vrsion
– a LaTeX Macro for version Numbering of Files[*]

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Abstract

The vrsion package provides a user-friendly way to introduce file version numbers in LaTeX documents. It remembers the previous version number, also when the `.aux`-file is corrupted (due to errors in the LaTeX run).

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1   Introduction

\version   This package provides one command, `\version`, which puts a version number where it appears. The version number is increased each time LaTeX is run, *i.e.* it numbers the `.dvi`-file. If the package is loaded but the command `\version` is not issued, the present version number is preserved. Numbering can be incremented at three different levels: units, tenths, and hundreds. A change between two of these is obtained by changing the package option. After a change of steplength, the previous version number is incremented with the new steplength. The version number can be \keepversion   held constant by using the command `\keepversion`; this enables the version number to be printed \stepversion   without being increased. (`\keepversion` can be overridden by the command `\stepversion`.)

This userguide is also available in `.pdf`-format on the internet. It is found from my LaTeX web page: `http://www.homenet.se/matsd/latex/`

2   Userguide

2.1   Requirements

The file `vrsion.sty` must be available in the user's `TEXINPUTS` directories. It requires LaTeX 2_ε of 1996/12/01 (or newer).

2.2   Usage

The package is included by stating

\usepackage[*option*]{vrsion}

one   in the document preamble. It can take one of the options `one`, `ten`, and `hundred`, and in addi-
ten   tion `xspace`. To produce a version number anywhere in your document you issue the command
hundred
xspace
\version

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[*]This document describes vrsion version 1.5, and was last revised on 1998/06/05.

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\version at the desired place in your LaTeX input file.[1] The version number will then be incremented each time you run LaTeX on the file. The command \version is robust.[2] Depending on the option used, the version number will be an integer (no option or option **one**), a number with one decimal (option **ten**), or a two-decimal number (option **hundred**). If the option **xspace** is specified, the xspace package is loaded and its features are benefited from. (If the xspace package is loaded by a separate \usepackage statement or by another package, its features are used by vrsion.)

When changing from one option (of **one**, **ten**, or **hundred**) to another, the previous format of the version number will be changed according to the new option. If a smaller increment is specified, the next increment will simply append one digit 1 to the old version number; *e.g.* a change from option **ten** to **hundred** after version 3.2 will result in version 3.21. If a larger increment is specified, the old version number will be truncated before the increment; *e.g.* a change from option **hundred** to **ten** after version 3.25 will result in version 3.3. You should (normally) not use the command \version more once in a document. The version number is stored in a file with extension 'vrs' in the default directory. (The full name of this file is \jobname.vrs.)

If you want your document to contain a version number without having it incremented each
\keepversion time you run LaTeX, you should issue the command \keepversion in the document (preamble). This switches off the incrementation mechanism and prevents the package from writing an updated .vrs-file. The \keepversion command can be cancelled at any later place in the document by
\stepversion issuing the command \stepversion. The action taken by the \version command is determined by which of these two was last issued.

Typically, you would load the vrsion package with the desired option and use the command \version where you want your document to state its version number. Normally, you would have the \keepversion command in the preamble, but comment it out on the first LaTeX run when you prepare to print a new version and then have the \keepversion in action during the LaTeX runs needed to resolve the references.

When it is desired to repeat the version number several times in a document, issue a \keepversion directly after the first use of \version. This will then produce the same version number at all occurrences; and the version number will be incremented according to the use of \keepversion in the preamble.

If the increase of the version number is to occur at any stage later than the fist occurrence of \version, the occurrence of \version which is to increase the version number should be preceeded by a \stepversion command (and followed by \keepversion to prevent further increments). The author can not think of any reason why this should be desired, but it can be achieved anyway...

2.3 Known Problems

- At the present (1997/07/16), vrsion does not work properly with neither the letter nor the scrlettr document classes.

- The \vrsion package is not working properly with the \include{*file*} command; use \input{*file*} instead.

- If the command \version is issued more than once in a document, the version number will be incremented at each occurrence and produce different version numbers at the different occurrences (unless \keepversion is in effect). This may typically be a problem if you use \version in the page header or footer. This is avoided if \keepversion is issued somewhere on the second page.

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[1] Notice that the text "version" is *not* produced by the \version command.
[2] Thanks to Timothy Robertson (timothyr@cmbr.phys.cmu.edu) for bringing my attention to the problem of \version being fragile.

3   History

The first version of the package was released in late December of 1994. The package was created with useful help and ideas from Johan Fröberg (`emgion@physchem.kth.se`).

The vrsion package version 1.5 has been tested with LaTeX 2_ε of 1997/06/01 using MiKTeX 1.07 running TeX 3.14159 under Win95. Please send bug reports (see below), corrections, additions, suggestions, *etc.* to me at `matsd@sssk.se`.

3.1   Changes from previous versions

In vrsion (`version`) version 1.0 the macro `\@skrivner` caused extra space to be inserted in front of the version number. With vrsion version 1.1 and later this is avoided.

In version 1.1 the vrsion package had incompatibility problems with the babel package.[3] With vrsion version 1.2 this problem is eliminated. Also, the command `\version` has been made robust.

In version 1.3, some adjustments to changes in the babel package have been made,[4] if the xspace package is loaded, its features are made use of. Also, some problems with `\maketitle` issuing extra blank page(s) have been eliminated,[5] it seems (at least for the article, report, and book classes). Furthermore, some cosmetics in the installation routine have been added.

Version 1.4 eliminated an incompatibility with the koma-script package. The incompatibility was that some features of koma-script's version of the `\maketitle` command were lost when vrsion was loaded.[6] Furthermore, some `\typeout` statements have been removed and the processing order of some of the macro definitions has been changed.

With babel version 3.6 the incompatibility between the vrsion and babel packages was appearing again.[7] In vrsion version 1.5 this is adjusted.

4   Sending a Bug Report

vrsion is most likely to contain bugs. Reports of bugs in the package are most welcome. When filing a bug report, please take the following actions:

1. Ensure your problem is not due to your inputfile;

2. Ensure your problem is not due to your own package(s) or class(es);

3. Ensure your problem is not covered in the section "Known Problems" above;

4. Try to locate the problem by writing a minimal LaTeX input file which reproduces the problem. Include the command
    ```
    \setcounter{errorcontextlines}{999}
    ```
    in your input;

5. Run your file through LaTeX;

6. Send a description of your problem, the input file and the log file via e-mail to:
        `matsd@sssk.se`.

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[3] Thanks to Peter Ryder (`ryder@theo.physik.uni-bremen.de`) for bringing my attention to this problem.

[4] Thanks to Cornelius C. Noack (`noack@physik.uni-bremen.de`) for bringing my attention to the re-appearance of the babel incompatibility.

[5] Thanks to Ludek Matyska (`ludek@muni.cz`) for pointing out this problem.

[6] Thanks to Christofer P. Baron (`baron@iml.fgh.de`) for bringing my attention to this problem.

[7] Due to an internal change of the babel code

Enjoy your LaTeX!

mats d.