode{<language>}_<your code>_ % or
\inlinecode{<language>}|<your code>|
```

\inlinecode does not break at lines, so be careful, it can sometimes protrude on the right margin. If it is the case, go to a new line by inserting \\ just before \inlinecode.

The following chunk is an example snippet to show the look when the code is a bit heftier. See how the box breaks at the end of the page.

```
1 #include <kernel/multiboot2.h>
2 #include <kernel/sys.h>
   static const char* tag_table[] = {
5
        "TAG END",
6
        "TAG_CMDLINE",
7
        "<unknown>",
8
        "TAG_MODULE",
9
        "TAG MEM",
10
        "TAG BOOTDEV",
11
        "TAG_MEMMAP",
12
        "TAG_VBE",
        "TAG_FB",
13
```

If the piece of code inside the \inlinecode contains curly braces, use another character to delimit your code, the same at beginning and end. Underscore (_) and pipe (|) will do fine.

Listing 2. A source code snippet of 29jm's stunningly amazing SnowflakeOS. This is a numbered code snippet that goes through several pages.

CODE 16

```
14
        "<unknown>",
        "TAG_APM",
15
        "<unknown>",
16
17
        "<unknown>",
        "<unknown>",
18
        "TAG_RSDP1",
19
        "TAG_RSDP2",
20
21 };
22
23 /* Prints the multiboot2 tags given by the bootloader.
24 */
void mb2_print_tags(mb2_t* boot) {
        if (boot->total_size <= sizeof(mb2_t)) {</pre>
27
            printke("no tags given");
28
            return;
29
       }
30
       mb2_tag_t* tag = boot->tags;
31
       mb2_tag_t* prev_tag = tag;
32
33
34
        do {
            const char* tag_name;
35
36
37
            if (tag->type < sizeof(tag_table) / sizeof(</pre>
       tag_table[0])) {
38
                tag_name = tag_table[tag->type];
            } else {
39
                tag_name = "<unknown>";
40
            }
41
42
            printk("%12s (%2d): %d bytes", tag_name, tag->type
43
        , tag->size);
44
45
            prev_tag = tag;
            tag = (mb2_tag_t*) ((uintptr_t) tag + align_to(tag
46
       ->size, 8));
        } while (prev_tag->type != MB2_TAG_END);
47
48 }
49
50 /* Returns the first multiboot2 tag of the requested type.
51 */
```

COMPILATION 17

```
mb2_tag_t* mb2_find_tag(mb2_t* boot, uint32_t tag_type) {
        mb2_tag_t* tag = boot->tags;
53
        mb2_tag_t* prev_tag = tag;
54
55
        do {
56
57
            if (tag->type == tag_type) {
58
                return tag;
59
            }
60
            prev_tag = tag;
62
            tag = (mb2_tag_t*) ((uintptr_t) tag + align_to(tag
        ->size, 8));
63
        } while (prev_tag->type != MB2_TAG_END);
64
        return NULL;
65
66 }
```

Compilation

This class compiles with pdflatex. I tested it with MiKTEX on Windows, TEX-live on Linux and Overleaf.

```
pdflatex yourdocument.tex
```

The compilation times can be quite long, especially if there is a lot of heavy code, hopefully it is not a problem for most cases.

2 Customization possibilities

Language

babel works fine, but it can sometimes change some design and layout features.⁷. To prevent babel from changing anything, use the following in the preamble –here it is shown for french, you can adapt the language.

```
\label{lem:continuous} $$ \free Small Caps Fig Tab Captions = false $$ $$ false $$
```

I am still working to optimize the class by reducing the compilation time.

7 For example, the french option changes bullet lists for dashes, indents paragraphs just after section headers, and puts figure labels to \textsc{}

3 Contribute

I am always open to improvements, so feel free to fork the repository to make this the way you want it to be. I am relatively new to LETEX, so I am eager to put the class to higher standards.

4 Known issues

In this section I gather the issues that have popped and been reported. I will try to fix them as best as I can. If you spot a malfunction of any kind in this class or you just have a question about all this, feel free to raise an issue on GitHub or send me an email at:

```
sylvain.kern98@gmail.com.
```

• When used, colorful, sans, and notufte are considered unused. It generates the following warning:

```
Unused global option(s) : colorful.
```

- Bad page breaks can still occur for \textfig{}, \widefig{}, and code snippet environments.
- · Marginpar systematically generates the following warnings:

```
Marginpar on page 1 moved.
```

- I have to work on overfull \hboxes.
- · \inlinecode and \sidenote are not friends.
- · Accented characters in listings don't work.