Welcome to `spdfg`'s Example Website

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1 Introduction

On the Fediverse I saw a post wondering whether anyone had written a static site generator that produces PDFs yet, and so I decided on a whim that I should write one. This page – as you probably already were able to guess – was written with the program that I've written, which uses LaTeX as a backend.

The program's name comes from "*s*tatic *PDF g*enerator".

Even if we don't traditionally think of PDFs as having links to other PDFs, it is totally possible.

2 How to use `spdfg`

Each PDF file on the server corresponds to a SPDFG file (i.e. a file with the `.spdfg` file extension) in some folder that `spdfg` gets as an argument. Let's say the the current directory looks like this (i.e. contains these files/directories):

- `sources`
- `sources/index.spdfg`
- `sources/other.spdfg`

After running `spdfg sources` in a terminal, it will look like the following:

- `sources`
- `sources/index.spdfg`
- `sources/index.pdf`
- `sources/other.spdfg`

- `sources/index.pdf`

You then have to copy these files to your server (how you do this of course depends on you. For reference, for me it's a simple `scp -r sources/* rpi:/var/www/spdfg`).

Since this program was just a short quick-n-dirty idea, the file format itself is a bit of a weird amalgamation of HTML, LaTeX, and the file format of zvavblog (an other static site generator of mine). The first three lines are author, title, and date respectively, and then (after a blank line[1]) the body itself. All text is *mostly* just passed through, except things in brackets ("`{}`"), which define commands.

Each command always must be on a single line and is split into multiple parts according to vertical bars ("`|`"). The first part specifies the kind of command, while the rest are arguments. There are the following commands:

- `{code|text}`:

  Inserts the text "text" in teletype.

- `{em|text}`:

  Inserts the text "text" in italics.

- `{strong|text}`:

  Inserts the text "text" in bold.

- `{h1|text}`, ..., `{h6|text}`:

  Adds a heading with the appropriate level and the text "text". In general you probably want to start with h2, as h1 is pretty big (it corresponds to the LaTeX command `\part`).

- `{a|href|link text}`:

  Inserts a link with the text "link text" pointing to "href".

- `{ul|list}`:

  Inserts an unordered list with the contents "list". This "list" should contain `li` commands (just as in HTML).

- `{ol|list}`:

  Inserts an ordered list with the contents "list". The "list" should contain `li` commands (just as in HTML).

- `{math|equations}`:

  Inserts a multi-line equation environment containing "equations" that have to be written in LaTeX (the usual rules specified in this list do not apply). It will look something like this:

$$0 = ax^2 + bx + c \tag{1}$$

$$\iff x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \tag{2}$$

[1] or whatever else; it is just ignored, so you *could* just put whatever you want there if you're feelin' like it

- `{$|equation}`:

  Inserts an inline equation containing "equations", for example $a^2+b^2=c^2$.

- `{fn|text}`:

  Inserts the text "text" in a footnote.

- `{bo}`, `{bc}`, `{v}`, `{bs}`, `{d}`:

  Inserts a literal "{", "}", "|", "\", or "$" respectively.

- `{nl}`:

  Inserts a paragraph break. This is useful if you don't want to – or cannot (e.g. because you currently are in a list (*ahem*)) – just make a newline in the source.

If you want an example for how to use that in practice, see the sources for this file you're currently reading.

3 Contributing

I don't know why you would want for such a kind of project, but if you want to contribute you're of course free and encouraged to do such. You can open an issue here or fill a PR here (other ways of contributing of course also welcome).

4 License

`spdfg` (including this documentation) is released under the GNU Affero General Public License version 3 or (at you option) any later version.