Frequently Asked Questions about PPCHTEX

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TEX aborts with a message concerning memory shortage, stack overflow or whatever.

The user interface of PPCHTEX as well as its command interpreter needs more stack-size than TEX offers by default. Depending on the complexity of graphics, TEX also needs more memory (PICTEX) or string space (PSTRICKS).

This problem can be solved by increasing some compile and/or runtime constants. Some TEX implementations need a remake of the binary, others can be tuned using commandline flags or adapting the initialization file.

When running pdftex, we use the next set of constants. These also suit CONTEXT, which is probably the most memory hungry package around.

```
main_memory      = 2000000          trie_size        =   64000
extra_mem_top    =       0          hyph_size        =    1000
extra_mem_bot    =       0          buf_size         =    5000
font_mem_size    =  200000          nest_size        =     250
font_max         =     500          max_in_open      =      15
hash_extra       =   40000          param_size       =    1000
pool_size        =  500000          save_size        =    5000
string_vacancies =   25000          stack_size       =    1000
max_strings      =   50000
pool_free        =  475000
```

(Hans Hagen)

How do I prepare `teTeX` for PPCHTEX?

To use PPCHTEX with `teTeX` 0.4 you have to compile the `teTeX` sources because the precompiled binaries have a parameter stack size of 60. (This problem will disappear with the upcoming `teTeX` 0.9 coming based on the new web2c 7.0. With this version you will be able to change memory parameters during run–time). You can get this per ftp from:

```
sunsite.informatik.rwth-aachen.de
  /pub/comp/tex/teTeX/distrib/sources/teTeX-src-*.tar.gz
```

Edit the file `../teTeX-src-*/kpse-2.6/web2c/tex/tex.ch` to suit your needs. For PPCHTEX a parameter stack of 200 will work, you may also consider editing the parameters mentioned in another part of the faq.

Read the installation instructions carefully (make sure all the needed programs for compilation are installed) and do a `make world`. Compilation will take quite some time (about 45 minutes on a 486 DX4 with 40MB running Linux).

(Dirk Kuypers)

When I run PPCHTEX in LATEX, TEX runs out of dimension registers.

There are 256 ⟨*dimensions*⟩ avialable in TEX. LATEX and its style files however allocate quite some of them. This means that PICTEX, which uses over 100 ⟨*dimensions*⟩ itself, can hardly be run along many style files.

The solution is simple: use the generic CONTEXT module `m-pictex`. This small module loads PICTEX in a more efficient way, using ⟨*skips*⟩ instead of ⟨*dimensions*⟩ when possible.

(Hans Hagen)

How do I run PPCHTEX in CONTEXT?

PPCHTEX obeys the filename rules of CONTEXT. This means that it can be loaded with:

```
\usemodules [pictex,chemic]
```

or

```
\usemodules [pstricks,chemic]
```

Like CONTEXT this package supports more than one interface, like dutch and german. Of course one needs to use the loading command that belongs to the interface in use.

(Hans Hagen)

How do I run PPCHTEX in LATEX?

You can basically run PPCHTEX in LATEX like you do in PLAIN TeX. But instead of `\input` file you should say:

```
\usepackage{m-pictex}
\usepackage{m-ch-en}
```

The file `m-pictex.tex` automatically loads the files `pre-pic` and `post-pic` which are needed for PICTEX when using LATEX.

(Tobias Burnus)

How do I run PPCHTEX in PLAIN TEX?

Just say:

```
\input m-pictex
\input m-ch-en
```

Some additional modules are loaded automatically. In fact there is no difference between loading in PLAIN TEX and LATEX.

(Hans Hagen)

Who can answer my questions (mailing list)?

At the address `ntg-ppchtex@ntg.nl` you can contact those who have subscribed to the PPCHTEX mailing list. In this list you can ask for support of other users. In order to receive their ansers and questions you have to subscribe.

To subscribe to the PPCHTEX listserver send this message:

```
To:      majordomo@ntg.nl
Subject: 'ignored'
Body:    subscribe ntg-ppchtex
```

To get additional information about the commands send a message with `help` in the body to the listserver address. If you want to unsubscribe this list, send a mail to the listserver with the command `unsubscribe ntg-ppchtex` in the body. Both commands request a confirmation. The listserver will send you a mail and you have to confirm it.

(Tobias Burnus)