

The accsupp package

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Abstract

Since PDF 1.5 portions of a page can be marked for better accessibility support. For example, replacement texts or expansions of abbreviations can be provided. Package `accsupp` starts with providing a minimal low-level interface for programmers. Status is experimental.

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1 Documentation

1.1 Macros

Section “10.8 Accessibility Support” of the PDF reference [1] lists some features that can be added by operators for marked content.

```
\BeginAccSupp {<options>}
```

It puts the operator **BDC** in the page stream:

```
/Span
<<...>>    % property dictionary
BDC
```

The contents of the dictionary is controlled by *<options>*. See sections 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

```
\EndAccSupp {<options>}
```

It puts the operator **EMC** in the page stream. The only option is `pdfliteral`, see section 1.3.1.

Note: The caller is responsible for the placement of `\BeginAccSupp` and `\EndAccSupp` pairs. Especially page breaks are not allowed in between.

1.1.1 Feature options

The PDF reference [1] describes and explains the different features. The names of the feature options are the same as the key names for the property dictionary for operator **BDC**, see `\BeginAccSupp`.

ActualText: Provides a replacement text, see examples in section 2.

Alt: Provides an alternate description.

E: Provides the expansion of an abbreviation or an acronym.

Lang: Specifies the language.

1.1.2 Input methods

Except for `Lang` option `method` controls how the argument for `ActualText`, `Alt`, and `E` are interpreted.

method=plain: The string is only expanded and written without further treatment. Special characters are not protected, thus this method may result in an invalid PDF file.

mehod=escape: The string is expanded and special characters are escaped. The result is a valid PDF string.

method=hex: The string is given in hexadecimal notation. Section 2.1 shows an example.

method=pdfstringdef: If package `hyperref` is loaded, then its `\pdfstringdef` is used. This method is slow, but useful if the string contains arbitrary \TeX code.

unicode: This option is needed, if the string is given as Unicode string (16 bit). Internally it adds the string prefix for Unicode. In case of `method=pdfstringdef` it passes the option to `\hypersetup`.

1.2 Workaround, option space

PDF specification says in “10.8.3 Replacement Text”

Just as alternative descriptions can be provided for images and other items that do not translate naturally into text (...), replacement text can be specified for content that does translate into text but that is represented in a nonstandard way. These nonstandard representations might include, for example, glyphs for ligatures or custom characters, or inline graphics corresponding to letters in an illuminated manuscript or to dropped capitals.

However, the `ActualText` is ignored in Acrobat Reader (until version 9 at least), if the content does not contain glyphs. Option `space` adds such an invisible glyph, a space character. The font name can be configured by option `spacefont`, the default font is `phvr8r`. The character slot is given by option `spacechar`, default is 32, the usual position of the space character.

These options can also be given as package options or in macro `\AccSuppSetup` that takes a key value list as argument. Usually only option `space` is necessary, if the contents does not contain glyphs otherwise. Option `space` is enabled by `space` or `space=true` and disabled by `space=false`. It is disabled as default. The option is evaluated by `\BeginAccSupp` and ignored by `\EndAccSupp`.

Note: Even with option `space` I get sometimes wrong texts when cut & paste from AR7/Linux or AR8/Linux, e.g.

```
Hello → Helo, Helol, Hell, ...
Hello World → Helo WorldW, Helo World, ...
```

I do not know what Acrobat Reader is doing here, thus feedback and insights are welcome.

1.3 Driver options

Driver options are package options only. The special \TeX compilers `pdf \TeX` and `X \TeX` are detected automatically. The default for unrecognized drivers can be set by defining `\ActualTextDriverDefault`. This can be done in the configuration file `accsupp.cfg`.

1.3.1 Option `pdftex`

Package option `pdftex` is used for `pdf \TeX` in PDF mode. Additionally `\BeginAccSupp` and `\EndAccSupp` understand option `pdfliteral`. It controls the modifier keyword for `\pdfliteral`:

```
pdfliteral=direct ⇒ \pdfliteral direct{...}
```

1.3.2 Option `dvipdfm`

Package option `dvipdfm` and its aliases `dvipdfmx` `xetex` are used for drivers that support `dvipdfm` specials.

