

XemTeX : an integrated platform for high quality scientific typesetting

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Abstract This talk will describe a project funded by the French Ministry for Education. This project aims at building a TeX + XEmacs distribution tightly integrated which will be distributed to French high schools. There is a growing demand by mathematics and physics teachers for a TeX based software. The first target platform will be Windows, Linux being the second one. In order to draw as many people as possible to TeX, even novices, they must be provided with a package up to the standards of most word processors : the users will be exposed to only one application and not to dozens of binaries. Another point that refrains most people to use TeX is not that much the (La)TeX language by itself, but that maintaining a TeX distribution is difficult and can be time consuming.

The XemTeX project has been submitted and accepted for funding to build a free platform that should be much easier to use than the current ones, based on the XEmacs editor and a subset of the current TeXLive distribution. The project will address several problems among which creating an enhanced XEmacs mode for typesetting TeX documents, tightly integrating the viewer into XEmacs and documenting the product. These points will be addressed in this talk, the current status of the project will be covered, and possibly the discussion will be open about how to get funding for such projects.