

MiKTeX 2.8 Preview

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1 Highlights

- easier network installation
- better experience for restricted users
- portable edition
- XCOPY deployment

2 System requirements

MiKTeX 2.8 requires one of the following Windows platforms:

- Windows 7
- Windows Server 2008
- Windows Vista
- Windows Server 2003
- Windows XP
- Windows 2000

3 Breaking changes

3.1 Per-user versus system-wide maintenance

The MiKTeX maintenance utilities (MiKTeX Options, MiKTeX Update Wizard and MiKTeX Package Manager) now come in two variants:

- the *standard variant* is used to change MiKTeX settings for the current (logged-in) user
- the *admin variant* is used to to change MiKTeX settings for all users

For example, packages will be installed in a private installation directory, if the current user runs the standard variant of the package manager. In contrast, packages will be installed in the system-wide installation directory, if the current user runs the admin variant of the package manager.

In order to run an admin variant, the current user must have administrator privileges.

The command-line versions of the maintenance utilities (`initexmf` and `mpm`) accept the `-admin` option to run the admin variant.

3.2 `\write18` partially enabled

The `\write18` primitive is now partially enabled: if the first token is a well known command (e.g., `epstopdf`), it will be executed. Unknown commands are still blocked.

3.3 MiKTeX Setup Wizard

The command-line option `-install-root=dir` has been replaced by `-common-install=dir` and `-user-install=dir`.

The command-line option `-roots=dirs` has been replaced by `-common-roots=dirs` and `-user-roots=dirs`.

3.4 T_EXnicCenter compatibility

`latex` terminates with “GUI framework cannot be initialized” if started from T_EXnicCenter (1.0 Stable Release Candidate 1). Please visit the MiKTeX 2.8 Issues page¹ <<http://miktex.org/2.8/issues>> for a solution.

4 Per-user TEXMF roots

It is now possible to set up TEXMF root directories on a per-user basis: users can register their private TEXMF root directories without affecting the system-wide MiKTeX installation.

5 Per-user package management

Packages can now be installed in a user-private installation directory.

6 Optionally avoiding the Windows Registry

The new setup option `-no-registry` causes MiKTeX to store configuration settings in a configuration file. By avoiding the Windows Registry, it is easier to create network installation of MiKTeX.

¹<<http://miktex.org/2.8/issues>>

7 MiKTeX Portable

The new portable edition makes it possible to run MiKTeX from a portable storage device:

- MiKTeX on a portable storage device is ready for use on any Windows computer
- configuration settings are stored on the portable storage device and not in the Windows Registry of the host computer
- no traces are left on the host computer
- no administrator privileges are required on the host computer

Since MiKTeX Portable is installed by copying files (XCOPY deployment² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XCOPY_deployment>), it is now easier to integrate MiKTeX into 3rd party products.

MiKTeX Portable is distributed as a 7-Zip self-extracting archive.

Please visit the MiKTeX Portable Homepage³ <<http://miktex.org/portable>>, for more information.

8 TeXworks

The MiKTeX distribution now includes TeXworks, an integrated development environment for TeX and LaTeX written by Jonathan Kew.

TeXworks includes a text editor, a previewer, syntax highlighting, spell checking, Unicode support.

This version of TeXworks is adapted to the MiKTeX distribution. See the TeXworks for MiKTeX homepage⁴ <<http://miktex.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/miktex/miktex/trunk/Programs/Editors/TeXworks/miktex.html>>, for more information.

9 File type associations

TeX input documents (*.tex, *.ltx, ...) and PDF documents (*.pdf) are associated with TeXworks (existing associations are left intact).

10 Upgrades

- Dvipdfmx 20090708
- Dvipng 1.12
- Dvips 5.98
- pdfTeX 1.40.10
- XeTeX 0.9995.0

²<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XCOPY_deployment>

³<<http://miktex.org/portable>>

⁴<<http://miktex.svn.sourceforge.net/viewvc/miktex/miktex/trunk/Programs/Editors/TeXworks/miktex.html>>

11 Bugfixes

2419953⁵ <http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?func=detail&aid=2419953&group_id=10783&atid=110783> ("bad \input implementation in TeX breaks SyncTeX")

⁵<http://sourceforge.net/tracker/?func=detail&aid=2419953&group_id=10783&atid=110783>