

## Reporting bugs for Don Knuth (as soon as possible)

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### Abstract

Please report  $\TeX$  system bugs intended for Don Knuth as soon as possible.

### 1 The next $\TeX$ tuneup

At the end of the last  $\TeX$  tuneup report [3], Don Knuth mentioned that the next tuneup will be released in 2021. He asks for the collected submissions towards the end of the previous year [1], that is, 2020, that is, this year! I am the one collecting bugs this time, having been passed the  $\TeX$  entomologist's microscope from the inestimable Barbara Beeton. I do not have an exact cut-off date, but it would be reasonable for you to assume that anything submitted after November 1 will not be warmly welcomed.

To reduce the number of reports at the deadline, I ask that they be submitted as soon as possible. Handling them takes time, since colleagues and I review each and every one before putting it in Don's pile. There are two ways to submit reports:

1. Send email to the public mailing list, `tex-k@tug.org` (<https://lists.tug.org/tex-k>). This is preferred, since then many people, not just me, can review the report (and often reply faster).
2. Send email to me, `karl@freefriends.org`, if you want your report (name, email, contents) to be private. It is fine to do this if you prefer; much better than not reporting the bug at all.

### 2 Research before sending

Please do a general web search on your report before you send it in, choosing the relevant search terms, etc., to the best of your ability.

If the web doesn't have anything, please check Don's detailed errata listings, available at <https://ctan.org/pkg/knuth-errata> or, in  $\TeX$  Live, in `texmf-dist/source/generic/knuth/errata`. Just try searching (e.g., `grep`) for keywords; it may not be easy to make your way through the errata files, but do the best you can.

In all cases, what's of interest is true bugs in the code, typos or other outright errors in the text, etc. Requests for enhancements, new features, etc., are not going to be reviewed by Don. However, if a report is in the gray area between bug and feature, please go ahead and send it, and we will review it.

Some enhancements, including but not limited to increasing array sizes and other configuration issues, can be (and have been) made in  $\TeX$  Live and

other implementations. It's fine to also send such requests to `tex-k@tug.org` or my address.

### 3 Software for which to send reports

Of course the most important programs for which I'm collecting bug reports are  $\TeX$  and Metafont themselves: The contents of Volumes A–E of *Computers & Typesetting*. (Volume A is equivalent to *The  $\TeX$ book* in softcover; Volume C is equivalent to *The METAFONTbook* in softcover. Volume B contains the source code for  $\TeX$  and the prose that explains each part; Volume D contains the analogous code and prose for METAFONT. Volume E contains complete METAFONT code for the original Computer Modern fonts.)

The other WEB programs still maintained by Don are also fair game. The complete list:

```
dvitype gftodvi gftopk gftype mf mft pltotf
pooltype tangle tex tftopl vftovp vptovf weave
```

The main exception is  $\text{BIB}\TeX$ ; reports for that should be sent to the public list `biblio@tug.org` (<https://lists.tug.org/biblio>); Oren Patashnik, the  $\text{BIB}\TeX$  author, will see them there. Or you can send them to me. (No particular deadlines or tuneup release dates for  $\text{BIB}\TeX$ .) Reports for other Stanford WEB programs can also be sent to `tex-k` or me.

### 4 CWEB(bin)

Don also still maintains the original CWEB programs written by him and Silvio Levy, and will accept bug reports for them, at the usual low priority; *TAOCP* must take precedence.

With Don's agreement, in 2019 we changed the CWEB distributed in  $\TeX$  Live to come from the `cwebbin` package, developed by Andreas Scherer at <https://github.com/ascherer/cwebbin>. It is compatible with the original CWEB, and supports more C and C++ language variants, has enhanced internationalization, etc. Reports for `cwebbin` should go to `tex-k@tug.org` or the `github` project above.

Thanks, and let the bug reports flow.

### References

- [1] D. Knuth. *Computers & Typesetting*. <https://www-cs-faculty.stanford.edu/~knuth/abcde.html>
- [2] D. Knuth. The  $\TeX$  tuneup of 2008. *TUGboat* 29(2):233–238, 2008. <https://tug.org/TUGboat/tb29-2/tb92knut.pdf>
- [3] D. Knuth. The  $\TeX$  tuneup of 2014. *TUGboat* 35(1):5–8, 2014. <https://tug.org/TUGboat/tb35-1/tb109knut.pdf>

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