1.3.3 Option dvips

Package option dvips and its alias dvipsone write pdfmark specials in the output. Unhappily these pdfmark operators are ignored by ghostscript (latest tested version is 8.54). Perhaps they are recognized by commercial distiller applications.

1.3.4 Turning off page stream compression

For debugging it is useful to have uncompressed page stream objects. This can be done afterwards via pdftk:

```
pdftk file.pdf output file-uncompressed.pdf uncompress
```

Or the PDF file is generated uncompressed:

```
pdfTeX: \pdfcompresslevel=0
```

```
dvipdfm: dvipdfm -z0 ...
```

```
dvipdfmx: dvipdfmx -z0 ...
```

```
ghostscript/ps2pdf: ps2pdf -dCompressPages=false input.ps output.pdf
```

2 Example

2.1 Example \notparallel

```
1 {*example1}
2 %<<END
3 \documentclass{article}
4 \usepackage{accsupp}[2007/11/14]
5 \usepackage{centernot}
6 % U+2226 NOT PARALLEL
7 % \mathrel{...} prevents page break in between
8 \newcommand*\notparallel{%
9   \ensuremath{%
10     \mathrel{%
11       \BeginAccSupp[method=hex,unicode,ActualText=2226]%
12       \centernot{\parallel}%
13       \EndAccSupp{}}%
14   }%
15 }%
16 }
17 \begin{document}
18 \begin{equation}
19 A\notparallel B
20 \end{equation}
21 \end{document}
22 %END
23 </example1>
```

2.2 Example with pdfstringdef

```
24 {*example2}
25 %<<END
26 \documentclass{article}
27 \usepackage[unicode]{hyperref}
28 \usepackage{accsupp}[2007/11/14]
29 \begin{document}
30 \begin{equation}
31 \BeginAccSupp{
32   method=pdfstringdef,
33   unicode,
```

```

34     ActualText={%
35         a\textttwosuperior +b\textttwosuperior
36         =c\textttwosuperior
37     }
38 }
39 a^2 + b^2 = c^2
40 \EndAccSupp{}
41 \end{equation}
42 \end{document}
43 %END
44 </example2>

```

3 Implementation

3.1 Package

```

45 <*package>
46 \begingroup\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
47 \catcode13=5 % ^M
48 \endlinechar=13 %
49 \catcode123=1 % {
50 \catcode125=2 % }
51 \catcode64=11 % @
52 \def\x{\endgroup
53     \expandafter\edef\csname ACCSUPP@AtEnd\endcsname{%
54         \endlinechar=\the\endlinechar\relax
55         \catcode13=\the\catcode13\relax
56         \catcode32=\the\catcode32\relax
57         \catcode35=\the\catcode35\relax
58         \catcode61=\the\catcode61\relax
59         \catcode64=\the\catcode64\relax
60         \catcode123=\the\catcode123\relax
61         \catcode125=\the\catcode125\relax
62     }%
63 }%
64 \x\catcode61\catcode48\catcode32=10\relax%
65 \catcode13=5 % ^M
66 \endlinechar=13 %
67 \catcode35=6 % #
68 \catcode64=11 % @
69 \catcode123=1 % {
70 \catcode125=2 % }
71 \def\TMP@EnsureCode#1#2{%
72     \edef\ACCSUPP@AtEnd{%
73         \ACCSUPP@AtEnd
74         \catcode#1=\the\catcode#1\relax
75     }%
76     \catcode#1=#2\relax
77 }
78 \TMP@EnsureCode{10}{12}% ^^J
79 \TMP@EnsureCode{33}{12}% !
80 \TMP@EnsureCode{39}{12}% '
81 \TMP@EnsureCode{40}{12}% (
82 \TMP@EnsureCode{41}{12}% )
83 \TMP@EnsureCode{42}{12}% *
84 \TMP@EnsureCode{44}{12}% ,
85 \TMP@EnsureCode{45}{12}% -
86 \TMP@EnsureCode{46}{12}% .
87 \TMP@EnsureCode{47}{12}% /
88 \TMP@EnsureCode{58}{12}% :
89 \TMP@EnsureCode{60}{12}% <
90 \TMP@EnsureCode{62}{12}% >

