The \texttt{l3sys-shell} package

System shell functions

The \LaTeX{} Project$^*$

Released 2021-08-27

This module provides platform-neutral interfaces to system shell commands. These functions can only access the shell if a document is proceeded using \texttt{-shell-escape}, which allows unrestricted access to command line functions.

In general, arbitrary documents should \textit{not} be processed in this way, as shell escape could either accidentally or deliberately lead to unexpected side-effects. In that sense, they should be treated like any other arbitrary script: with caution. No attempt is made by the functions here to avoid injection of additional commands into the arguments.

With the above security caveats in mind, these functions are provided for authors where a workflow scripting \textit{within} a \LaTeX{} document is preferable to using an external script. The latter would of course also have the ability to run arbitrary code.

\begin{verbatim}
\sys_shell_cp:nn \{\langle source\rangle\} \{\langle dest\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

Copies the files specified in the \langle source\rangle (which may include wildcards) to the \langle dest\rangle. The file paths should be specified using / as a path separator. Copying is \textit{not} recursive: only files at the path level given are copied. If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is attempted.

\begin{verbatim}
\sys_shell_mkdir:n \{\langle directory\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

Creates the \langle directory\rangle, which should be specified using / as a path separator. If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is attempted.

\begin{verbatim}
\sys_shell_mv:nn \{\langle old\rangle\} \{\langle new\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

Moves the files from the \langle old\rangle to \langle new\rangle names/locations: the \langle old\rangle names may include wildcards. In both arguments, / should be used as the path separator. If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is attempted.

\begin{verbatim}
\sys_shell_rm:n \{\langle files\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

Removes the \langle files\rangle (which may include wildcards). The file path should be specified using / as a path separator. If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is attempted.

\begin{verbatim}
\sys_shell_rmdir:n \{\langle directory\rangle\}
\end{verbatim}

Removes the \langle directory\rangle, which should be specified using / as a path separator. If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is attempted.

$^*$E-mail: latex-team@latex-project.org
\sys_get_shell_pwd:N \sys_get_shell_pwd:N (str var)

Sets the (str var) to the present working directory (the output of pwd on Unix or cd on Windows). Note that on Windows this will contain string backslash chars (\). If unrestricted shell escape is not enabled, no action is taken.

\sys_shell_split_ls:nN \sys_shell_split_ls:N (glob) (seq)

Sets the (seq var) to contain one entry per directory listing (equivalent to ls -1 or dir /b) as specified by the (glob): the entries are strings. If unrestricted shell is not enabled, no action is taken.

Index

The italic numbers denote the pages where the corresponding entry is described, numbers underlined point to the definition, all others indicate the places where it is used.

S

\sys_shell_mv:nn ................. 1
\sys_shell_rm:n ................. 1
\sys_get_shell_pwd:N ............ 2
\sys_shell_rmdir:n ............... 1
\sys_shell_cp:nn ................. 1
\sys_shell_split_ls:N .......... 2
\sys_shell_mkdir:n .............. 1
\sys_shell_split_ls:nN .......... 2