

The somedefs toolkit package

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long time ago in a different century...

Overview

This is an example ‘programmers toolkit’ package, for use by package writers. It allows package writers to provide options which switch definitions on and off. For example, a package `fred` might define a large number of commands, including `\foo` and `\baz`, so:

```
\usepackage{fred}
```

would use a lot of memory, even if `\foo` and `\baz` were the only commands needed. However, if the author of `fred` used the `somedefs` package, then the user would be able to say:

```
\usepackage[only,foo,baz]{fred}
```

and only the commands `\foo` and `\baz` would be defined.

To use the `somedefs` package in your own packages or classes, you say:

```
\RequirePackage{somedefs}
```

You can then use four new commands:

- `\UseAllDefinitions` which says that all the commands in the file should be defined.
- `\UseSomeDefinitions` which says that only the commands specified by `\UseDefinition` should be defined.
- `\UseDefinition{<name>}` which says that the command `\name` should be defined.
- `\ProvidesDefinition{<definition>}` which provides one definition, of the form `\definingcommand{\command}...`

For example, the package `fred` could say:

```
\RequirePackage{somedefs}
\UseAllDefinitions
\DeclareOption{only}{\UseSomeDefinitions}
\DeclareOption*{\UseDefinition{\CurrentOption}}
\ProcessOptions
\ProvidesDefinition{\newcommand{\foo}{...}}
\ProvidesDefinition{\newcommand{\baz}{...}}
```

One of the commands `\UseAllDefinitions` or `\UseSomeDefinitions` should always be used. You may have some commands which need other commands, in which case you have to declare the options by hand. For example, if the command `\bar` needs the command `\foo`, you could say:

```
\DeclareOption{bar}{\UseDefinition{bar}\UseDefinition{foo}}
```

For a longer example of the use of the `somedefs` package, look at the `rawfonts` package.