

Letters

Status of the American core CTAN node

Jim Hefferon

Users can download materials from many CTAN mirrors¹ but installation or updating of those materials happens at only a few sites. Recently I withdrew from running one of these, leaving core sites in Germany and Great Britain.

In my AZ project I developed a set of keyword and hierarchical characterizations of the packages that CTAN holds.² I now run a personal site that offers a web view of CTAN enhanced—I hope—by these extra characterizations (and by a full-text search of the package descriptions). Because I am no longer doing uploads I have suppressed the functionality that allows authors to edit the package

¹ See <http://ctan.org/mirrors>.

² “CTAN packages get keywords”, *TUGboat* 31:2, 2010.

description and characterizations as part of their upload process. I have kept links for people to suggest better characterizations.

My host’s canonical address is <http://alan.smcvt.edu>; the bandwidth is generously sustained by Saint Michael’s College in Colchester, Vermont. If you like the site and want to bookmark it, I suggest the address <http://tug.ctan.org>, which as of this writing points to my site.

Note that you can use these characterizations without making a special trip to my site since T_EX Live’s `tlmgr` will search them.³

During my more than decade-long time with CTAN I met and worked with many wonderful and helpful people. My thanks to them all!

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³ A description is at <http://tug.org/texlive/doc/tlmgr.html#taxonomies>.