```

```

91 \TMP@EnsureCode{94}{7}% ^ (superscript)
92 \TMP@EnsureCode{96}{12}% `
93 \TMP@EnsureCode{254}{12}% ^^fe
94 \TMP@EnsureCode{255}{12}% ^^ff
95 \edef\ACCSUPP@AtEnd{\ACCSUPP@AtEnd\noexpand\endinput}

Package identification.
96 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
97 \ProvidesPackage{accsupp}%
98 [2010/01/16 v0.3 Accessibility support by marked content (HO)]
99 \RequirePackage{pdfescape}[2007/02/25]
100 \RequirePackage{ifpdf}
101 \RequirePackage{ifxetex}
102 \RequirePackage{kvoptions}

103 \SetupKeyvalOptions{%
104 family=ACCSUPP,%
105 prefix=ACCSUPP%
106 }

```

3.2 Space setup

```

107 \DeclareBoolOption{space}
108 \DeclareStringOption[phvr8r]{spacefont}
109 \DeclareStringOption[32]{spacechar}

```

3.3 Driver detection and setup

Driver declarations.

```

110 \def\ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{%
111 \@dblarg\ACCSUPP@@DefineDriverKey
112 }
113 \def\ACCSUPP@@DefineDriverKey[#1]#2{%
114 \define@key{ACCSUPP}{#2}[]{%
115 \def\ACCSUPP@driver{#1}%
116 }%
117 \g@addto@macro\ACCSUPP@DisableOptions{%
118 \DisableKeyvalOption{ACCSUPP}{#2}%
119 }%
120 }
121 \let\ACCSUPP@DisableOptions\@empty
122 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{pdftex}
123 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{dvips}
124 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvips]{dvipsone}
125 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey{dvipdfm}
126 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvipdfm]{dvipdfmx}
127 \ACCSUPP@DefineDriverKey[dvipdfm]{xetex}
128 \let\ACCSUPP@driver\relax
129 \InputIfFileExists{accsupp.cfg}{}{}
130 \providecommand*\ActualTextDriverDefault{dvips}
131 \ifpdf
132 \def\ACCSUPP@driver{pdftex}%
133 \else
134 \ifxetex
135 \def\ACCSUPP@driver{dvipdfm}%
136 \else
137 \ifx\ACCSUPP@driver\relax
138 \let\ACCSUPP@driver\ActualTextDriverDefault
139 \fi
140 \fi
141 \fi

```

Process options.

```

142 \ProcessKeyvalOptions*
143 \ACCSUPP@DisableOptions

```

Driver validation and loading.

```
144 \def\ACCSUPP@temp{pdftex}%
145 \ifpdf
146   \ifx\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@driver
147   \else
148     \PackageWarningNoLine{accsupp}{%
149       Wrong driver `\
```

