



A TRADITION OF  
INDEPENDENT  
THINKING



**UCC**

University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

# Markup to generate markup to generate markup

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## Better consistency for theses

### Rooter: A Methodology for the Typical Unifi- cation of Access Points and Redudnacy

JEREMY STRIBLING

Thesis submitted for the degree  
of Doctor of Philosiphy

June 2010

### The Application of XML to the Lexicography of Old, Middle and Early Modern Irish

Julianne Nyhan  
BA



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK

Thesis submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosiphy

June 2005

Supervisor: Prof Dónaladh Ó Corráin  
Head of Department/School: Prof Dermot Keogh

# **\LaTeX: the format everyone loves to hate**

**Consistent, modular, extensible**

```
\documentclass{balisage}
\begin{document}
\title{Markup to generate markup to generate markup}
\author{Peter Flynn}
\affiliation{University College Cork}
\date{6 August 2013}
\maketitle
\begin{abstract}
This paper presents an experiment in using DocBook5...
\end{abstract}
\section{Background}
The \LaTeX\ document preparation system provides...
\end{document}
```

**A closely-guarded secret known only to a select few million users**

## Consistent layouts (think schema/DTD)

- defaults (reports, books, articles, letters)
- publishers' layouts (books, journals)
- industrial formats (vertical markets)
- business formats (invoices, statements, letters)
- research formats (arts and sciences editions, theses)
- documentation

**About 400 classes publicly available**



## Modular design (think plugins)

- typefaces
- formatting variants
- metadata
- languages and writing systems
- recreation
- utilities

**About 4,000 packages available**

Automation of features which would require  
repeated manual formatting

## Extensible (think programming)

- it's a language
- it's an API
- it can be redefined and customised

## But...

- no lookahead
- only  $\text{\TeX}$  can parse it reliably
- synchronous typographic editing is rare
- it can be redefined and customised

# Authoring vs programming

In this section we focus our attention on the optical modes of GaAs\index{GaAs}-Al<sub>x</sub>Ga<sub>1-x</sub>As\index{Al<sub>x</sub>As} ( $0 \leq x \leq 1$ ) quantum wells\index{quantum well}. In studying these systems we must assign to the ternary alloy the values of the frequencies for the longitudinal optical and transverse optical modes given in section \ref{sec:data} for the GaAs (AlAs) like modes in this alloy [\ref{bib:5.1}]. The  $\beta_L$  and  $\beta_T$  parameters were estimated from the experimental curves of Wang et al. [\ref{bib:5.2}] (see section \ref{sec:data}).

```
\unskip\nobreak\hfil\penalty50
\hskip2em\hbox{\nobreak\hfil\upshape\footnotesize
\if@fullcite\relax\else\@fullcite\fi
\ifthenelse{\equal{\@quotcite}{}}{%
\if@fullcite\relax(Anon.)\fi}{%
\expandafter\opttest\@quotcite\sentinel
\ifoptarg\expandafter\cite\@quotcite
\else\cite{\@quotcite}\fi}%
\parfillskip\z@\finalhyphendemerits=0\par}%
\medskip
\endlist\@afterheading
```

# Writing class and package code

## The doc and ltxdoc packages

```
% \begin{macro}{\prelim}
% The \command{prelim} instruction creates a
% minor frontmatter (unnumbered) section.
%   \begin{macrocode}
\newcommand{\prelim}[1]{%
  \ifmadetitle\else\maketitle\fi
  \clearpage
  \section*{#1}\@mkboth{{#1}}{{#1}}%
  \addcontentsline{toc}{section}{#1}}
%   \end{macrocode}
% \end{macro}
```

A form of literate programming; creates a pair of distribution files (.dtx and .ins)

## Markup of choice for master documents

```
<annotation role="macro" xreflabel="prelim">
  <para>The <command>prelim</command>
    instruction creates a minor frontmatter
    (unnumbered) section.</para>
  <programlisting>
\newcommand{\prelim}[1]{%
\ifmadetitle\else\maketitle\fi
\clearpage
\section*{\#1}\@mkboth{{\#1}}{{\#1}}%
\addcontentsline{toc}{section}{\#1}}
  </programlisting>
</annotation>
```



