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Making labels, visiting cards, pins and flash-cards with LaTeX

A short introduction

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`ticket.sty` provides a simple interface to produce visiting (or calling) cards, labels for your files, stickers, pins and other stuff for your office, conferences etc.

All you need is a definition of your ‘ticket’ included in a ticket definition file (`.tdf`),
↣ see ticket definition file
and the two commands `\ticketdefault` and `\ticket`.
↣ see how to fill your ticket

See several examples to get an idea what this provides to you:
↣ `ex_file` back labels for your files...
↣ `ex_pin` pins for a conference...
↣ `ex_vcard` visiting-cards (also business cards, name cards...)
↣ `ex_marks` different markers used...
↣ `ex_flashcard`, `ex_flashcard (duplex)` flash-cards, try it...

How to use it

Just add this line to the header of your latex-file:

```
\usepackage[tdf-file,other options]{ticket}
```

Use the letter or article documentclass and set up the paper-size that you need.

The ticket definition file

A sample ticket definition (lz1680.tdf) for a 'LEITZ'-product is:

```
%%
%% ticket for "Leitz 1680"
%% pre-cutted label for wide files
%%
\unitlength=1mm

%% tested for an HP5SiMX, adjust it for your printer
\hoffset=-16.2mm
\voffset=-6.6mm

\ticketNumbers{1}{4}

\ticketSize{189}{56.5}      % in unitlength
\ticketDistance{0}{9.8}     % in unitlength
```

The meaning of \unitlength is obvious, \hoffset and \voffset are used to adjust the printed output. \ticketNumbers{n$_x$}{n$_y$} are the number of the tickets on the sheet in horizontal and vertical direction. \ticketSize{width}{height} is the size of one ticket and \ticketDistance{dist$_x$}{dist$_y$} are spaces between the tickets.

Missing the ticket definition file

If you like to test a new ticket definition or you like to create only a single output without reusing those definitions anymore, `ticket.sty` assumes default values which can be redefined in your file.
Simply call `ticket.sty` without any ticket definition:

```
\usepackage[other options]{ticket}
```

and add your definitions directly to the head of the file after loading ticket.sty.

How to fill your ticket

ticket.sty enables a picture-environment for all tickets. You can put things into this picture with \ticketdefault and \ticket. Both commands possess one argument.

\ticketdefault is used to put a default and unique background to your ticket, that will be – of course – not changed for all tickets unless you change with \renewcommand this background:

```
\renewcommand{\ticketdefault}{%
    \put(100, 5){\includegraphics[width=35mm]{ifmlogoc}}%
    \put(100,50){\begin{rotate}{180}\Huge ...\end{rotate}}%
    }
```

\ticket is used to provide the content which will be changed for the individual tickets. The simplest way to do that is to define a new command like this:

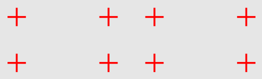
```
\newcommand{\myticket}[3]{\ticket{%
    \put(  0, 5){#1}%
    \put( 20,20){{\bfseries\large#2}\\#3}%
    }}
```

Additional Options

Currently any option other than the tdf-file is used to create marks or decorations around the ticket:

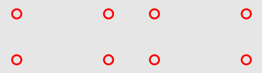
crossmark

Add a cross at all four corners of the ticket



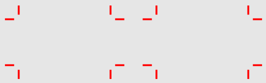
circlemark

Add a circle at all four corners



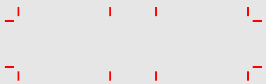
emptycrossmark

A crossmark where the part of the cross inside the ticket is not visible



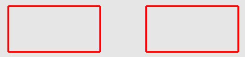
cutmark

Just add cutmarks at the outer region of the page



boxed

Add a frame around each ticket



Special commands

You can add additional page-breaks with `\newpage\ticketreset`. This clears the ticket-buffers and sets the corresponding values to initial values.

This can be used if you create a handful of tickets multiple times.

The command `\backside` is useful for flash-cards, see the use-cases below.

Organising and reading input

In general it is a good idea to create a file that contains all definitions and the whole latex-setup and a second file that contains only the data that you like to print which can be referenced by `\input`.

For example, if you reference a huge database of names of people which are used for the pins of a conference, you can easily write a script (perl, python...) that extracts the data to a file that is itself latex-formated with a `\myticket{ }{ }{ }` on each line.

Sometimes – of course – you only have to print only a small amount of data and all data can easily be written to only one file.

