

Namespaces for $\epsilon\chi\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$

Gerd Neugebauer

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Backward Compatibility
and Initialization

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Definition of Namespaces
Communication between
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Explicit Expansion without
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Namespaces and the Basic
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$\epsilon\chi\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$
Integration into $\epsilon\chi\text{T}\text{E}\text{X}$
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EuroT_EX 2005
March 2005
Pont-à-Mousson, France

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- ▶ Requirements
- ▶ Concept
- ▶ Design
- ▶ Implementation

Requirements

- ▶ Information hiding and privacy are basic principles in modern software engineering
- ▶ Module system/package system/namespaces provide privacy
- ▶ $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ has no real module system
- ▶ \LaTeX packages use naming conventions and a redefined catcode to protect internals
- ▶ An namespace extension of $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ is needed
- ▶ The existing code should not be affected

Encapsulation

- ▶ Encapsulation: Hiding the current meaning
 - ▶ Macros
 - ▶ Active Characters
 - ▶ Registers
(count, dimen, toks, ...)
 - ▶ Catcodes

- ▶ Focus here: Macros and Active Characters

Backward Compatibility and Initialization

- ▶ The extension should be backward compatible.
- ▶ The operation should be performed in the default namespace if not specified.
- ▶ Namespaces must be properly initialized without too much overhead.

- ▶ The attempt should work without syntactic sugar: KISS

Definition of Namespaces

- ▶ Special toks register for the current namespace.
- ▶ Assignment to this register changes the current namespace.

```
\namespace{tex.latex.dtk}
```

```
\namespace={tex.latex.dtk}
```

Default Namespace

- ▶ The default namespace has the empty toks register.

```
\namespace={}
```

Accessing the Current Namespace

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- ▶ `\the` and `\showthe` can be used to get access to the current namespace.

```
\namespace{tex.latex.dtk}  
\the\namespace
```

↳ `tex.latex.dtk`

Communication between Namespaces: Export

- ▶ Namespaces provide encapsulation.
- ▶ Some entities need to be visible outside.
- ▶ A primitive `\export` should be used to specify potentially visible entities.

```
\export{\abc \xyz ~}
```

- ▶ `\export` acts like a special toks register.
- ▶ The tokens are stored locally for the namespace.

Communication between Namespaces: Import

- ▶ A primitive `\import` should be used to specify potentially visible entities in the target namespace.

```
\import{tex.latex.dtk}
```

- ▶ The import is performed into the current namespace.
- ▶ All entities exported from the namespace are imported.
- ▶ The import works like `\let`
The modification of the definition in both namespaces are independent

Namespaces and Groups

Namespace interact with the group in the expected way.

- ▶ Local definitions are discarded at the end of the current group.

```
\begingroup  
  \namespace{tex}  
  \gdef\x{123}  
\endgroup  
\def\y{123}
```

- ▶ $\backslash x$ is undefined afterwards
- ▶ $\backslash y$ is defined in the outer namespace

Namespaces and Groups (2)

- ▶ `\import` defines the entities “group local”
- ▶ `\import` honors the prefix `\global`
- ▶ `\global \import` imports into the top group:

```
\begingroup  
  \global\import{tex.latex.dtk}  
\endgroup
```

- ▶ The imports are preserved past the end of the group

Namespaces and Groups (3)

```
\begingroup  
  \namespace{one}  
  \global\export{\x}  
  \gdef\x#1{-#1-}  
\endgroup
```

- ▶ The grouping restricts the effect of namespace
- ▶ The `\global\export` makes the export survive the end of the group
- ▶ the `\gdef` makes the macro survive the end of the group

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Namespaces and Expansion

- ▶ The same control sequence name can have different bindings

```
\namespace{two}
\begingroup
  \namespace{one}
  \global\export{\x}
  \gdef\x#1{-#1 \y-}
  \gdef\y{in one}
\endgroup
\import{one}
\def\y{two}
\x\y
```

↳ -two in one-

Explicit Expansion without Import

```
\begingroup  
  \namespace{tex}\aftergroup\abc  
\endgroup
```

- ▶ The namespace is attached to a token when it is created and not, when it is expanded
- ▶ The token `\abc` will carry the namespace `tex`
- ▶ The grouping restricts the namespace to the two tokens `\expandafter` and `\abc`.
- ▶ `\expandafter` delays the expansion until the group is closed

Namespaces and the Basic Definitions

- ▶ A new namespace should not start empty – like `iniTEX`
- ▶ `plain.tex/LATEX/conTEXt` provide many useful macros

Solution: Search Strategy for Definitions

- ▶ Search in the specified namespace first
- ▶ Search in the default namespace if needed

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- ▶ “Extensible” $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$
- ▶ Object-oriented reimplementaion of $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$
- ▶ <http://www.extex.org>

