

Using tlmgr with MacTeX 2008

1 Introduction

TeX Live 2008 has a new command line application, called tlmgr, that will automatically update the TeX Live distribution with new packages, etc., as time goes on. Unfortunately, in the initial release of TeX Live 2008 (and therefore MacTeX 2008) and on the TUG DVD tlmgr needs to be updated before using it to update the system. There will be an updated release of MacTeX where tlmgr will be updated already. This short article¹ is meant as an interim solution for those who have installed the initial MacTeX 2008 or BasicTeX 2008 release or have installed from the DVD.

2 Initial Setup and Updating tlmgr

Setting up the the tlmgr update system is a two step process. First you have to set up a preference that tells tlmgr where to find the files to update in future runs: run

```
sudo tlmgr option location http://mirror.ctan.org/systems/texlive/tlnet/2008
```

in the Terminal application and then enter your administrator password at the prompt. Then you must update tlmgr: run

```
sudo tlmgr update bin-texlive texlive.infra
```

again in the Terminal application; you may have to enter your administrator password again. This downloads and installs the latest version of tlmgr among other things.

Once the above commands have been run you will be able to use tlmgr to update your MacTeX 2008 system.

3 Updating MacTeX 2008 Using tlmgr

To do a general update of your MacTeX 2008 you need only run

```
sudo tlmgr update --all
```

in the Terminal application and enter your administrator password. To see what will be updated before actually updating you should run

```
tlmgr update --list
```

where you don't need to use sudo since tlmgr will not be writing to the TeX distribution.

To get more information on all the other things you can do with tlmgr run

```
texdoc tlmgr
```

in the Terminal application. This should bring up a pdf copy of the the tlmgr manual pages in Preview which you can then save to your Desktop.

¹Based on the contents of <<http://www.tug.org/texlive/tlmgr.html>>.