

This is a simulated pglatex input file, as might be produced  
by the PG posting program from an uploaded LaTeX source file.

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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG PGLATEX PP MANUAL \*\*\*

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# Post-Processor's Guide to `pglatex`

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## 1 Introduction

`pglatex` comprises a small collection of specialized tools to assist Project Gutenberg (PG) white washers (WWers) in the task of processing  $\LaTeX$  projects.

A PG  $\LaTeX$  project must provide the same boilerplate, credits, and license “stanzas” as a plain text project. Unlike a plain text project, however, a  $\LaTeX$  source file must be machine-compiled into its end-user format, and therefore cannot be white washed simply by concatenating the PG stanzas onto the source file: The result would not be a valid  $\LaTeX$  source file.

Complicating matters further, the post-processor likely has the clearest understanding of how best to incorporate the PG stanzas typographically into the finished work, but the PG stanzas are not available until after the post-processing stage. Clearly, to satisfy the distinctive requirements of  $\LaTeX$  subject to the constraints of PG's work flow, a post-processed  $\LaTeX$  file must separate the *formatting* of the PG stanzas from their *content*.

Briefly, a post-processed source file contains a “placeholder tag” for each stanza, surrounded by the appropriate  $\LaTeX$  formatting commands. Just as for a plain text project, the WWer appends PG stanzas to the  $\LaTeX$  source file. Next, the program `pglatexcheck` extracts the stanzas' text and replaces each placeholder tag with the corresponding text. The resulting valid  $\LaTeX$  file can now be white washed conventionally, and the PG stanzas will be typeset conforming to the post-processor's stylistic wishes.

This manual describes the structure of a  $\LaTeX$  file that you, a DP post-processor or post-processing verifier, create for uploading to PG. A separate manual for WWers details the action and usage of `pglatexcheck` and `pglatexpost`.

### 1.1 Source Code and Manuals

The most recent source code and manuals can be found on the DP Wiki page [http://www.pgdp.net/wiki/LaTeX\\_WWer\\_tools](http://www.pgdp.net/wiki/LaTeX_WWer_tools)

The source code, written mostly in C++, comes in a zip file together with the manuals—this one, and the white washer manual. You need a C++ compiler to build and run the `pglatex` tools. This is generally easiest if you run GNU/Linux or a similar operating system: Mac OS X, FreeBSD, Solaris, etc. However, you do not need to build the `pglatex` tools in order to post-process L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X projects.

## 2 Structure of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X File

For brevity, the term “source file” henceforth refers to a “`pglatex`-compliant” L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X input file, as created by a post-processor. Schematically, a “typical” source file looks like this:

```
%% Producer's comments
%%
%% Command block
%% PDF Pages: xxx
%%
\listfiles
<Preamble>
\begin{document}
<Boilerplate placeholder>
<Credits placeholder>
<Document body>
<License placeholder>
\end{document}
<Optional lprep configuration>
<PPer's log file>
```

The purpose and specific format of each line is described below.

Source files of recently-posted projects may be consulted for sample code:

[http://www.pgdp.net/wiki/List\\_of\\_LaTeX\\_projects/Posted](http://www.pgdp.net/wiki/List_of_LaTeX_projects/Posted)

It is “safe” to follow the guidelines in this manual. Specifically, the criteria below are *sufficient* for writing a “compliant” source file: If a source file conforms to these criteria, `pglatexcheck` will process the file correctly. However, some criteria below are *not necessary*: A non-conforming file might still be processed correctly. When the discrepancy is potentially useful to the PPer, the distinction is elaborated in “Technical Remarks”. For simplicity, these fine points are separated out from the main discussion.

## 2.1 Start of File and Producer's Comments

A source file *must* begin with one of the characters % or \; that is, the first character of the first non-blank line must be either a comment character or a backslash.

The producer's comment block is the first contiguous set of lines starting with %%. This block lists the required packages, the commands required to build the project (the “command block”, see below), the number of pages in the compiled PDF, and and other special notes or instructions for the WVer.

## 2.2 \listfiles Declaration

The preamble *must* contain a \listfiles line. This ensures your log file will contain L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X package version information for your set-up. In the unlikely event your project mis-compiles at PG, the white washer can compare your package versions with PG's package versions, possibly isolating the source of trouble.

