NAME

texmfstart – run ConTeXt scripts, make ConTeXt wrapper scripts, view documents

SYNOPSIS

texmfstart [*options ...*] [*filename*] [*arguments ...*]

DESCRIPTION

ConTeXt is a typesetting system based on the .BR tex (1) family of programs. **texmfstart** is a ConTeXt meta-script that can run subordinate scripts (subscripts?) such as **texexec**(1), **ctx-tools**(1), or **pdftools**(1). It can also generate short wrapper scripts to simplify common uses. These scripts are often called *stubs* in the ConTeXt documentation. The options control **texmfstart**'s behaviour, and the arguments are passed to the program identified by *filename*.

If the filename is a document, then **texmfstart** will start a viewer for that document. For example:

        texmfstart showcase.pdf

will start an appropriate viewer for *showcase.pdf*. See the **EXAMPLES** section.

OPTIONS

General:

--help, --version

print version information, usage, and examples.

--verbose

print status and progress information, for example what commands are being executed.

--clear   don't pass info about locations to child processes.

Running a program:

--arguments=*str*

an alternative for providing the arguments to be passed. For example,

        texmfstart --arguments=b.tex texexec

will pass *b.tex* as the argument to **texexec**.

--report

dry run: report what command would be run, but do not run it

--locate

dry run: like `--report` but doesn't print the trailing newline.

--browser

view the document in a web browser (for Windows).

--file=*filename*

an alternative way to specify the file (the program to run or document to open).

--direct

run a program without searching for its location (assumes that the program is on the PATH).

--execute
  use the **ruby**(1) *exec* function instead of its *system* function.

--program=*str*
  the program space where **kpsewhich**(1) will search (default: context). This information is given to **kpsewhich** as its -progname option. Usually you don't need this option.

Creating startup scripts:

--make create a wrapper script or batch file to run the given file. The wrapper scripts are put in the current path, which usually means the current directory. If *all* is given as the file, e.g.

        texmfstart --make all

  then make all the ConTeXt wrapper scripts (the stubs).

--windows
  when making a wrapper script (stub), create a Windows batch (.bat) file. Usually you do not need to specify this option, as **texmfstart** will figure out what operating system you are using.

--linux when making a wrapper script, create a Unix shell script. Usually you do not need to specify this option, as **texmfstart** will figure out what operating system you are using.

--stubpath=*path*
  specify where to put the wrapper scripts (stubs).

--indirect
  always use *texmfstart* in the wrapper script (stub).

Document viewing:

--page=*number*
  open the document at this page.

Environments and paths:

--path=*str*
  change to the specified path.

--tree=*str*
  use the given TEXMF tree.

--autotree
  automatically determine the TEXMF tree to use (the default).

--environment=*str*
  use the given environment file. Its syntax is given in the *mtexmfstart.pdf* manual.

--showenv
  print the environment variables known at runtime

Conditional execution:

--iftouched=*file1,file2*
  run only when the given files have different timestamps.

--ifchanged=_str_
> run only when the given file has changed (based on its last-computed MD5 checksum).

Special features:
--edit   open the given file in an editor.

FILENAME PREFIXES
Optional prefixes determine the method used to search for the specified file:
bin:filename
> expanded name based on the PATH environment variable

kpse:filename
> expanded name based on **kpsewhich**(1) result

rel:filename
> expanded name relative to the current directory

env:name
> expanded pathname based on environment variable *name*

path:filename
> path part of filename as located by **kpsewhich**(1)

EXAMPLES
    texmfstart texexec.rb file.tex
> Locate the *texexec.rb* script and run it with *file.tex* as its argument. In other words, make *file.pdf* from *file.tex*. If **texexec**(1) is properly installed on your system, this common invocation can be shortened to
>
>   texexec file.tex

    texmfstart texexec file.tex
> Locate the **texexec**(1) program (currently a **ruby**(1) script, *texexec.rb*) and run it with *file.tex* as its argument, producing *file.pdf*. This invocation can be shortened to
>
>   texexec file.tex

    texmfstart ctxtools --updatecontext
> Run the **ctxtools**(1) script, updating the ConTeXt installation. This invocation is equivalent to
>
>   ctxtools --updatecontext

    texmfstart pstopdf --method=3 cow.eps
> Convert *cow.eps* to PDF using method 3 of **pstopdf**(1). This invocation is equivalent to
>
>   pstopdf --method=3 cow.eps

    texmfstart --make --stubpath=/usr/local/bin texexec
> Make a wrapper script (stub), either a shell script */usr/local/bin/texexec* on Unix, or a batch file *\usr\local\bin\texexec.bat* on Windows. On Unix (and maybe on Windows?), you need to make the script executable; see **chmod**(1).

    texmfstart --edit kpse:cont-sys.tex
> Locate and edit the *cont-sys.tex* configuration file.

texmfstart --ifchanged=whatever.mp texexec --mpgraphic what-
ever.mp
> Rerun **texexec** if *whatever.mp* has changed since the last use of *--ifchanged*.

texmfstart --ifchanged=whatever.mp bin:echo rerun MetaPost
> If the *whatever.mp* source file has changed since the last use of *--ifchanged*, then use the **echo**(1) command to tell the user to rerun MetaPost (see **mpost**(1)). This example shows that **texmfstart** can be used to run any script, not just ConTeXt scripts. The `bin:` prefix tells **texmfstart** not to search for *echo* in the TEXMF tree(s), but to assume that it's an executable somewhere on the PATH.

texmfstart --ifchanged=whatever.mp --direct echo rerun MetaPost
> This invocation has the same effect as the preceding example, but using `--direct` instead of the `bin:` prefix, again to tell **texmfstart** not to search for the *echo* command.

FILES

file.md5
> MD5 checksum file used for the `--ifchanged` option.

ENVIRONMENT

PATH   For expanding filenames given with a *bin* prefix.

TEXMFSTART_EDITOR, EDITOR, editor
> Editor to use with *--edit*. The environment variables are looked up in that order, with the first setting found taking priority.

SEE ALSO

ctxtools(1), **kpsewhich**(1), **makempy**(1), **mpost**(1), **pdftools**(1), **pstopdf**(1), **texexec**(1), **texfont**(1), **texutil**(1).

ConTeXt wiki ⟨`http://www.contextgarden.net`⟩.

The **texmfstart** manual, *mtexmfstart.pdf*, available from PRAGMA ADE ⟨`http://www.pragma-ade.com/dir/general/manuals/`⟩.

BUGS

On Unix, opening a PDF document first tries **pdfopen** then **acroread**, neither of which may be present on your system.

The `--report` option doesn't work if you specify a filename prefix (i.e. it does a real run instead of a dry run).

AUTHOR

ConTeXt is written and maintained by Hans Hagen ⟨`http://www.pragma-ade.com`⟩. This man page, which is in the public domain, was written by Sanjoy Mahajan <sanjoy@mit.edu> based on the *mtexmfstart.pdf* manual.