The show2e package

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Important note for French readers: the file show2e-fr.pdf contains the same documentation in French.

1 Introduction

This small package aims at making debugging (esp. in an interactive way) easier, by providing \show variants suited to \TeX’s commands (with optional arguments or robust) and environments.

2 Usage

\showcmd The \showcmd command displays a command like \TeX’s \show, but with a little bonus: it also checks if the macros takes an optional argument (like some commands defined with \newcommand do), or was made robust by using \DeclareRobustCommand or fix\ltx2e’s \MakeRobust. Such commands use other(s) internal command(s), which \showcmd will also display for you.

\showcs The \showcs command does the same thing as \showcmd, but takes the command’s name as its argument: \showcmd{truc} is equivalent to \showcs{truc}. Finally, the \showenv command does the same for environments.

The previous commands will only work on simple commands defined with standard \TeX commands (or, by the way, with xargs): they do not try to guess such things as a direct use of %@ifnextchar, or even %@ifstar (at the moment).

3 Implementation

\showcmd The \showcmd macro just checks to beginning of the meaning of is argument, in order to decide if there are any internal macro to show too. It also sets a default value for \escapechar for sake of readability.

\begin{verbatim}
\newcommand*{\showcmd}[1] {%
  \begingroup \escapechar92
  \show#1%
  \if@meaning@prefix\test@meaning@prefix\protect
  \show@protect
  \protect
  \show@protect
\end{verbatim}
The two variants are only wrappers for \showcmd.

Macros for showing the internal macros found, either with \show or with \showcmd.

Check if the second argument is a prefix for the meaning of the first. Variant expanding the second argument once before (named in l3 style).

Check if string 2 is a prefix of string 1. Variant expanding the two arguments once before checking.

That’s all folks!

Happy \TeXing!