It's probably best to add this command to the preamble early in the PPer's process, but in any event be sure to add it *before* you perform the final compile and append the log file to the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source.

## 2.3 Placeholder Tags

In the course of white washing, stanzas for PG **boilerplate**, **credits**, and **license** are inserted for corresponding *placeholder tags* in the PPer's source file. A placeholder tag is a line consisting of a keyword surrounded front and back by *three consecutive asterisks*, e.g. “\*\*\* Boilerplate \*\*\*”.

The PG boilerplate and license stanzas must appear at the beginning and end of the project, respectively. In the simplest case, all three placeholder lines are placed in the document body, surrounded by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X formatting code—the boilerplate just after \begin{document} and the license just before \end{document}. See the Technical Remarks for details.

PG requires that the boilerplate be the first text one sees when viewing the compiled file.<sup>1</sup> The license placeholder must come at the start of a new page, and must be the final printing material in the document. The credits placeholder often comes on the title page verso, along with the initial transcriber's notes.

Each placeholder must be wrapped in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X code sufficient to format the inserted material. Stanza text may contain active characters, and the boilerplate must be

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<sup>1</sup>pgl<sub>at</sub>ex<sub>check</sub> automatically prepends a copy of the boilerplate in a comment block at the top of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X file, making the boilerplate the first visible text in the source, as well.

printed in a fixed-width font, preserving original line breaks. Consequently, the boilerplate placeholder normally appears inside a `verbatim` or `alltt` environment, preceded by any necessary typographical information.

```
{\small\begin{verbatim}
*** Boilerplate ***
\end{verbatim}}% end \small
```

**Technical Remarks** The PG stanzas’ placeholder tags need not literally appear in the document body; instead, the stanzas’ *typeset output text* must appear in the *compiled document* at the schematic locations above. Thus, for example, a placeholder tag could be wrapped in a plain T<sub>E</sub>X macro appearing in the source file before the `\documentclass` line; this macro would then be placed in the document body at the appropriate location.

Blank lines surrounding the PG stanzas’ text are removed, so the document formatting must ensure sufficient separation from adjacent parts of the document. For example, the boilerplate and credits placeholders should *not* be placed into a single `verbatim` environment.

Though a placeholder tag must *constitute a single line of the source file*, some leniency is permitted in the format. Here is the algorithm used to decide whether a line of the source file is a placeholder. First, leading and trailing strings of white space and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X comment characters are removed. Second, `pglatex_check` looks for leading and trailing strings of three consecutive asterisks. If found, these are removed, along with any leading or trailing white space and additional asterisks. Finally, the program checks whether or not the remaining portion of the line contains (respectively) the words “boilerplate”, “credits”, or “license” (case-independent, British spelling acceptable).

## 2.4 PDF Page Count and eBook Number

The PPer comment block must contain a line of the form

```
PDF Pages: xxx
```

with `xxx` replaced by the number of pages in the compiled PDF file. Case and surrounding comment characters are unimportant, but the only digits in the line should be the number of pages. This number is updated automatically when the file is processed by the W<sub>W</sub>er.

The eBook number is generated by the W<sup>W</sup>er, but during the final compile under `pglatexcheck` is available to the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X document via the command `\ebook`. As a PPer, you may wish to include the line

```
\providecommand{\ebook}{00000}
```

after the `\documentclass` line in your preamble, and to use this command in your source file. `pglatexcheck` inserts the “live” definition just after `\documentclass`, so when the W<sup>W</sup>er compiles your project the actual PG eBook number will be used instead of 00000.

## 2.5 The Command Block

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X preamble must contain a *command block*, a sequence of commands, one command per line, specifying how to compile the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source to PDF. Commands in a block must appear on consecutive lines; a block ends when a non-command line is read, and only the first block is used. Normally the command block comes inside the PPer’s comment block, under the heading “Compile History”.