3.4 Main macro

```
187 \DeclareBoolOption{unicode}
188 \DeclareStringOption[page]{pdfliteral}
189 \DeclareStringOption{Lang}
190 \def\ACCSUPP@method{escape}
191 \define@key{ACCSUPP}{method}{%
192   \@ifundefined{ACCSUPP@method@#1}{%
193     \PackageError{accsupp}{%
194       Ignoring unknown method `#1'%
195     }\@ehc
196   }{%
197     \edef\ACCSUPP@method{#1}%
198   }%
199 }
200 \let\ACCSUPP@Lang\relax
201 \def\ACCSUPP@temp#1{%
```

```

202 \expandafter\ACCSUPP@@temp\csname ACCSUPP@#1\endcsname{#1}%
203 }
204 \def\ACCSUPP@@temp#1#2{%
205 \let#1\relax
206 \define@key{ACCSUPP}{#2}{%
207 \def#1{##1}%
208 \ifx#1\empty
209 \def#1{()}%
210 \else
211 \csname ACCSUPP@method@\ACCSUPP@method\endcsname#1%
212 \fi
213 }%
214 }
215 \ACCSUPP@temp{Alt}
216 \ACCSUPP@temp{ActualText}
217 \ACCSUPP@temp{E}

218 \newcommand*\BeginAccSupp}[1]{%
219 \begingroup
220 \setkeys{ACCSUPP}{#1}%
221 \edef\ACCSUPP@span{%
222 /Span<<%
223 \ifx\ACCSUPP@Lang\relax
224 \else
225 /Lang\ACCSUPP@Lang
226 \fi
227 \ifx\ACCSUPP@Alt\relax
228 \else
229 /Alt\ACCSUPP@Alt
230 \fi
231 \ifx\ACCSUPP@ActualText\relax
232 \else
233 /ActualText\ACCSUPP@ActualText
234 \fi
235 \ifx\ACCSUPP@E\relax
236 \else
237 /E\ACCSUPP@E
238 \fi
239 >>%
240 }%
241 \ACCSUPP@bdc
242 \ACCSUPP@space
243 \endgroup
244 }

245 \newcommand*\EndAccSupp}[1]{%
246 \begingroup
247 \setkeys{ACCSUPP}{#1}%
248 \ACCSUPP@emc
249 \endgroup
250 }

251 \def\ACCSUPP@space{%
252 \ifACCSUPP@space
253 \begingroup
254 \@ifundefined{ACCSUPP@Font}{%
255 \global\font\ACCSUPP@Font=\ACCSUPP@spacefont\relax
256 }{}%
257 \leavevmode
258 \setbox\z@\hbox{\ACCSUPP@Font\char\ACCSUPP@spacechar}%
259 \wd\z@\z@
260 \ht\z@\z@
261 \dp\z@\z@
262 \copy\z@
263 \endgroup

```



```

264 \fi
265 }
266 \newcommand*{\AccSuppSetup}{%
267 \setkeys{ACCSUPP}%
268 }

3.4.1 Input methods

269 \def\ACCSUPP@method@plain#1{%
270 \csname @safe@activestruel\endcsname
271 \edef#1{%
272 (%
273 \ifACCSUPP@unicode
274 \string\376\string\377%
275 \fi
276 #1%
277 )%
278 }%
279 \@onelevel@sanitize#1%
280 }

281 \def\ACCSUPP@method@escape#1{%
282 \EdefEscapeString#1{%
283 \ifACCSUPP@unicode
284 ~fe~ff%
285 \fi
286 #1%
287 }%
288 \edef#1{(#1)}%
289 }%

290 \def\ACCSUPP@method@hex#1{%
291 \edef#1{%
292 <%
293 \ifACCSUPP@unicode
294 FEF%
295 \fi
296 #1%
297 >%
298 }%
299 }

300 \def\ACCSUPP@method@pdfstringdef#1{%
301 \ifACCSUPP@unicode
302 \@ifundefined{hypersetup}{-}{%
303 \hypersetup{unicode}%
304 }%
305 \fi
306 \@ifundefined{pdfstringdef}{%
307 \PackageError{accsupp}{%
308 Method `pdfstringdef' requires package `hyperref'%
309 }\@ehc
310 \let\ACCSUPP@temp\@empty
311 }{%
312 \begingroup
313 \setbox0=\hbox{%
314 \pdfstringdef\ACCSUPP@temp#1%
315 \global\let\ACCSUPP@temp\ACCSUPP@temp
316 }%
317 \endgroup
318 }%
319 \edef#1{(\ACCSUPP@temp)}%
320 }

321 \ACCSUPP@AtEnd%
322 </package>

```

3.5 Drivers

3.5.1 Driver pdftex

```
323 <*pdftex>
324 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
325 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-pdftex.def}%
326 [2010/01/16 v0.3 accsupp driver for pdfTeX (HO)]%
327 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
328 \pdfliteral\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{\ACCSUPP@span BDC}%
329 }
330 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
331 \pdfliteral\ACCSUPP@pdfliteral{EMC}%
332 }
333 </pdftex>
```

