Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN)

Some years ago, a TUG Technical Council working group defined a common network archive for TeX software, the Comprehensive TeX Archive Network (CTAN). The archive holds up-to-date releases of many implementations of TeX, LaTeX, Metafont and related packages and programs. It is the primary repository for TeX-related software on the Internet.

CTAN was initiated and continues to be supported by the TeX user groups. Please consider supporting them in turn, by joining TUG or the TeX user group best for you.

The backbone machines are the ftp servers at cam.ctan.org (UK), dante.ctan.org (Germany) and tug.ctan.org (USA). Of course there is also a web interface (at each server).

CTAN is mirrored worldwide. This tug.org server itself is a CTAN mirror: browse local CTAN via http; via ftp. (Besides CTAN, tug.org also makes available much TeX-related and other assorted software: all tug.org software via http; ftp.)

A snapshot of the archive is distributed on physical media (both CD and DVD, these days) once a year by TUG (as a benefit of membership), and most other TeX user groups. You can also purchase the media without becoming a member.

CTAN search engines

Several hosts offer a searchable index of CTAN files:

USA from TUG (by Jim Hefferon)

Search CTAN files

Search Catalogue

Search TeX FAQ