

**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), **ctxtools**(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 **-progrname** 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 whatever.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) `<http://www.contextgarden.net>`.

The **texmfstart** manual, *mtexmfstart.pdf*, available from [PRAGMA ADE](http://www.pragma-ade.com/dir/general/manuals/) `<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) `<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.