

## An ad hoc solution to an odd requirement for end-of-article notes and references

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Last year Barbara Beeton, Karl Berry, and I wrote a history of T<sub>E</sub>X for the *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*.<sup>1</sup> Being a history paper, we had *lots* of endnotes — references to our sources and other historic asides. However, the editors of the journal required no more than 15 references and no notes. Therefore we decided we would put the references and notes we were not allowed to have with the printed version of the paper on a Web page where we called them “web notes”. On the Web page we used a format that book marketing people like to use to make books look less academic: no superscripted note marker in the main text and a page number, a quote from the main text on the page, and then the note or reference in a list at the end of the book. For an example of our web notes format, see [tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/part-1-webnotes.pdf](http://tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/part-1-webnotes.pdf). While Barbara, Karl, and I drafted and revised the paper jointly, I did the actual editing (using WinEdt). Thus, I had the task of modifying the `endnotes` package to do what we wanted, and I sketch that modification effort below.

My change to the `endnotes` package is not particularly noteworthy, but it does illustrate a couple of principles that I learned from `comp.text.tex` and `tex.stackexchange.com` and which I recommend to other non-L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X experts like me:

1. When a package doesn’t do what you need it to do, it is often easy enough to modify it to meet your need.
2. You don’t have to do a comprehensive modification to the package — just tweak it enough to accomplish your purpose.

In passing, the following sketch of modifying the `endnotes` package also provides an example of the kind of reference described in the first paragraph, which some publisher may require you to use someday.

First I looked at how endnotes were already working (I was using them for our allowed 15 references<sup>2</sup>). I saw that a `.ent` file was created, and I looked at that to get a glimmer of how the endnotes were being saved for end-of-paper processing. Next I found a copy of `endnotes.sty`, created a new copy with the name `Webnotes.sty`, found instances in the copied file of the use of `.ent`, and changed those, i.e., from `jobname.ent` to `jobname.Went`. Then I went through the code in the file `Webnotes.sty` changing instances of the text strings `notes` and `note` in the

code (e.g., embedded in command and variable name text) to `Wnotes` and `Wnote`; this was a trial-and-error process where I tried the new `Webnotes` capability repeatedly until it did what I wanted it to do and didn’t crash (some changes had to be undone). I also had to change `end` to `Web` in some text strings, for instance so I had the command `\theWebnotes` to put at the end of the file, e.g.,

```
\renewcommand{\notesname}
  {Additional notes and references}
  %I didn't have to change "notesname"
{\frenchspacing\theWebnotes}
  %put the Web notes here
```

The call for an endnote was changed to be defined in the `.sty` file as

```
\def\Wnote#1#2{\textsuperscript{*}%
  \Webnotetext[\thepage]%
  {\quad\textbf{#1}%
  \quad{}}#2\vspace{4pt}}}
```

where I had already changed to `Webnotetext` from `notetext`. As I remember, the asterisk in the command `\textsuperscript` causes no superscripted note marker to be placed in the main text. The `\notetext` command (not `Webnotetext`) already had the option of passing the page number. The two parameters were an indication of the text on the page that the note refers to and the note itself. As you can see at [tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/part-1-webnotes.pdf](http://tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/part-1-webnotes.pdf), the first parameter sometimes included quote marks (for verbatim quotes from the main text) and sometimes the first parameter was a topic without quote marks.

A copy of the new `.sty` file is at [walden-family.com/texland/Webnotes.sty](http://walden-family.com/texland/Webnotes.sty). I include it as an example of ad hoc modification of a package for personal use, rather than as a capability readers might use themselves.

This note also uses a tweaked version of the `ltugboat` class in order to use the class without the *TUBboat* oriented headers and footers ([walden-family.com/texland/myltugboat.cls](http://walden-family.com/texland/myltugboat.cls)).

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>[tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/](http://tug.org/pubs/annals-18-19/)

<sup>2</sup>Later the journal required us to change to using `biblatex`