The protecteddef package

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Abstract

This package provides \texttt{\textbackslash protected\texttt{def}} for defining robust macros for both plain \TeX{} and \LaTeX{}. First \varepsilon\TeX{}'s \texttt{\textbackslash protected} is tried, then \LaTeX{}'s \texttt{\textbackslash DeclareRobustCommand} is used. Otherwise the macro is not made robust.

Contents

1 Documentation
  1.1 The \LaTeX{}'s way ........................................ 1
  1.2 The \varepsilon\TeX{}'s way ................................ 2
  1.3 The way of this package .................................. 2
  1.4 Usage .................................................... 2

2 Implementation
  2.1 Reload check and package identification ................. 2
  2.2 Catcodes ............................................... 3
  2.3 Resources .............................................. 4

3 Installation
  3.1 Download ................................................ 6
  3.2 Bundle installation .................................... 6
  3.3 Package installation ................................... 7
  3.4 Refresh file name databases .............................. 7
  3.5 Some details for the interested ........................ 7

4 History
  [2011/01/31 v1.0] .......................................... 7
  [2016/05/16 v1.1] .......................................... 7

5 Index

1 Documentation

Many of my packages work for both formats plain \TeX{} and \LaTeX{}, even \textsc{inizip} is often supported. It would be nice if fragile macros could be protected and made robust. However the different format worlds offer different solutions.

*Please report any issues at https://github.com/ho-tex/oberdiek/issues
1.1 The \LaTeX’s way

Usually \texttt{\newcommand} is used to define macros. It provides a check if the command to be defined is already defined or cannot be defined for other reasons.

For making robust macros \LaTeX provides \texttt{\DeclareRobustCommand}. It shares the syntax with \texttt{\newcommand}. However it does not provide latter’s check. Internally the check is available via \texttt{\@ifdefinable}.

Internally the robust macro is using \texttt{\protect} with a nested macro definition. The \texttt{\protect} infrastructure is a feature of \LaTeX and usually not available in other formats.

1.2 The e-\TeX’s way

The need for robust macros is addressed in \TeX. It provides \texttt{\protected} that modifies the behaviour of \texttt{\def} in a similar way as \texttt{\long}. A protected macro does not expand in some expandable contexts like writing to a file or \texttt{\edef}.

1.3 The way of this package

The package tries to find the available protection mechanism. First it looks for \TeX’s \texttt{\protected}, then it uses \LaTeX’s \texttt{\DeclareRobustCommand}. If both fails, then the macro remains unprotected.

Additionally, \LaTeX’s check, if a macro is already defined is added in all cases. First \LaTeX’s \texttt{\@ifdefinable} is tried to be compatible with \LaTeX. If \texttt{\@ifdefinable} is not available, then the test is implemented by asserting that the macro is undefined or has the meaning of \texttt{\relax}. If the test fails, then in all cases the macro is not defined and an error is thrown.

1.4 Usage

\texttt{\ProtectedDef* \{⟨cmd⟩\} \[⟨num⟩\] \{⟨definition text⟩\}}

Macro \texttt{\ProtectedDef} follows the syntax of \LaTeX’s \texttt{\newcommand} with the exception that an optional argument is not supported. Macro \texttt{⟨cmd⟩} is to be defined as \texttt{\long} macro without star with \texttt{⟨num⟩} arguments.

The number of arguments \texttt{⟨num⟩} must be given as explicite digit 0 up to 9. Otherwise the part between the argument \texttt{⟨cmd⟩} and the \texttt{⟨definition text⟩} is taken as parameter text in the syntax of vanilla \TeX. Examples (with \texttt{\protected}):

\begin{verbatim}
\ProtectedDef*\{\foo\}[1]{\message{#1}}
⇒ \protected\def\foo#1{\message#1}
\ProtectedDef\foo{abc}
⇒ \protected\def\foo{abc}
\ProtectedDef*\foo(#1)<#2>{#1/#2}
⇒ \protected\def\foo(#1)<#2>{#1/#2}
\end{verbatim}