Sometimes a small generator-function can help to create numbers on tickets:

```
\newcounter{numcards}
...
\begin{document}
...
\whiledo{\thenumcards<25}{\stepcounter{numcards}\acard{\thenumcards}}%
```

Use-cases

Some examples were referenced at the beginning of this manual. I will finish this short introduction with an overview of special examples and their implementations:

Files and pins

This is a simple example for your files. The same applies to pins. Start with a `\ticketdefault`, which is ”‘background”’:

```
\renewcommand{\ticketdefault}{%
  \put(155,5){\begin{sideways}%
      \includegraphics[width=35mm]{ifmlogoc}\end{sideways}}%
  \put(150,50){\begin{rotate}{180}\Huge C O M P U T E R\end{rotate}}%
}
```

Now, create the content of the `\ticket` which differs:

```
\newcommand{\filelabel}[3]{\ticket{%
    \put(33,48){\begin{sideways}\bfseries\Large#1\end{sideways}}%
    \put(43,5){\begin{sideways}%
        \begin{minipage}[t]{50mm}%
          {\bfseries\large#2}\\[2ex]\large#3%
        \end{minipage}%
      \end{sideways}}%
}}
```

And fill the tickets:

```
\begin{document}
...
\filelabel{1}{\LaTeX{} - styles}{Standard styles\\Own styles\\%
  \hspace*{5mm}\bfseries ifmslide\\\hspace*{5mm}\bfseries ticket}%
...
```

Visiting-cards

In this example, the `\ticketdefault` is empty, since we need a front and and background that differs:

```
\renewcommand{\ticketdefault}{}%

\newcommand{\vcardfront}[5]{\ticket{%
    \put( 63, 5){\includegraphics[width=40mm,angle=90,origin=bl]{ifmlogoc}}
    \put( 63.2, 2){\color{uni}your logo}
    \put( 5, 13){\color{uni}\line(1,0){56}}
    \put( 7, 10){\small your company}
    \put( 7,6.5){\small street 1}\put( 7,  3){\small xxxxx city and state}
    \put( 7, 24){\small phone:}\put( 7, 20){\small fax:}
    \put(6,40){\bfseries\LARGE #1}
    \put(7,36){#2}\put(15,24){\small #3}\put(15,20){\small #4}\put( 7,16){\small #5}
 }}

\newcommand{\vcardback}[1]{\ticket{%
    \put( 7, 26){\small private:}
    \put( 5, 23){\color{uni}\line(1,0){56}}
    \put( 7,19){\small%
        \begin{minipage}[t]{50mm}{#1}\hss\end{minipage}}%
}}
```

And fill the tickets:

```
% a counter, which makes life easier...
\newcounter{numcards}

\begin{document}
...
% ten cards for the front
\whiledo{\thenumcards<10}{%
  \stepcounter{numcards}%
  \vcardfront{Mr. X}{Degree/Profession}{+YY/XXXX/ZZZ ZZ ZZ}{+YY/XXXX/ZZZ ZZ ZZ}
                    {yourmail@your-provider.xxx}}
\setcounter{numcards}{0}
% and ten for the backside
\whiledo{\thenumcards<10}{%
  \stepcounter{numcards}%
  \vcardback{phone: ---/HH HH HHH\\fax: ---/HH HH HHH\\homestreet 7\\everywhere}}
...
```

Flashcards

In this case we work with two different `\ticket`-definitions since we have a file with two different commands. However, this can be changed according to your taste:

```
% now what do you like to put in your ticket
\newcommand{\card}[2]{\ticket{%
    \put(32.5,15){\makebox[0mm]{\centering{\huge{\textbf{#1}}}}}
 }}
\newcommand{\raiz}[3]{\ticket{%
    \put(2,31){{$\sqrt{\enspace}$}}
    \put(32.5,15){\makebox[0mm]{{\huge{\textit{{ #1 }}}}}}
}}
```

All data is in a file:

```
...
\begin{document}
\input{words}
```

Now change the command for the backside:

```
\renewcommand{\card}[2]{\ticket{%
    \put(3,30){\parbox{58mm}{\large{\textbf{ #1:}}}}%
    \put(4,23){\parbox[t]{58mm} {\small {\blt #2}}}%
 }}
\renewcommand{\raiz}[3]{\ticket{%
    \put(3,30){\parbox{58mm}{\textbf{#1:} #2}}%
    \put(3,13){\parbox{58mm}{#3}}%
 }}
```

Use the special command `\backside`, do some further adjustment for your printer and reread the file:

```
\backside%
\oddsidemargin=8pt
\input{words}
...
```

If you want to print this on a duplex-printer rearrange the pages with this command for example:

```
psselect -p1,3,2,4 ex\_flashcard.ps ex\_flashcard\_dup.ps ...
```

Acknowledgements...

Many thanks to those who used ticket.sty for many years and helped to find some small bugs and those who provided ticket-definition-files (tdf) and suggestions for new features.

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