

# Travels in T<sub>E</sub>X Land: Trying T<sub>E</sub>Xworks (with Windows XP)

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Abstract I have been hearing about T<sub>E</sub>Xworks for a year or more and decided to try it.

## 1 Installation

Googling on “TeXworks” got me to the TeXworks webpage (<http://www.tug.org/texworks/>). From there I followed the link “A TeXworks page by Alain Delmotte has a draft manual and Windows binaries” (<http://www.léliseron.org/texworks/>) and downloaded the draft manual, Windows binary, and “needed dll” to a directory I called TeXworks. (Also, what appears to be a development website is at <http://code.google.com/p/texworks/>.)

Clicking on the TeXworks.exe file, the system started, and I opened a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X file which appeared in a T<sub>E</sub>X editing window along with, in a parallel window, the PDF output of the file (previously compiled before my installation of T<sub>E</sub>Xworks). However, when tried to typeset the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X file, the system told me it couldn’t find the T<sub>E</sub>X executable files. I tried setting up the file TeXworks-setup.ini with the contents

```
inipath = C:/a-files/TeXworks/  
libpath = C:/a-files/TeXworks/  
defaultbinpaths = C:\texmf\miktex\bin
```

as suggested on Delmotte’s T<sub>E</sub>Xworks web page, but the system still couldn’t find the T<sub>E</sub>X executables. (I reported this problem to Alain Delmotte who confirmed it was a problem and passed it on to the T<sub>E</sub>Xworks development list.) I found the Edit > Preferences > Typesetting “Paths for TeX and related tools” window, and put the path C:\texmf\miktex\bin there, and then T<sub>E</sub>Xworks typesetting button compiled my file.

Unfortunately, the system also gave me the message

```
-synctex=1; unknown option
```

This option was apparently part of the default setup at Edit > Preferences > Typesetting in the “Processing Tools” window. My assumption is that this option was supposed to synchronize views in the editing and PDF windows. I found nothing in the manual about synctex, but at the T<sub>E</sub>Xworks homepage it appear to say that this feature was

supported in the 2008 T<sub>E</sub>X Live release; and I was running MiK<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> from an earlier release of the T<sub>E</sub>XCollection CD and from ProT<sub>E</sub>Xt rather than T<sub>E</sub>X Live. (Alain Delmotte told me a few days later that the feature had been added to T<sub>E</sub>Xworks after he had drafted the manual, and he indicated he would be updating the manual.)

I then installed T<sub>E</sub>Xworks on my laptop Windows computer which had the ProT<sub>E</sub>Xt distribution installed from the 2008 T<sub>E</sub>X Collection DVD. Once again there was a message about an unknown command line option. Thus, I tentatively concluded that I had to install the T<sub>E</sub>X Live distribution to have the `synctex` option. That's something I didn't really want to have to figure out at this point.

So, I used the Edit > Preferences > Typesetting sequence again to get to the "Processing Tools," selected pdfL<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X, clicked the Edit button, selected the `synctex` line, and deleted it with the minus sign button. I don't know if I had to restart T<sub>E</sub>Xworksto get this configuration change to take effect, but I did a restart; and then my test L<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X file compiled and the recompiled version appeared in the PDF window. Nice!

Aside: Alain Demotte sent me the following comment about my troubles with `synctex`.

It appears that the command for `synctex`: `-synctex=1` doesn't work under Windows, because it produces a compressed file which can't be used. Using `-synctex=-1` we get an uncompressed synchronisation file which can be used. Further, one has to use a recent version of `pdftex` (perhaps T<sub>E</sub>X Live2008!!) with `synctex` included, and there should be no accented character in any of the path for the T<sub>E</sub>Xworks configuration folder and for the file to be compiled. Example: I first had my main folder as

```
c:\nDoucments and Settings\nHP Propriétaires
```

That "é" prevented the work of `synctex`. On another occasion, the folder in which the `.tex` file [resided] also had an accented characters — same problem.

## 2 Use

I continued to write this note using T<sub>E</sub>Xworks, now that I had T<sub>E</sub>Xworks running on my computer. I also printed out the manual ("Short manual for T<sub>E</sub>Xworks by Alain Delmotte), in case I had to look up something.

My first observation is that when T<sub>E</sub>Xworks starts, its default T<sub>E</sub>X engine (shown in the little window to the right of big green "typeset" button) was pdfT<sub>E</sub>X. I tried changing the name in the window to pdfL<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X, but that apparently wasn't saved when T<sub>E</sub>Xworks was exited and restarted. I looked around the T<sub>E</sub>Xworks directory and found the file `TeXworks.ini` in the subdirectory TUG, and in that found the line

```
defaultEngine=pdfTeX
```

which I changed to specify pdf $\LaTeX$ . The next time I started  $\TeX$ works, pdf $\LaTeX$  was shown as the default engine. (Alain Delmotte noted to me as part of our email exchange that “It is also possible to change this from within  $\TeX$ works: Edit > Preferences > Typesetting, and below select the engine. But take care that when clicking ‘OK’ to the dialog box, the dropdown window, right to the ‘typeset’ button still shows pdftex, still the new selected engine is saved (but not active if not changed).”)

Looking at the cursor in the PDF window, I noticed it showed a little magnifying glass. Pushing the left button of the mouse magnifies whatever is in a circle five or so words in diameter around the cursor. This is a pretty neat feature, allowing the PDF view to be from a fairly zoomed-out position to get more on the screen while allowing a close look at a few words. I looked in the manual, finally; and it discussed this feature in some detail.

Looking onward in the manual, it talked about auto-completion. This is nice. For instance, rather than typing  $\LaTeX$  everytime, I can type latex followed by the tab key, and latex is converted to  $\LaTeX$ . I had noticed a directory completions in my  $\TeX$ works directory, and in that directory was the file tw-latex.txt containing *lots* of completion definitions. Curiously, there was no definition in the default file for  $\TeX$ works and  $\textit{textit}$  which I needed in the preceding sentence. (Looking farther in the manual, I also found the list of completion definitions there.)

I also read about spelling correction in the manual, but nothing happened when I clicked on the menu command. I looked in the dictionaries directory in my  $\TeX$ works directory, and it was empty. I googled for texworks dictionaries) and found the webpage <http://code.google.com/p/texworks/wiki/SpellingDictionaries> which told me that  $\TeX$ works comes without bundled dictionaries and told me how to obtain and install a dictionary. Following the directions, I went to the OpenOffice.org project website, found the en\_US.zip file, downloaded and unzipped it, and installed the en\_US.aff and en\_US.dic files in the dictionaries directory. I restarted  $\TeX$ works, and it highlighted non-English words. (Alain Demotte noted that this information should be added to his manual.)

Aside: Sometime in 2010 I hope to return to experimenting with  $\TeX$ works—perhaps after the 2010  $\TeX$  Live DVD comes out and I have installed the then latest version of  $\TeX$ works.

## Acknowledgments

Karl Berry noted some typos and gave me some pointers. Alain Demotte was wonderfully responsive when I sent him my first notes on using  $\TeX$ worksand, as you have seen, I have quoted him extensively. Lance Carnes directed me to several  $\TeX$ works

resources including the website of David Perry (<http://scholarsfonts.net/>) who is posting drafts of the T<sub>E</sub>Xworkstutorial he is writing from the point of view of a user who is new to both T<sub>E</sub>Xworks and T<sub>E</sub>X. The deliberations of the T<sub>E</sub>Xworks discussion group is informative: <http://www.tug.org/mailman/listinfo/texworks>