2 Implementation

2.1 Reload check and package identification

Reload check, especially if the package is not used with \LaTeX.

\begin{verbatim}
\begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
\catcode13=5 % ^^M
\endlinechar=13 %
\catcode35=6 % #
\catcode39=12 % ’
\end{verbatim}
Package identification:
\begin{verbatim}
\begingroup
\catcode44=12 % ,
\catcode45=12 % -
\catcode46=12 % .
\catcode58=12 % :
\catcode64=11 % @
\catcode123=1 % {
\catcode125=2 % }
\expandafter\let\expandafter\x\csname ver@protecteddef.sty\endcsname
\ifx\x\relax % plain-TeX, first loading
  \def\empty{}%
  \ifx\x\empty % LaTeX, first loading, 
    \% variable is initialized, but \ProvidesPackage not yet seen
  \else
    \expandafter\ifx\csname PackageInfo\endcsname\relax
      \def\x#1#2{%
        \immediate\write-1{Package #1 Info: #2.}%
      }%
    \else
      \def\x#1#2{
        \PackageInfo{#1}{#2, stopped}%
      }%
    \fi
    \x{protecteddef}{The package is already loaded}%
  \aftergroup\endinput
\fi
\fi
\endgroup%
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
\begin{verbatim}
\begingroup
\catcode32=10 \relax
\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
\catcode33=5 % ^^M
\endlinechar=13 %
\catcode35=6 % #
\catcode39=12 % ' 
\catcode40=12 % ( 
\catcode41=12 % )
\catcode44=12 % ,
\catcode45=12 % -
\catcode46=12 % .
\catcode47=12 % /
\catcode58=12 % :
\catcode64=11 % @
\catcode123=1 % {
\catcode125=2 % }
\expandafter\ifx\csname ProvidesPackage\endcsname\relax
  \def\x#1#2#3\[#4\]{\endgroup
    \immediate\write-1{Package: #3 #4}%
    \xdef#1{#4}%
  }%
\else
  \def\x#1#2\[#3\]{\endgroup
    \xdef#1\[#3\]%
    \ifx#1\@undefined
      \xdef#1{#3}%
    \fi
    \ifx#1\relax
      \xdef#1{#3}%
    \fi
  }%
\expandafter\x\csname ver@protecteddef.sty\endcsname
\endgroup
\ProvidesPackage{protecteddef}%
\end{verbatim}
\end{verbatim}


2.2 Catcodes

\begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
\catcode13=5 "^^M
\endlinechar=13 %
\catcode123=1 % {
\catcode125=2 % }
\catcode64=11 % @
\def\x{\endgroup
\expandafter\edef\csname ProDef@AtEnd\endcsname{%
\endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
\catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
\catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
\catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
\catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
\catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
\catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
\catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
}\}%
\x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
\catcode13=5 "^^M
\endlinechar=13 %
\catcode35=6 % #
\catcode64=11 % @
\catcode123=1 % {
\catcode125=2 % }
\def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
\edef\ProDef@AtEnd{\ProDef@AtEnd
\catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
\catcode#1=#2\relax}
}\TMP@EnsureCode{38}{4}% &
\TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}% (  
\TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}% )  
\TMP@EnsureCode{42}{12}% * 
\TMP@EnsureCode{45}{12}% -
\TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}% .
\TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}% / 
\TMP@EnsureCode{91}{12}% [ 
\TMP@EnsureCode{93}{12}% ]
\edef\ProDef@AtEnd{\ProDef@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

2.3 Resources

\begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
\expandafter\ifx\csname RequirePackage\endcsname\relax
\def\TMP@RequirePackage#1[#2]{%
\begingroup\expandafter\expandafter\expandafter\endgroup
\expandafter\ifx\csname ver@#1.sty\endcsname\relax
\input #1.sty\relax
\fi}
\else
\let\TMP@RequirePackage\RequirePackage
\fi
\TMP@RequirePackage{ltxcmds}[2010/12/12]%
\TMP@RequirePackage{infwarerr}[2010/04/08]%
\endinput
3 Installation

3.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN:\footnote{CTAN:pkg/protecteddef}

\url{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/protecteddef.dtx} The source file.
\url{CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/protecteddef.pdf} Documentation.

