The **verbdef** package*

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1 What is it for?

Verbatim text is notoriously difficult in \TeX; in L\TeX\ it adds confusion by being “more fragile than fragile”.

This package provides one way out of the impasse: the command **\verbdef**, which defines a robust command that expands to verbatim text.

2 Using **\verbdef**

The **\verbdef** command can take an its verbatim string between matching characters, as **\verb** does:

```
\verbdef\demo|demonstration text|
```

or you may give it a more normal-looking argument:

```
\verbdef\demo{demonstration text}
```

The command also respects “*”, as it’s used in \verb and the \texttt{verbatim} environment:

```
\verbdef*\stardemo{with visible spaces}
```

which will define a verbatim text **with visible spaces** (just like that).

3 Caveat

If the command you’re defining with **\verbdef** is to be used in a \texttt{section}-type command, or a \texttt{caption}, it’s going to appear in the table of contents (or list of whatever else). In this case you must define the command before the \texttt{tableofcontents} command (or whatever). I recommend defining such commands in the preamble of the document⁴.

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*This document’s version 0.2, of 2000-10-06

¹In fact, the source of the present document is so structured, since **\verbdef** is used to define a command for

**\verbdef**...