### Compile Commands

Six commands are currently recognized: `latex`, `pdflatex`, `dvips`, `dvipdfm`, `ps2pdf`, and `makeindex`. The names of input and/or output files *should not* be specified; each command knows its own call syntax. A simple project (such as this manual) might contain a one-line command block

```
%% pdflatex
```

Generally, each line is commented so L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X won’t mistake it for part of the document. Commands in a block may be surrounded by arbitrary white space and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X comment characters (%). The character # acts as a comment character:

```
%% latex # run LaTeX                               %%
%% dvips # Expands to: dvips -f -o FILE.ps FILE.dvi %%
%% ps2pdf                                     %%
```

### Command Options and Other Enhancements

Normally, compiling a project requires multiple runs of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X to stabilize the aux file. Further, the compile commands `makeindex`, `dvips`, and/or `dvipdfm` may require

project-specific options. `pglatexcheck` provides features to facilitate more complicated compilation. First, command options may be appended after the command name. Second a command block line may end with a string of the form `x<num>`, signifying that the command should be run `<num>` times.<sup>2</sup> The command block of a project having two indices might look like this:

```
%% pdflatex x3 #(run pdflatex three times)
%% makeindex -r -o FILE.nnd -t FILE.nlg FILE.ndx # custom index
%% makeindex
%% pdflatex      #(update the table of contents)
```

The special string `FILE` is replaced at run time with the base name of the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source file. When compiling a “non-standard” index, as in the second line above, the name of the file to be processed (here, the file with extension `.ndx`) must be specified, since `pglatexcheck` has no way of deducing the extension at run time.

**Technical Remarks** If you use `pdflatex` (strongly encouraged) you can safely ignore the remainder of this remark.

A PPer’s command block must convert the original L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source file to PDF. Conceptually, this involves three stages—`tex-to-dvi`, `dvi-to-ps`, and `ps-to-pdf`, imaginatively named stages I, II, and III, respectively. A single command may effect one or more stages. (`dvipdfm` effects stages II and III, for instance, even though no PostScript file is produced.)

A command block is *valid* if its commands, run in succession, accomplish steps I, II, and III *in order*. This notion formalizes the ability of a command sequence to create a PDF file from a L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X source file. Normally, the commands you’d type naturally are exactly what should go in the command block.

Command block validity entails a small wrinkle, however, because a command may “undo” one or more stages by rendering prior commands stale. `pglatexcheck` interprets matters pessimistically. For example, the commands

```
%% latex # Okay, stage I finished
%% dvips # Fine, stages I and II done
%% latex # Oops...only stage I complete
%% ps2pdf # Would have been fine w/o previous line
```

*do not* successfully complete the three stages. The `ps` file created by `dvips` is potentially stale after the second run of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, so from the perspective of validation

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<sup>2</sup>To guard against typos, `pglatexcheck` will not run a command more than 15 times. Should your project require more than 15 passes of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, use multiple consecutive lines.

the `ps2pdf` line adds nothing. After these four commands, `pglatex-check` considers that only stage I is complete.<sup>3</sup>

If a command block is invalid according to `pglatex-check`'s criteria, it prints a detailed diagnostic report (including the actual commands it's been requested to run and the compile stages it believes are incomplete) and exits without trying to compile.

### 3 PPer Testing

The `pglatex` source code comes with a shell script `pglatex-fakepad` (written in `bash`), which concatenates simple fake PG stanzas onto a source file, yielding a text file suitable for use as `pglatex-check` input. If your platform permits, you can perform a preliminary run of the `pglatex` tools on your PPer source file by issuing the commands

```
pglatex-fakepad <file>.tex
pglatex-check 00000-8.txt
pglatex-post 00000-WW.tex
```

Please consult the `pglatex` WPer manual for details on running `pglatex-check` and `pglatex-post`.

### 4 Acknowledgements

The `pglatex` tools are free software, released under the terms of the GNU General Public License; please see the `COPYING` and `README` files for details. Bug reports, requests for features, or other feedback may be addressed to Andrew D. Hwang (DP: `adhere`).

David C. Wilson envisioned `pglatex` and sketched its requirements and work flow. Without his extensive experience with PG LaTeX projects, and his continual guidance and encouragement, `pglatex` could not have been written.

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<sup>3</sup>If the block contained another line, say `dvipdfm`, all would be well. `pglatex-check` makes no attempt to prevent excessive compile steps.

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