
Synopsis of Let's Learn LaTeX

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You have a very basic knowledge of LaTeX, or have heard about it vaguely, or seen it at work earlier. You are in a hurry to try your hand at LaTeX. You are overwhelmed by the complexity of LaTeX. Reading traditional books and tutorial material to understand LaTeX seems to be too long, or too cumbersome for you. You believe in D-I-Y, even for learning. *Let's Learn LaTeX* is an ebook [6], created for people like you ¹.

This ebook was created by a confirmed teacher and a mature user of LaTeX [7], based on the various courses he has taught.

This ebook recommends (and encourages) hacking as an effective method of learning LaTeX. In fact, this ebook starts with two articles devoted to hacking as a means of learning. This ebook [6] gives you a total of 200+ pages of 30+ pdf documents (called lessons), each highlighting some aspect of LaTeX usage. The specific aspect which is being demonstrated in each of the lessons, is also mentioned in the list of “lessons”. The LaTeX source of all the “lessons” is also given in easily locatable files (hyper-

linked to the main text), so that you can hack them and experiment with them. The “lessons” should give you enough confidence to work on LaTeX yourself. None of the lessons will need any basic TeX programming.

Now, you too can start discovering how to create beautiful documents with LaTeX. True to the spirit of FOSS, this ebook is distributed under a liberal license – Creative Commons Attribution - Share Alike 4.0 Unported license [5] . The ebook can be freely downloaded from [6].

This ebook does not pretend to teach you LaTeX ab initio. Neither does it claim to answer all your questions about LaTeX. This is a D-I-Y approach to learning LaTeX. It aims to jump-start your LaTeX learning experience. The ebook is divided into 30+ “lessons” Each lesson demonstrates certain aspects of LaTeX. You can read the lessons in any sequence. You can see the rendered version (pdf) as well as the source version (LaTeX) of each lesson, by clicking on the hyperlinks (shown in winered colour) . This ebook is therefore best read on the computer screen.

¹This is a hyperlinked document. Underlined texts are click-sensitive hyperlinks.

Printed version : A printed version of this ebook is also available. The printed version of this ebook will have all these texts printed and inserted at the appropriate places. Those using the printed version will still need this ebook in a softcopy form, to access the \LaTeX sources.

This ebook, written entirely using \LaTeX , was prepared and tested under a Linux system. It will work best with Linux systems only. You will have to ensure that your pdf reader, your text editor, and your web browser are properly installed, configured, and are working satisfactorily. You will need a live connection to the web, if you want to browse the external web links given in this ebook. You will need to have all the files which contain the lessons given in this ebook, arranged according to a proper directory structure.

To ensure availability of all the lessons (\LaTeX version as well as the pdf version), download the original version of this book as a zip bundle (approx 4 MB), unzip, and follow the instructions given in the `aboutme.txt` file.

Finally, this ebook is not expected to replace any of the traditional and popular books on \LaTeX . It is a \LaTeX practitioner's attempt to make \LaTeX accessible to all who want to get pro-

ficient quickly in the use of \LaTeX . You may refer to any of the three books [1, 2, 3], or you can use any of the many resources accessible on the w-w-web [4]. Keep these resources handy, as you discover \LaTeX using this ebook.

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