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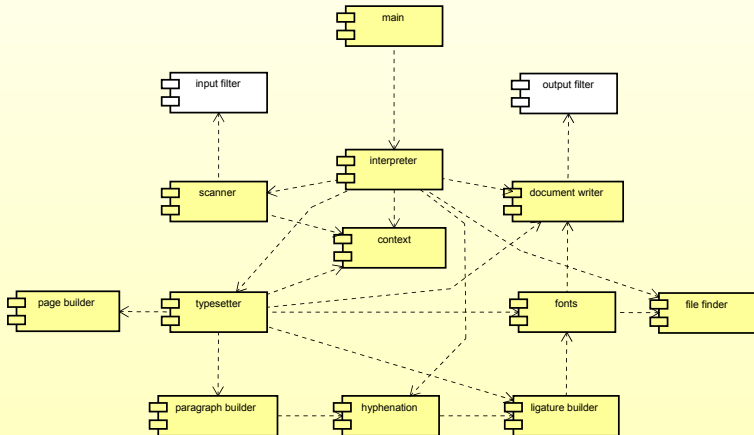
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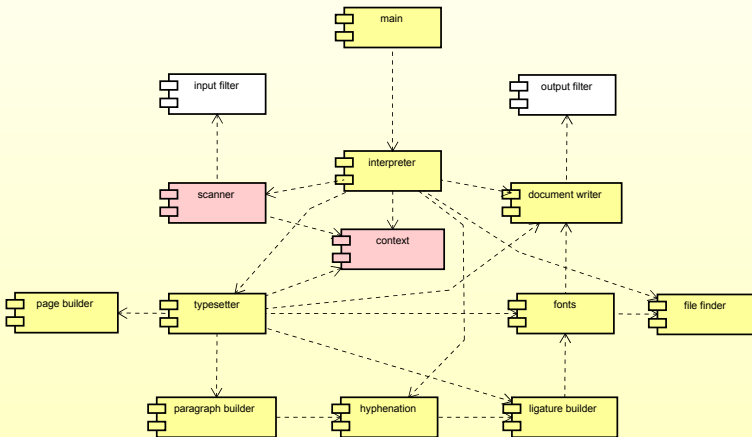
Extensions

Conclusion

- ▶ Extend (some) tokens.
- ▶ Extend the Group and the Context.
- ▶ Extend The binding mechanisms for control sequences and active characters needs to be extended to take into account the fallback to the default namespace.
- ▶ Implement the primitive `\namespace`.
- ▶ Implement the primitive `\export`.
- ▶ Implement the primitive `\import`.

Changes in $\epsilon\chi\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$

- The changes are localizable at a few places.



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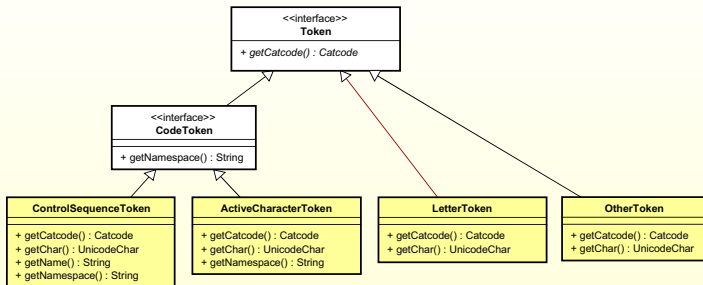
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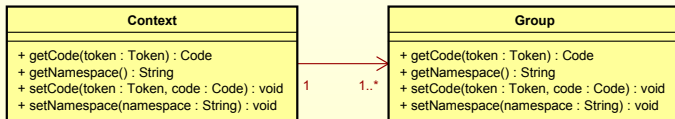
Tokens



- ▶ Extend the containers for control sequence tokens and active character tokens.
- ▶ Other tokens are not affected.

Context

- ▶ The Context is the container for all data (like the eq table)
- ▶ The Context maintains a stack of Groups in its current implementation



- ▶ Extend the Context and the Group with getters and setters for the current namespace.
- ▶ Extend `getCode()` in the Context to contain the search strategy.

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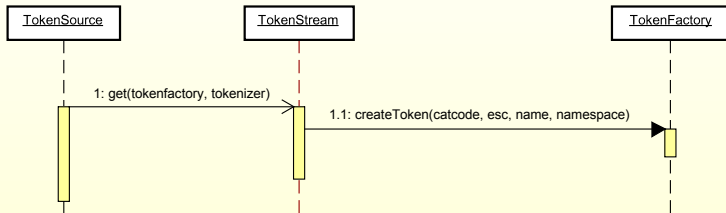
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- ▶ The invocation of the token factory is extended to contain the namespace
- ▶ The token factory has to be extended accordingly

Implementation

```
/**...*/  
public class ControlSequenceToken extends AbstractToken  
    implements CodeToken {  
  
    /**...*/  
    private String name;  
  
    /**...*/  
    private String namespace;  
  
    /**...*/  
    protected ControlSequenceToken(final UnicodeChar esc,  
        final String name,  
        final String namespace) {  
  
        super(esc);  
        this.namespace = namespace;  
        this.name = name;  
  
    }  
}
```

It works!

Extensions

- ▶ Extension of namespaces to registers.
Partially implemented in $\epsilon\mathcal{X}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$
(compile-time configuration)
 - ▶ Interferes with `plain.tex`
 - ▶ Experiments not convincing yet
- ▶ Selective import of dedicated tokens
- ▶ Renaming during the import
- ▶ Search strategy with intermediate levels of packages
(decomposition of namespace identifier)
- ▶ Syntactic sugar

Conclusion

- ▶ Namespaces can be provided with a few modifications of $\epsilon\mathcal{X}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\mathcal{X}$.
- ▶ Namespaces for control sequences and active characters are a good first step.
- ▶ The extension is performed minimalistically.
- ▶ Namespaces are an offer for macro writers.
- ▶ Make the best use of it.