

Travels in T_EX Land: Trying T_EXworks (with Windows XP)

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Abstract I have been hearing about T_EXworks for a year or more and decided to try it.

1 Installation

Googling on “TeXworks” got me to the T_EXworks 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^AT_EX file which appeared in a T_EX editing window along with, in a parallel window, the PDF output of the file (previously compiled before my installation of T_EXworks). However, when tried to typeset the L^AT_EX file, the system told me it couldn’t find the T_EX 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_EXworks web page, but the system still couldn’t find the T_EX executables. (I reported this problem to Alain Delmotte who confirmed it was a problem and passed it on to the T_EXworks 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_EXworks 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_EXworks homepage it appear to say that this feature was

supported in the 2008 T_EX Live release; and I was running MiK_TE_X from an earlier release of the T_EXCollection CD and from ProT_EXt rather than T_EX Live. (Alain Delmotte told me a few days later that the feature had been added to T_EXworks after he had drafted the manual, and he indicated he would be updating the manual.)

I then installed T_EXworks on my laptop Windows computer which had the ProT_EXt distribution installed from the 2008 T_EX 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_EX 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_AT_EX, 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_EXworksto get this configuration change to take effect, but I did a restart; and then my test L_AT_EX 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_EX Live2008!!) with `synctex` included, and there should be no accented character in any of the path for the T_EXworks 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_EXworks, now that I had T_EXworks running on my computer. I also printed out the manual ("Short manual for T_EXworks by Alain Delmotte), in case I had to look up something.

My first observation is that when T_EXworks starts, its default T_EX engine (shown in the little window to the right of big green "typeset" button) was pdfT_EX. I tried changing the name in the window to pdfL_AT_EX, but that apparently wasn't saved when T_EXworks was exited and restarted. I looked around the T_EXworks 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.

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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_EXworkstutorial he is writing from the point of view of a user who is new to both T_EXworks and T_EX. The deliberations of the T_EXworks discussion group is informative: <http://www.tug.org/mailman/listinfo/texworks>