

The `verbdef` package*

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February 23, 2010

1 What is it for?

Verbatim text is notoriously difficult in $\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$; in $\text{L}^{\text{A}}\text{T}_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ it adds confusion by being “more fragile than fragile”.

This package provides one way out of the impasse: the command `\verbdef`, which defines a robust command that expands to verbatim text.

2 Using `\verbdef`

The `\verbdef` command can take an its verbatim string between matching characters, as `\verb` does:

```
\verbdef\demo|demonstration text|
```

or you may give it a more normal-looking argument:

```
\verbdef\demo{demonstration text}
```

The command also respects “*”, as it’s used in `\verb` and the `verbatim` environment:

```
\verbdef*\stardemo{with visible spaces}
```

which will define a verbatim text `with_visible_spaces` (just like that).

3 Caveat

If the command you’re defining with `\verbdef` is to be used in a `\section`-type command, or a `\caption`, it’s going to appear in the table of contents (or list of whatever else). In this case you *must* define the command before the `\tableofcontents` command (or whatever). I recommend defining such commands in the preamble of the document¹.

*This documents version 0.2, of 2000-10-06

¹In fact, the source of the present document is so structured, since `\verbdef` is used to define a command for `\verbdef...`