3.5.2 Driver dvipdfm

```
334 <*dvipdfm>
335 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
336 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-dvipdfm.def}%
337 [2010/01/16 v0.3 accsupp driver for dvipdfm (HO)]%
338 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
339 \special{pdf:content \ACCSUPP@span BDC}%
340 }
341 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
342 \special{pdf:content EMC}%
343 }
344 </dvipdfm>
```

3.5.3 Driver dvips

```
345 <*dvips>
346 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
347 \ProvidesFile{accsupp-dvips.def}%
348 [2010/01/16 v0.3 accsupp driver for dvips (HO)]%
349 \def\ACCSUPP@bdc{%
350 \special{ps:[\ACCSUPP@span/BDC pdfmark]%
351 }
352 \def\ACCSUPP@emc{%
353 \special{ps:[/EMC pdfmark]%
354 }
355 </dvips>
```

4 Test

4.1 Catcode checks for loading

```
356 <*test1>
357 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}
358 \documentclass{minimal}
359 \makeatletter
360 \def\RestoreCatcodes{}
361 \count@=0 %
362 \loop
363 \edef\RestoreCatcodes{%
364 \RestoreCatcodes
365 \catcode\the\count@=\the\catcode\count@\relax
366 }%
367 \ifnum\count@<255 %
368 \advance\count@\@ne
369 \repeat
```

```

370
371 \def\RangeCatcodeInvalid#1#2{%
372   \count@=#1\relax
373   \loop
374     \catcode\count@=15 %
375   \ifnum\count@<#2\relax
376     \advance\count@\@ne
377   \repeat
378 }
379 \def\Test{%
380   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{0}{47}%
381   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{58}{64}%
382   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{91}{96}%
383   \RangeCatcodeInvalid{123}{127}%
384   \catcode`\@=12 %
385   \catcode`\=0 %
386   \catcode`\{=1 %
387   \catcode`\}=2 %
388   \catcode`\#=6 %
389   \catcode`\[=12 %
390   \catcode`\]=12 %
391   \catcode`\%=14 %
392   \catcode`\ =10 %
393   \catcode13=5 %
394   \RequirePackage{accsupp}[2010/01/16]\relax
395   \RestoreCatcodes
396 }
397 \Test
398 \csname @@end\endcsname
399 \end
400 </test1>

```

5 Installation

5.1 Download

Package. This package is available on CTAN¹:

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/accsupp.dtx](#) The source file.

[CTAN:macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/accsupp.pdf](#) Documentation.

Bundle. All the packages of the bundle ‘oberdiek’ are also available in a TDS compliant ZIP archive. There the packages are already unpacked and the documentation files are generated. The files and directories obey the TDS standard.

[CTAN:install/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek.tds.zip](#)

TDS refers to the standard “A Directory Structure for \TeX Files” ([CTAN:tds/tds.pdf](#)). Directories with `texmf` in their name are usually organized this way.

5.2 Bundle installation

Unpacking. Unpack the `oberdiek.tds.zip` in the TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree) of your choice. Example (linux):

```
unzip oberdiek.tds.zip -d ~/texmf
```

¹[ftp://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/](http://ftp.ctan.org/tex-archive/)

Script installation. Check the directory `TDS:scripts/oberdiek/` for scripts that need further installation steps. Package `attachfile2` comes with the Perl script `pdfatfi.pl` that should be installed in such a way that it can be called as `pdfatfi`. Example (linux):

```
chmod +x scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl
cp scripts/oberdiek/pdfatfi.pl /usr/local/bin/
```

5.3 Package installation

Unpacking. The `.dtx` file is a self-extracting `docstrip` archive. The files are extracted by running the `.dtx` through plain `TEX`:

```
tex accsupp.dtx
```