## Organisational rules on classifications

|           |       |          |           |
|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| PhD       | MA    | apsoc    | Harvard   |
| LLM       | MSW   | apsych   | APA       |
| DSocSc    | MPhil | arthist  | Oxford    |
| DOccT     | MBA   | geog     | Harvard   |
| DBA       | MBS   | german   | MLA       |
| DClinDent | MComm | dentsurg | Vancouver |
| DMus      | MEd   | chem     | ACS       |
| DD        | MMus  | cs       | Default   |
| ...       | ...   | ...      | ...       |

## Markup of choice for textual data constraint

```
<constraintdef role="deptoptions">
  <methodsynopsis xml:id="apsoc" arch="acsss">
    <methodname>Harvard</methodname>
    <methodparam>
      <parameter role="school" remap="School of">Applied
        Social Studies</parameter>
      <initializer>kluwer</initializer>
      <modifier>natbib</modifier>
      <modifier>har2nat</modifier>
    </methodparam>
  </methodsynopsis>
  ...
</constraintdef>
```

30 PhD programs and 150 Master's programs  
among 95 departments

## Constructing a class or package file

- DocBook5 for authoring and storage
- Some additional attributes for document control
- Some tag abuse during this experimental phase
- XSLT2 to create the pair of distribution files and maintain a script for the toolchain
- Currently being used to manage 20 classes and packages
- Development version available on CTAN

# Modelling the workflow

## Contents of a .dtx file

1. an initialization block
2. the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  Preamble for the documentation
3. a character checksum table
4. a change history
5. an indexing control block
6. the user documentation
7. the annotated code
8. any ancillary files to be distributed with the class or package can be embedded

# Initialization

## Header and metadata

```
<book xml:id="uccthesis" version="1"  
      revision="03" xml:lang="en" xml:base="ucc"  
      remap="a4paper,12pt" arch="class"  
      audience="lppl" condition="2009/09/24"  
      conformance="LaTeX2e" os="all" security="2070"  
      userlevel="cls" vendor="UCC" status="beta">
```

## Generating the ‘tagged’ format for extraction

```
% \iffalse  
%<*driver>  
\ProvidesFile{uccthesis.dtx}  
%</driver>  
%<class>\NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[2009/09/24]  
%<class>\ProvidesClass{uccthesis}[2012/12/18 v1.03  
Typesetting a UCC thesis with LaTeX]
```

..

%\fi

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# Preamble and setup

## Using the specifications

```
<methodsynopsis xml:id="apsoc" arch="acsss">
  <methodname>Harvard</methodname>
  <methodparam>
    <parameter role="school" remap="School of">Applied
      Social Studies</parameter>
    <initializer>kluwer</initializer>
    <modifier>natbib</modifier>
    <modifier>har2nat</modifier>
  </methodparam>
</methodsynopsis>
```

## Generate user options to select status

```
% \begin{macrocode}
\DeclareOption{apsoc}{%
  \school{Applied Social Studies}
  \usebib[natbib,har2nat]{kluwer}{Harvard}{}}
% \end{macrocode}
```

# Invoking packages

## Packages are specified in a structure

```
<constraintdef xml:id="clspackages" linkend="options">
  <segmentedlist>
    <segtitle>Packages needed for this class</segtitle>
    <seglistitem>
      <seg>fix-cm</seg>
    </seglistitem>
    <seglistitem>
      <seg role="textwidth=159mm">geometry</seg>
    </seglistitem>
    <seglistitem>
      <seg>graphicx</seg>
    </seglistitem>
    [...]
  </segmentedlist>
</constraintdef>

\RequirePackage{fix-cm}
\RequirePackage[textwidth=159mm]{geometry}
\RequirePackage{graphicx}
```

# Annotated code

## Literate programming, XML-style

```
<annotation role="macro" xreflabel="so">
  <para>Specify tighter letter-spacing for
    the title page.</para>
  <programlisting>
\sodef\so{{}{.1em}{.5em plus .5em}{1em plus1em}
  </programlisting>
</annotation>
<annotation role="environment" xreflabel="figure">
  <para>Restyle the Figure float to have
    the caption below.</para>
  <programlisting>
\floatstyle{plain}
\restylefloat{figure}
  </programlisting>
</annotation>
```

