

Everything I know about `beamer`

Location or occasion of talk

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2 June 2007

Outline

- 1 Lists
 - itemize, description, etc.
 - overlays

- 2 Blocks and columns
 - Blocks
 - Columns

- 3 Graphics and multimedia

- 4 Summary

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Itemize

- The `itemize` environment makes a simple bulleted list. The User Guide recommends not more than two levels of nested `itemize` environments. You can customize the bullets, as you can almost anything in `beamer`.
 - Most commands and environments have a list of optional flags within `[]` that you can use to customize the look and feel. Many or most also have an `<>` option for controlling whether or not they're visible in a particular frame: more on that below with *overlays*.
- The `description` environment can be used for definitions.
- The `enumerate` environment for numbered lists.

Description

There are three kinds of list environments in \LaTeX :

Itemize Simple bulleted list.

Description Use for lists of definitions. I find that you have to pretty succinct here, because of the high level of right indentation.

Enumerate Use for numbered lists. Of course, as with the standard `enumerate`, \LaTeX will manage the counters for you.

Overlays

Many kinds of items in `beamer` can be given an *overlay* attribute that allows it to be uncovered or highlighted in a particular order.

- The simplest way is to add `[<+>]` to the `itemize` environment. This asks for each item in the list to be uncovered in order.
- The `setbeamercovered{transparent}` asks for the un-highlighted item to be dimly seen.
- There are many more complicated methods to orchestrate overlays.

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- There are many more complicated methods to orchestrate overlays.

Complex overlays

- Instead of having items in a list appear in order, you can have tighter control. For instance this item is always visible.
- This item, marked with `<+-->` appears from the second overlay on.
- This item, marked with `<+>` only shows up on the 3rd frame. Using `+` (meaning “next”) is more robust than using actual numbers, so you can move things around.
- ... and this one, only on the 4th.
- Look up the various ways of describing overlays: `pause`, `visible`, `invisible`, `alt`, `only`, `onlyenv`, ...
- There’s also something called `overprint` that allows you to have a fixed area of the screen where things appear and disappear, while the rest of the screen stays fixed.

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Blocks

Blocks can have a title

Blocks are another nice way to make highlighted blocks of text (or anything).

Simple block (see above)

```
\begin{block}{Blocks can have a title}  
...  
\end{block}
```

Example block (see above)

```
\begin{exampleblock}{Simple block (see above)}  
...  
\end{exampleblock}
```

Column example

```
\begin{columns}
  \begin{column}{6cm}
    \begin{exampleblock}
      ...
    \end{exampleblock}
  \end{column}
  \begin{column}{6cm}
    \begin{itemize}
      ...
    \end{itemize}
  \end{column}
\end{columns}
```

- Columns are for vertically organizing text.
- The beamer screen is 128 mm × 96 mm.
- Two columns of 6cm appears to work well. Remember to make allowance for margins around the stuff inside a column. Three columns of 4cm for figures may work as well.

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Movie?

- Embedded animation doesn't appear to work... below there's supposed to be a button you can click on to play an embedded movie. This requires a \LaTeX package to be installed, called `multimedia`. But even with it ...

... nothing clickable shows up. Try it on Dos or Mac, maybe there's a button just above: this may be a problem with my PDF viewer.

- However, externally launched movies do seem to work, click on the word `click`, below ...
click

Movie using PDFAnim

(Thanks to Laurent White for pointing me toward this...)

- Download `pdfanim.sty` (and `PDFAnim_Guide.tex`)
- Convert animation to a set of PDFs using `mplayer` and `convert`

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Summary

Well, that's all I know, so far!