

The easychair Class File

Documentation and Guide, for Authors and Editors

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Abstract

In order to ease the lives of authors, editors, and trees, we present an easy-to-read guide to the easy-to-use `easychair` L^AT_EX₂ε document style class for EasyChair-based electronic publishing of workshop and conference proceedings.

1 Introduction

For quick typesetting instructions please skip to Section 2.

The `easychair` class was designed to be easy to use, and specifically favoring electronic publishing by the EasyChair conference system [24]. EasyChair is a free conference management system that is flexible, easy to use, and has many features to make it suitable for various conference models. It is currently probably the most commonly used conference management system [24]. The `easychair` class was designed according to some requirements, which are described in Appendix A.



Figure 1: EasyChair logo

2 Typesetting

Typesetting with `easychair` is, well, easy. Just by using the document class entry in the document's preamble as follows: `\documentclass{easychair}` the typesetting work is nearly done. The `easychair` class is a relatively conservative extension of the standard `article` class, so most of the environments, section headers, etc. defined by `article` are available.

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*Did all the difficult work

†Did numerous tests and provided a lot of suggestions

‡Masterminded EasyChair

2.1 Generalities

The following are the general default parameters `easychair` introduces into the typesetting aspect of articles. Do not alter these – papers deviating from the formatting standards will be automatically rejected.

1. The default paper size is US letter. It can be explicitly set to A4 (`a4paper`) or letter (`letterpaper`) paper in the document class entry, e.g., `\documentclass[a4paper]{easychair}`. The print area for both letter and A4 paper sizes is 16cm × 9in.
2. The base font is Times New Roman-like, and the sans-serif font is Helvetica. The base font size is 11pt (in deference to senior *scientific eyes*¹).
3. The references list is condensed. The default bibliography styles, such as `plain`, `abbrv`, and `alpha`, are suggested.
4. PNG, JPG, and PDF images are supported, i.e., those that are supported by the standard `graphicx` package [2], and render nicely in online versions of PDF documents. This document shows some examples of JPG and PDF images, in Figures 1, 2, and 4.



Figure 2: Easy Chair

2.2 Front Matter

The front matter of an `easychair` article follows the `article` style, augmented with the `\titlerunning` and `\authorrunning` commands for use by authors, and the `\volumeinfo` for use by editors. For the `\author` command with multiple authors, use `\and` to separate authors from different institutions, as done in this document. If the authors are from the same institution they can be separated by commas or `\` preceding their institution. If the order of authors from the same institution is not consecutive, follow the same principle as for authors from the separate institutions. Authors must set the `\titlerunning` and `\authorrunning`. Figure 3 is the authors’ front matter of this document.

¹Whatever “scientific eyes” may mean :-)

```

\title{The {\code{easychair}} Class File \
Documentation and Guide, for Authors and Editors}
\title{The {\code{easychair}} Class File}

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}
\author{Mokhov, Sutcliffe, and Voronkov}

\maketitle

```

Figure 3: Example front matter

2.3 Section Headings

Section and paragraph headings in `easychair` are invoked via the standard commands, such as `\section`, `\subsection`, `\subsubsection`, and `\paragraph`. Generally, every non-trivial word must be capitalized according to general capitalization guidelines. Paragraph headings must have a trailing period. See the examples in this document, e.g., Section 2 is a section, this (Section 2.3) is a subsection, and Section 2.3.1 is a subsubsection.

2.3.1 Subsubsection Header

This is a subsubsection.

Paragraph header. This is a paragraph. One way of saving space when hyper-references are not essential is to use paragraphs instead of subsubsections.

2.4 Page Numbering

Page numbers are at the middle-bottom of every page. Authors must leave the page numbers in as-is. When the proceedings are prepared, the volume editors will insert the page numbers (see Section 2.5).

2.5 For Editors

If you are not a proceedings volume editor, you may safely skip this section. The editors have a command to the starting page number, volume and issue numbers, etc. For example,

```

\volumeinfo
  {J. Bloe}    % editor(s)
  {1}         % No. of editors
  {CONF 2008} % event title
  {1}         % volume number
  {4}         % issue
  {134}       % starting page number

```

The command goes into the front matter of the document. The first parameter is the editor(s)’s name(s). The second parameter is the number of the editors: if there is more than one then the label “(ed.)” becomes plural “(eds.)”. The rest of the parameters are self-explanatory.

3 Installation and Usage Instructions

3.1 Installation

The “installation” of the `easychair` document class is easy. Download the `easychair.zip` package and unzip it in the directory where you will prepare your paper. You will get the following files, out of which you may need to keep only the `easychair.cls` style class if you are familiar with the rest of the files and do not require them to get started.

- `easychair.cls` – the class file that this is all about.
- `easychair-letter.pdf` – the PDF version of this guide rendered using the `letterpaper` option, and `easychair-a4.pdf` – the PDF version of this guide rendered using `a4paper` option.
- `easychair.tex` – the \LaTeX source of this guide, and `easychair.bib` – the supporting bibliography entries found starting on page 6.
- `Makefile` – a “project” file for `make`, to automate compilation of this document on UNIX/Linux-like platforms, and `easychair.tcp` – a “project” file for `TeXnicCenter`, to automate compilation of this document on Windows. See Section 3.4.
- `logoEC.pdf` – the PDF version of the EasyChair’s logo, rendered in Figure 1, `chairEC.pdf` – the PDF version of the easy chair, rendered in Figure 2, and `throneEC.jpg` – the JPG version of the easy throne, rendered in Figure 4.

