

# The tbook FAQ

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## 1 What is tbook and why should I use it?

tbook is a file format for documents. You can write e.g. your master thesis or your current paper in tbook format. Every text editor can be used for that, although some are much more useful than others (see question 4).

This tbook file can then be converted fully automatically to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or HTML. You don't need to know how L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X works. tbook's L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X output can be processed by L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X directly to produce decent Postscript or PDF. Additionally, tbook files can be converted to Microsoft Word format (RTF), however indirectly via DocBook.

All of this works with such nice bits like formulae, graphics, tables, bibliography, and index. 14 human languages are supported so far.

Unlike many other tools in the XML world, tbook tries hard to produce pleasant-looking output, especially for Postscript and PDF.

So why should you use it? Because you want to have beautiful documents and maximal flexibility in the output formats!

## 2 Where can I find tbook?

The home page can be found at <http://tbookdtd.sourceforge.net>. The project page, with all downloads and the bug report system is at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/tbookdtd/>.

## 3 Which files do I need?

For Linux, you need "tbook-x.x-xtb.rpm" and probably the RPMs for xindy and Saxon, too. For Windows, you only need "tbook-x.x.exe". (The x's denote the version numbers.)

## 4 How do I install tbook?

First you should be sure that you have everything **tbook** needs:

- A very complete  $\TeX$  distribution. For Windows, you have to install Ghostscript and MikTeX. Instead of MikTeX, TeXLive may be a very good alternative.

For Linux, this should be already installed, but some  $\LaTeX$  packages may be missing.

Missing  $\LaTeX$  package for Windows and Linux you can find on CTAN.

- A good XML or text editor. This is a matter of taste. You may use Emacs with PSGML. A good Windows alternative may be Cooktop. Theoretically, every text editor works.

Next, install **tbook**. For Windows this means that you have to call the EXE file and follow the instructions. For Linux, install each RPM with

```
rpm -i <name-of-rpm-file>
```

(Install the **tbook** RPM last.) You have to be root for that.

That's all.

## 5 How do I have to call those make files?

First, there are three conversion tools:

- `tbtolatex` converts to  $\LaTeX$ ,
- `tbthtml` converts to HTML, and
- `tbtodocbk` converts to DocBook.

Additionally, there are all those `make??` files that generate graphics, formulae, bibliography, and index for you. They do a lot of necessary work for you.

`tbtolatex` is somewhat special because it is the only converter that updates *all* make files. So, if you add a graphics or include an index, you have to call `tbtolatex` so that the make files know about it.

If you've only changed text, just call the converter to your desired output format. If you've changed something more, you possibly have to call the corresponding make file, e.g. `makebib` for an added citation. Finally call `latex` or `tbthtml` to get the final result.

For further information see the **tbook** manpage or the **tbook** manual (`tbookman.pdf`).

It is planned to create *one* program that would eventually do all the necessary calls (and only them) for you. However, this is not trivial and still future tech.

## 6 Why doesn't my browser display the HTML output properly?

Probably because your browser is broken. Please submit a bug report to the people who have created it. But Netscape, Mozilla, but also Internet Explorer should show the pages nicely.

On the other hand, we have to live with all browsers. Maybe the XSLT parameter `css-mode` may help you. Mostly it's a problem with the CSS declarations. You may provide less dangerous CSS by yourself via the XSLT parameter `css-file`.

If it's a bug in **tbook**, please submit a bug report, too.

Please make sure that you call `tbtolatex` and `tbthtml` with the parameter `-t` if you don't want to create XHTML files. Ordinary HTML 4 files are way less dangerous.

## 7 Why can't I use Fraktur letters in my tbook document?

This is a bug in Saxon. It doesn't accept unicodes of the very high region of the unicode standard. The same is true for Jade. Therefore the Fraktur letters and other – mostly mathematical – character entities are disabled as long as this problem is persistent, and it is almost impossible to include them without fatal error messages. The following mini document may show you how to use them in a provisional way:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE article PUBLIC "-//Torsten Bronger//DTD tbook 1.3//EN"
    "/usr/share/xml/tbook/tbook.dtd" [
  <!ENTITY Mfr "<latex code =
    '\ensuremath{\mathfrak{M}}'>&#x1D510;</latex>">]>

<article>
  <title>Title</title>
  <author>Author</author>

  <section>
    <heading>First section</heading>

    <p>An 'M' Fraktur: &Mfr;.</p>
  </section>
</article>
```

Be aware that this doesn't work within formulae unfortunately.

## 8 Why did you create tbook although there is DocBook?

The short answer is: Because DocBook is too big and too small at the same time for me. It's too big and therefore it's difficult to learn, to use, and to process it; and it's too small because I miss some features that I know from L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X and that I found very useful.

The long answer can be found at <http://tbookdtd.sourceforge.net/db-diss.html>.

## 9 What about support of ConTeXt?

I'd be pleased to see ConTeXt output for tbook however it is not vital. We are talking about *generated* T<sub>E</sub>X code here anyway, and whether you achieve your print output via L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X or ConTeXt is not very important since both formats can be arbitrarily configured. I don't know ConTeXt at all, but I think a competent and motivated person could easily add ConTeXt to tbook by using the L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X files as a starting point.