1
Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip

TDS refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for T eX Files” (CTAN:pkg/tds). Directories with texmf in their name are usually organized this way.

3.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the oberdiek.tds.zip in the TDS tree (also known as texmf tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

unzip oberdiek.tds.zip -d ~/texmf

3.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The .dtx file is a self-extracting docstrip archive. The files are extracted by running the .dtx through plain T eX:

tex protecteddef.dtx

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as texmf tree):

protecteddef.sty → tex/generic/oberdiek/protecteddef.sty
protecteddef.pdf → doc/latex/oberdiek/protecteddef.pdf
protecteddef.dtx → source/latex/oberdiek/protecteddef.dtx

If you have a docstrip.cfg that configures and enables docstrip’s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of docstrip.

3.4 Refresh file name databases

If your T eX distribution (T eX Live, MiKTeX, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, T eX Live users run texhash or mktexlsr.

3.5 Some details for the interested

Unpacking with \LaTeX. The .dtx chooses its action depending on the format:

plain T eX: Run docstrip and extract the files.
\LaTeX: Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using \LaTeX for docstrip (really, docstrip does not need \LaTeX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

latex \let\install=y\input{protecteddef.dtx}

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

Generating the documentation. You can use both the .dtx or the .drv to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file ltxdoc.cfg. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdflatex:

pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist protecteddef.idx
pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist protecteddef.idx
pdflatex protecteddef.dtx
4 History

[2011/01/31 v1.0]
• First public version.

[2016/05/16 v1.1]
• Documentation updates.

5 Index

Numbers written in italic refer to the page where the corresponding entry is described; numbers underlined refer to the code line of the definition; plain numbers refer to the code lines where the entry is used.

Symbols

\& 169, 201 \\txt@firstofone 145, 160
\@PackageError 150 \\text@gobble 209
\@empty 152 \\text@gobbletwo 153, 158
\@ifdefinable 159 \\text@IfUndefined 139, 180, 217
\@undefined 58 \\text@Ifundefined 143
\aftergroup 29 \newcommand 171
\catcode 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44,
45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 87,
88, 90, 91, 92, 93, 97, 99, 169, 201
\csname 14, 21, 50, 66, 76, 113, 116, 126, 128, 166, 168, 190, 226
\DeclareRobustCommand 181, 194
\empty 17, 18
\endcsname 14, 21, 50, 66, 76, 113, 116, 126, 128, 166, 168, 190, 226
\endinput 29, 111
\endlinechar 4, 35, 71, 77, 89
\escapechar 142, 183
\fix 15, 18, 21, 50, 58, 61, 113, 116, 166, 168, 186
\input 23, 52
\input 117
\ltx@backslashchar 151 \\text@{} 14, 15, 18, 22,
\ltx@empty 186, 208
\PackageInfo 26
\ProDef@AtEnd 95, 96, 111, 198, 230
\ProDef@IfDefinable 139, 179, 203, 216
\ProDef@Long 208, 211, 219, 223
\ProDef@next 158, 160, 162
\ProDef@ProtectedDef 173, 175, 178, 209, 212, 215
\ProDef@Temp 125, 129
\protected 204, 218, 222
\ProvidesPackage 123, 127, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135,
136, 137, 138, 149, 151, 154, 184, 186
\RequirePackage 114, 121, 203, 205
\the 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 97
\ TMP@EnsureCode 94, 101, 102, 103,
104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110
\TMPP@RequirePackage 114, 121, 123, 124
\write 23, 52
\x 26, 28, 51, 56, 66, 75, 87, 185, 192