



Read Me First

Introduction

What licence suits best for a T_EX like system is a matter of taste. Personally we dislike any licence that needs more than a few pages of dense legal code to get the message across. A T_EX related system like CON_TE_XT is a hybrid of programs, scripts and/or macro code as well as documentation and sample code, including graphics. T_EX related systems also have a long standing tradition of providing support structures for users. In order to make support feasible, a T_EX based system like CON_TE_XT assumes a certain logic and structure in the way the related files are named and organized in a tree structure. Even a small change in one of the elements may let such a system behave differently than manuals suggest. Swap a font, change some style defaults, leave out some pieces, and users may end up in confusion. A licence does not give a user any guarantees!

In order to satisfy those responsible for distributing CON_TE_XT, we need to choose a licence that makes them feel comfortable. Unfortunately we don't feel that comfortable with a licence that does not provide the guarantees that a system will not be adapted in such ways that the advertised behaviour changes. On the other hand, it is the responsibility of those distributing and extending the system to make sure that this does not happen. However, users should not automatically assume that what they get shipped is the same as the original, which is why we stress that support (from our side) will only be given on unaltered systems.

First of all, what is CON_TE_XT? It's just a bunch of macros, written in T_EX and METAPOST, meant for typesetting documents. The macros are accompanied by some scripts, written in PERL (mainly the older scripts) RUBY (the official ones) and LUA (for embedded usage). The CON_TE_XT distribution comes with a few fonts, files that help manage resources (e.g. map files), as well as patterns (based on official ones, so this is a derived work).

The CON_TE_XT distribution is packaged in a zip file organized in the TDS structure.

`cont-tmf.zip` The main distribution.

`cont-img.zip` A few extra resources.

`cont-ext.zip` Third party modules.

When we talk about CON_TE_XT we also mean its graphical companion `MetaFun` and `FOXET`, an XML related product. All these are included in the main distribution archive.

The documentation can be downloaded from our website, one of its mirrors, the T_EX collection as distributed by T_EX user groups. For some manuals, source code is available in a subversion repository. The archives are also kept on CTAN.

That said, what licence does apply? We need to distinguish between things that resemble a program on the one hand and documentation on the other hand. We (currently) use a different licence for either of them.

The Code

The program code (i.e. anything not under the `/doc` subtree) is distributed under the

[Creative Commons GNU GPL](#)

For practical purposes distributors may also choose the L^AT_EX project licence, which is considered to be a bit more T_EX friendly. (BSD alike licences, the Ruby Licence and the Apache are all licences that apply well for CON_TE_XT.)

In practice, users may forget about the legal part, if only because I haven't even read (and understood) it completely myself, so let's stick to what Creative Commons makes of it:

The GNU General Public License is a Free Software license. Like any Free Software license, it grants to you the four following freedoms:

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- The freedom to study how the program works and adapt it to your needs.
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You may exercise the freedoms specified here provided that you comply with the express conditions of this license. The principal conditions are:

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If you copy or distribute the program, you must accompany it with the complete corresponding machine-readable source code or with a written offer, valid for at least three years, to furnish the complete corresponding machine-readable source code.

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Recommendations

Here are a few recommendations in case you want to distribute, extend or embed `CONTEXT` in applications:

- You can best leave the code base untouched. Most of `CONTEXT` provides hooks and it's relatively easy to overload code. Leave the lower level system code untouched: changes may backfire when you update. Asking for more hooks is the best way to go.
- Put your own code in the right subpaths, i.e. modules approved by the development team under `.../third`, and styles and whatever else under `.../user`. This way your code will not interfere with existing code and updating will give less problems. Keep in mind that `TEX` systems have their own way and order in locating files, and the load order often matters.
- Don't copy styles and change a few lines, but load the base one and built/patch on top of that. In the end you may benefit from improvements to the base style.
- Be original. The whole idea behind `CONTEXT` is that you can write your own styles. On the `CONTEXT` mailing list as well as on the Wiki there are enough advanced users to help you make a start.
- Don't hesitate to submit bugs reports and ask for extensions. It may even be that what you want is already present but yet undocumented.
- If things don't work as expected, check to what extent your system matches the (more or less) standard. We provide so called minimal `CONTEXT` trees that can serve as a reference. Because `CONTEXT` evolves, make sure your system is up to date.

- The scripts can best be called using `texmfstart`. This lessens dependencies on the location in the tree and ensures upward compatibility. It also prevents clashes with similarly named scripts.
- Some scripts depend on each other. Don't mess around with the existing functionality and names of the scripts and then feed them back into the standard distributions.

Documents

The documentation is provided under another Creative Commons licence

[Attribution NonCommercial ShareAlike](#)

This one says:

You are free:

- to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work
- to make derivative works

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- For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work.
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Your fair use and other rights are in no way affected by the above.

The non-commercial part is mostly a safeguard. We don't mind if user groups distribute printed copies, publish (parts of) manuals and/or if authors use example code in manuals and books about `CONTEXT`.

Keep in mind that logos and cover designs are not meant to be copied. We provide the source code for some manuals, but we don't always provide all graphics and other

resources. For instance, in some manuals we use commercial fonts and you have to buy those yourself.

We provide the typeset manuals at our website. Those are the official ones. We appreciate it if you do not to distribute manuals compiled on your own system as substitutes. The manuals are a showcase for what `CONTEXT` provides. Help us to assure the quality.

More information

We're not going to fill n pages with legal stuff, so if you want to know more, you have to consult the web for the legalities mentioned. Here are a few starting points:

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/GPL/2.0/>
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/GPL/2.0/legalcode>

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/>
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/legalcode>

`CONTEXT` itself can be fetched from the main site or its primary mirror:

<http://www.pragma-ade.com>
<http://context.aanhet.net>

A starting point for support can be found at:

<http://www.ntg.nl/mailman/listinfo/ntg-context>
<http://contextgarden.net>

Bugs and feature requests can be registered at the collector:

<http://context.literatesolutions.com>

Releases are announced at:

<http://www.ntg.nl/mailman/listinfo/ann-context>

The developers can be met at:

<http://www.ntg.nl/mailman/listinfo/dev-context>

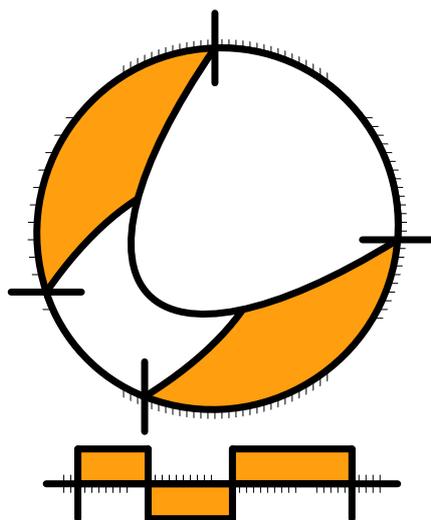
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