TDS. Now the different files must be moved into the different directories in your installation TDS tree (also known as `texmf` tree):

```
accsupp.sty           → tex/latex/oberdiek/accsupp.sty
accsupp-pdftex.def   → tex/latex/oberdiek/accsupp-pdftex.def
accsupp-dvipdfm.def  → tex/latex/oberdiek/accsupp-dvipdfm.def
accsupp-dvips.def    → tex/latex/oberdiek/accsupp-dvips.def
accsupp.pdf          → doc/latex/oberdiek/accsupp.pdf
accsupp-example1.tex → doc/latex/oberdiek/accsupp-example1.tex
accsupp-example2.tex → doc/latex/oberdiek/accsupp-example2.tex
test/accsupp-test1.tex → doc/latex/oberdiek/test/accsupp-test1.tex
accsupp.dtx          → source/latex/oberdiek/accsupp.dtx
```

If you have a `docstrip.cfg` that configures and enables `docstrip`'s TDS installing feature, then some files can already be in the right place, see the documentation of `docstrip`.

5.4 Refresh file name databases

If your `TEX` distribution (`teTEX`, `mikTEX`, ...) relies on file name databases, you must refresh these. For example, `teTEX` users run `texhash` or `mktextlsr`.

5.5 Some details for the interested

Attached source. The PDF documentation on CTAN also includes the `.dtx` source file. It can be extracted by AcrobatReader 6 or higher. Another option is `pdftk`, e.g. unpack the file into the current directory:

```
pdftk accsupp.pdf unpack_files output .
```

Unpacking with \LaTeX . The `.dtx` chooses its action depending on the format:

plain `TEX`: Run `docstrip` and extract the files.

\LaTeX : Generate the documentation.

If you insist on using \LaTeX for `docstrip` (really, `docstrip` does not need \LaTeX), then inform the autodetect routine about your intention:

```
latex \let\install=y\input{accsupp.dtx}
```

Do not forget to quote the argument according to the demands of your shell.

Generating the documentation. You can use both the `.dtx` or the `.drv` to generate the documentation. The process can be configured by the configuration file `ltxdoc.cfg`. For instance, put this line into this file, if you want to have A4 as paper format:

```
\PassOptionsToClass{a4paper}{article}
```

An example follows how to generate the documentation with pdfL^AT_EX:

```
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist accsupp.idx
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
makeindex -s gind.ist accsupp.idx
pdflatex accsupp.dtx
```

6 Catalogue

The following XML file can be used as source for the [T_EX Catalogue](#). The elements `caption` and `description` are imported from the original XML file from the Catalogue. The name of the XML file in the Catalogue is `accsupp.xml`.

```
401 (*catalogue)
402 <?xml version='1.0' encoding='us-ascii'?>
403 <!DOCTYPE entry SYSTEM 'catalogue.dtd'>
404 <entry datestamp='$Date$' modifier='$Author$' id='accsupp'>
405   <name>accsupp</name>
406   <caption>Better accessibility support for PDF files.</caption>
407   <authorref id='auth:oberdiek' />
408   <copyright owner='Heiko Oberdiek' year='2007,2010' />
409   <license type='lpp1.3' />
410   <version number='0.3' />
411   <description>
412     Since PDF 1.5 portions of a page can be marked for better accessibility
413     support. For example, replacement texts or expansions of abbreviations can
414     be provided. This package starts with providing a minimal low-level
415     interface for programmers; its status is experimental.
416     <p/>
417     The package is part of the <xref refid='oberdiek'>oberdiek</xref> bundle.
418   </description>
419   <documentation details='Package documentation'
420     href='ctan:/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/accsupp.pdf' />
421   <ctan file='true' path='/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/accsupp.dtx' />
422   <miktex location='oberdiek' />
423   <texlive location='oberdiek' />
424   <install path='/macros/latex/contrib/oberdiek/oberdiek.tds.zip' />
425 </entry>
426 </catalogue>
```

7 References

- [1] Adobe Systems Incorporated, *PDF Reference*, 6th edition, 2006. http://www.adobe.com/devnet/acrobat/pdfs/pdf_reference.pdf

8 History

[2007/03/21 v0.1]

- First version.

[2007/11/14 v0.2]

- Various bug fixes.
- Catcode section rewritten, test added.

[2010/01/16 v0.3]

- \AccSuppSetup added.
- Options space, spacefont, spacechar added.

9 Index

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