3.2 Required Packages

The `easychair` class relies only on packages deemed standard and shipped by most \LaTeX distributions in the worlds of Linux (`tetex`), MacOS X, and Windows (via `Cygwin` or `MiKTeX`). If for some reason your distribution is old or doesn’t have the packages listed below, you can always obtain a copy from CTAN [20].

- `inputenc` [10] – with the default option `utf8`, primarily to allow for UTF-8 characters.
- `url` [1] – to provide URL rendering support for the monospaced font, which takes care of special characters as well as line wrapping.
- `hyperref` [14] – to allow hyperlinking of URLs and cross references within an article. Its options are set to either `letterpaper` or `a4paper`, depending on the `\documentclass` options.

- `graphicx` [2] – the standard package for rendering PNG, JPG, and PDF graphic images, primarily in `figure` environments.
- `mathptmx` [16] – Times base font for compactness.
- `helvet` [17] – Helvetica as `sans-serif`.
- `listings` [12] – to allow highlighted source code listing styles.
- `latexsym` [21] – to provide common math and other symbols.
- `amsthm` [19] – to provide \mathcal{AMS} theorem-like environments.
- `empheq` [9] – to provide equation environments, etc.
- `geometry` [22] – to set `easychair` margins, outlined in Section 2.1.
- `lastpage` [6] – to allow computationally referencing the last page.
- `fancyhdr` [23] – for running heads.
- `footmisc` [3] – to ensure that footnotes are always at the bottom.

3.3 Recommended Packages

Here is a list of some packages that this guide’s authors have experimented with, and which are suitable for inclusion if needed by article authors. These packages must be loaded using `\usepackage`. In general, authors may use any standard packages provided they do not change the basic layout and font settings established by the `easychair` class. Such packages must be provided with the submission of articles.

- `rotating` [4] – to rotate floats (figures and tables) on the page, when wide tables or figures do not fit in portrait layout.
- `pdflscape` [13] – similar to `rotating`, but also allows rotating text to make it conveniently viewable in a PDF viewer that supports individual rotated pages. A possible disadvantage is that a page break is forced, which may create gaps before or after the landscape page.
- `algorithm2e` [5] – provides a figure-like algorithm environment for formal algorithm presentation with highlighting.

3.4 Compiling

`pdflatex` [8] is the preferred tool for producing PDF files with `easychair` class documents. The author kit (`easychair.zip`) includes some minimal automation that authors can use at their discretion.

- Linux and UNIX-like platforms (also works under Cygwin and MacOS X): A `Makefile` is provided for the GNU `make` [18] utility, so this document can be compiled by typing `make` at the terminal prompt (on the systems where both GNU and non-GNU versions of `make` are installed, one may need to use `gmake`).

- Microsoft Windows: `TEXnicCenter` [25] and `MiKTEX` [15] are tools for `LATEX` processing under Microsoft Windows. The former provides a GUI front-end to `LATEX`, and the latter is the Windows native-compiled `tetex` binaries and standard packages with a comprehensive package update tool. The `easychair.tex` project file is provided for `TEXnicCenter` users.
- Mac OS X: `TeXShop` [11] is a tool for `LATEX` processing under Mac OS X. It provides a GUI front-end to `LATEX`.

3.5 Bug Reports

Please report bugs, errors, and omissions you find with the `easychair` class to its primary author and current maintainer, Serguei Mokhov, at `mokhov@cs.concordia.ca`. Any constructive feedback is always welcome.

4 Conclusion

An article that occupies approximately 17 LNCS formatted pages, using the 10pt base font size, takes approximately 14 `easychair` pages, using the 11pt base font size.

4.1 Future Work

We plan to further strengthen the `easychair` class and promote it for electronic publishing for EasyChair-powered conferences and workshops, and take over the world, as shown in Figure 4.

4.2 Acknowledgments

- Aleksander Kosenkov for the graphics that are used here, and the EasyChair website.
- The CTAN [20] and `LATEX` communities [25, 15].
- Peter Grogono for his neat kickstart `LATEX` introduction [7].

4.3 History

- `easychair` v. 1.0 – June 2008, initial release

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"Because I like it better than the old one,
that's why."

Figure 4: Easy Throne

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A `easychair` Requirements Specification

The following high-level requirements were set for the development of the `easychair` class, and were refined further development went along.

1. The style should be easy to use. The average \LaTeX user should not need to read a long manual.
2. It should be economical in space but the text should be nice-to-read
3. It should use fonts producing a reasonable-quality PDF.
4. The bibliography should produce hyperlinks.
5. Sections should produce menu sections in PDF.

6. The text should look good on both A4 and letter paper.
7. The style should be single-column.
8. The print area should be 16cm wide by 9in high with 11pt base font size.
9. Running heads.
10. A way to specify the first page number.
11. A way to specify the volume name and number, and have it printed.