# Annotated code

## Literate programming, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X-style

```
% \begin{macro}{\so}
% Specify tighter letter-spacing
%   for the title page.\par
%   \begin{macrocode}
\so{def\so{}{\.1em}{.5em plus .5em}{1em plus1em}}
%   \end{macrocode}
% \end{macro}
% \begin{environment}{figure}
% Restyle the Figure float to have
%   the caption below.\par
%   \begin{macrocode}
\floatstyle{plain}
\restylefloat{figure}
%   \end{macrocode}
% \end{environment}
```

## Literate programming, documentation-style

\so Specify tighter letter-spacing for the title page.

```
1434 \sodef\so{}{.1em}{.5em plus .5em}{1em plus 1em}
```

figure Restyle the Figure float to have the caption below.

```
1439 \floatstyle{plain}  
1440 \restylefloat{figure}
```

## Straightforward DocBook

```
<sect2 xml:id="profsup">
  <title>Professor and Supervisor</title>
  <para>Give the name of your Professor (or Head of College,
    School, Department, or Discipline) with
    <command>professor</command>. Give the name of your
    Supervisor with <command>supervisor</command> (but see
    the note below). These commands are compulsory.</para>
  <programlisting language="LaTeX"
    annotations="\professor,\supervisor,\supervisors">
\professor{Dr F Händel}
\supervisor{Dr PDQ Bach}
\supervisors{Dr WA Mozart\\Mr L van Beethoven}
  </programlisting>
  <para>If you have more than one Supervisor, use
    <command>supervisors</command> (plural) instead, and
    separate their names with a double backslash
    (<systemitem>\\</systemitem>).</para>
</sect2>
```

# User documentation

## Not-quite-so-straightforward DocTEX

```
% \subsubsection{Professor and Supervisor}\label{profsup}
% Give the name of your Professor (or Head of College,
% School, Department, or Discipline) with
% {\ttfamily{}\textbackslash{}professor}. Give the name of your
% Supervisor with {\ttfamily{}\textbackslash{}textbackslash{}supervisor} (but see
% the note below). These commands are compulsory.\par
% \iffalse
%<*ignore>
% \fi
\begin{lstlisting}[language={[LaTeX]TeX},
  emph={\professor,\supervisor,\supervisors}]
\professor{Dr F Händel}
\supervisor{Dr PDQ Bach}
\supervisors{Dr WA Mozart\\Mr L van Beethoven}
\end{lstlisting}
% \iffalse
%</ignore>
% \fi
% If you have more than one Supervisor, use
% {\ttfamily{}\textbackslash{}textbackslash{}supervisors} (plural) instead, and
% separate their names with a double backslash
% (\verb|\\"|).\par
```

## Documentation PDF

### 2.2.1 Professor and Supervisor

Give the name of your Professor (or Head of College, School, Department or Discipline) with the command \professor. Give the name of your Supervisor with the command \supervisor (but see the note below). These commands are compulsory.

```
\professor{Dr F Händel}  
\supervisor{Dr PDQ Bach}  
\supervisors{Dr WA Mozart\\Mr L van Beethoven}
```

If you have more than one Supervisor, use the command \supervisors (plural) instead, and separate their names with a double backslash (\\\).

## Markup load overcome with XSLT2

- Many of the ‘features’ of  $\text{\LaTeX}$  syntax, avoiding common errors like using ‘fragile’ commands inside other commands.
- Missing or optional features in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  packages because it can look ahead, which  $\text{\LaTeX}$  cannot.
- Precalculate widths and other values for the same reason.

Use of XML also makes it easy to query settings and classifications using standard query tools.

# Conclusions

## Tag abuse

exceptionname Keywords of RFC 2119:1997  
methodsynopsis Structured university data  
entry Attributes for formatting  
annotation Container for annotated code  
cover Package setups  
constraintdef Lists of packages  
procedure Default settings  
cmdsynopsis Extra command output  
type Typographical treatment

RelaxNG modification layer is planned once the system is stable.

# Conclusions

## YES WE CAN

1. Using XML to define and maintain L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document classes and packages works.
2. Benefits of reusability appear only with multiple documents.
3. Requires significant knowledge of XML and DocBook.
4. Saves time and effort when writing and maintaining the files.

# Thank you

