

Current state of CTAN

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Introduction

What's CTAN?

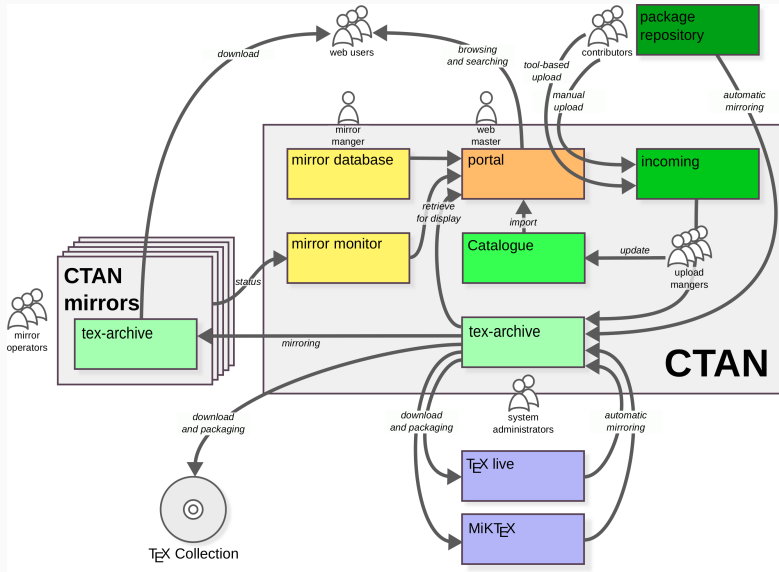
Comprehensive T_EX Archive Network



CTAN lion drawing by Duane Bibby

- ▶ Webpage www.ctan.org et al.
- ▶ Upload management, Catalogue updates
- ▶ Synchronization with mirrors
- ▶ Source for distributions
- ▶ Announcements
- ▶ ...

CTAN's connections



Drawing by Gerd Neugebauer

A Brief History of CTAN

CTAN

- ▶ was founded in 1992
- ▶ See [TUGboat 14:3](#) (October 1993)
- ▶ has an eventful history, which is written down on <https://ctan.org/ctan> and in Wikipedia
- ▶ You can ask the men of the first hour!

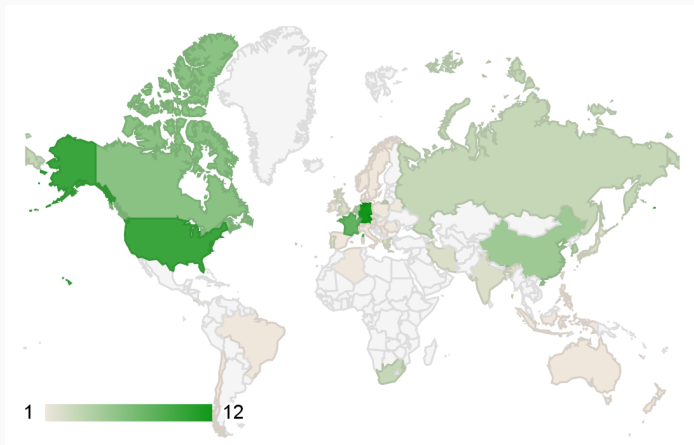
CTAN in numbers:

- ▶ Main node **comedy** (8 cores, 40 GB RAM, 50 MBit/s, ≈ 0.8 TByte/week)
- ▶ 5 active team members
- ▶ 110 mirrors all over the world
- ▶ 5716 packages from 2620 contributors
(last 12 months: 900 packages from 503 authors)
- ▶ Size of **catalogue.xml**: 7 MByte
- ▶ 270373 files / 15523 directories / 41 GByte

- ▶ Upload manager team: Ina Dau, Petra Rübe-Pugliese, Manfred Lotz (also programming and T_EX Collection), Erik Braun ☺
- ▶ Webmaster and programming: Gerd Neugebauer
- ▶ System administration and mirror management on **comedy**: (formerly: Rainer Schöpf, Joachim Schrod) ☹

Mirrors

≈ 110 Mirrors:

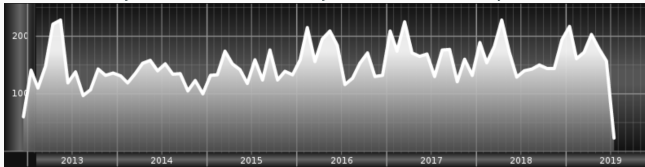


Visualization by Google GeoChart

- ▶ Becoming a mirror is described on the CTAN website
- ▶ Mirrors should synchronize every 24 h
- ▶ State and freshness of mirrors are not actively checked
- ▶ Status of the mirrors is displayed on the CTAN website at <https://ctan.org/mirrors/mirmon>

Uploads

- ▶ Over the years constantly about 100 uploads/month



- ▶ Upload managers check for formal correctness (constraints on filenames, licenses)
- ▶ Simple and frequent problems are wrong file formats, forgotten version numbers and license information

The daily/weekly/monthly routine:

- ▶ Check for formal requirements of uploads
- ▶ Find a concise description and suitable topics for new packages
- ▶ Periodic check of the links in the description
- ▶ Supporting tools for uploaders exist:
 - ⇒ `l3build` (The L^AT_EX3 Project)
 - ⇒ `ctanify` (Scott Pakin)
 - ⇒ `ctan-o-mat` (Gerd Neugebauer)
 - ⇒ `pkgcheck` (Manfred Lotz)

Legacy work. Previously installed packages that do not meet the requirements of new packages:

- ▶ Updates of this works can be complex and time-consuming
- ▶ Packages that are warned not to use in `l2tabu` are still prominent to find
- ▶ (even `l2tabu` has become old)

THE VANISHING MAINTAINER

1. An author has a bright idea and creates a package which is widely used
 2. The author loses his interest in his work, the contact data gets outdated, *BUT*
 3. Other users could improve the package, they and CTAN try (sometimes to no avail) to contact him; this is a WOMBAT
- ⇒ Hard Solution: Fork
- ⇒ Preferred Solution: authors keep in contact with CTAN and let mark themselves as “inactive”
(Should the authors periodically be reminded that they own packages on CTAN?)

... and the Future.

Switching to a new website, codename »3.0«, due to an outdated technological code base in the background:

- ▶ Client-side rendering instead (in particular with the use of Javascript)
- ▶ Client **Nuxt.js**, server framework **Dropwizard**
- ▶ A cleaner user interface with less crowded pages
- ▶ Integration of the historical archive
- ▶ Mirroring needs an update: Integration of a multiplexer that understands IPv6 and HTTPS (<https://github.com/etix/mirrorbits> seems appropriate)
- ▶ Hierarchical topics
- ▶ Updates / Installation on **comedy**: DKIM, DNSSEC, IMAP-Server, mailing list managers, Apache

Q & A

Questions?