

# LATEXDIFF: SUPERB DIFF TOOL FOR LATEX

JANUARY 14, 2011 EMERYBERGER 6 COMMENTS

I am shepherding a paper for ASPLOS, and the authors kindly sent me a PDF highlighting all changes between the previous version and the next. They used [latexdiff](#). I just used it to see some updates made by a student to a paper, and it is *fantastic*.

Here's a sample of what the results look like:



(and no, this is *not* my paper or the ASPLOS paper).

If you are using a Mac, you can easily install it with [MacPorts](#) (just `sudo port install latexdiff`).

Generally, you will want to invoke `latexdiff` as follows (assuming you are in the directory with the latest version):

```
latexdiff --flatten /path/to/old/version/main.tex
main.tex > diffs.tex
```

(the `-flatten` argument makes `latexdiff` recursively operate on any included `.tex` files.)

One trick: if, like me, you break your LaTeX documents into separate files, you need to put the preamble into your main document (it's also automatically generated by `latexdiff`, but only for a main document). Reproduced here for your cut-n-paste convenience.

```
%DIF PREAMBLE EXTENSION ADDED BY LATEXDIFF
%DIF UNDERLINE PREAMBLE
\RequirePackage[normalem]{ulem}
\RequirePackage{color}\definicolor{RED}{rgb}
{1,0,0}\definicolor{BLUE}{rgb}{0,0,1}
\providecommand{\DIFadd}[1]
{{\protect\color{blue}\uwave{#1}}}
\providecommand{\DIFdel}[1]
{{\protect\color{red}\sout{#1}}}
%DIF SAFE PREAMBLE
\providecommand{\DIFaddbegin}{}
\providecommand{\DIFaddend}{}
\providecommand{\DIFdelbegin}{}
\providecommand{\DIFdelend}{}
%DIF FLOATSAFE PREAMBLE
\providecommand{\DIFaddFL}[1]{\DIFadd{#1}}
\providecommand{\DIFdelFL}[1]{\DIFdel{#1}}
\providecommand{\DIFaddbeginFL}{}
\providecommand{\DIFaddendFL}{}
\providecommand{\DIFdelbeginFL}{}
\providecommand{\DIFdelendFL}{}
%DIF END PREAMBLE EXTENSION ADDED BY LATEXDIFF
```