

**NAME**

**context** – front end to the new ConTeXt typesetting system

**SYNOPSIS**

**context** [ *OPTION* ... ] *FILE* [ ... ]

**DESCRIPTION**

**context**, a **texlua**(1) script, is the command-line front end to the new version of the ConTeXt typesetting system, an extensive macro package built on the **tex**(1) family of typesetting programs. **context** provides several facilities:

- Process a ConTeXt source file, performing as many runs as necessary of **luatex**(1). Options control the output format, the pages to process, paper size, and so forth.
- Create new ConTeXt formats, useful during installation.
- Post-process existing PDF files, including merging multiple files, and extracting and rearranging pages within a file, similar to the facilities provided for PostScript files by **psnup**(1) or for PDF files by **pdftk**(1).

**OPTIONS**

All switches should always be specified in full. With no options, **context** assumes that the file on the command line is a ConTeXt source file, i.e. a TeX file in the ConTeXt dialect, and produces a PDF file using the source file.

**--run** process (one or more) files (default action)

**--make** create context formats

**--ctx=***name*

use ctx file (process management specification)

**--interface**

use specified user interface (default: en)

**--autopdf**

close pdf file in viewer and start pdf viewer afterwards

**--purge(all)**

purge files either or not after a run (**--pattern=...**)

**--usemodule=***list*

load the given module or style, normally part of the distribution

**--environment=***list*

load the given environment file first (document styles)

**--mode=***list*

enable given the modes (conditional processing in styles)

**--path=***list*

also consult the given paths when files are looked for

**--arguments**=*list*  
set variables that can be consulted during a run (key/value pairs)

**--randomseed**=*number*  
set the randomseed

**--result**=*name*  
rename the resulting output to the given name

**--trackers**=*list*  
set tracker variables (show list with **--showtrackers**)

**--directives**=*list*  
set directive variables (show list with **--showdirectives**)

**--silent**=*list*  
disable logcategories (show list with **--showlogcategories**)

**--noconsole**  
disable logging to the console (logfile only)

**--purgeresult**  
purge result file before run

**--forcexml**  
force xml stub (optional flag: **--mkii**)

**--forcecld**  
force cld (context lua document) stub

**--arrange**  
run extra imposition pass, given that the style sets up imposition

**--noarrange**  
ignore imposition specifications in the style

**--once** only run once (no multipass data file is produced)

**--batchmode**  
run without stopping and don't show messages on the console

**--nonstopmode**  
run without stopping

**--generate**  
generate file database etc. (as **mtxrun** does)

**--paranoid**  
don't descend to .. and ../..

**--version**  
report installed context version

**--expert**  
show expert options

## INITIALIZATION

The **context** command is just a stub that runs the larger **mtxrun** script, which is a scripting framework written for **texlua**(1) that supports loading of extra modules, of which **context** is one. The implementation actually resides in a file named **mtx-context.lua** deep within the TDS structure.

If **context** complains about **Unknown script 'context'**, this can usually be fixed by executing **mtxrun --generate** on the command line: this command regenerates the database that **mtxrun** uses to find its extra modules.

## SEE ALSO

**tex**(1), **luatex**(1), **texlua**(1), **psnup**(1), **pdftk**(1).

[ConTeXt wiki](http://www.contextgarden.net) <<http://www.contextgarden.net>>.

[ConTeXt mailing list home](http://www.ntg.nl/mailman/listinfo/ntg-context) <<http://www.ntg.nl/mailman/listinfo/ntg-context>>.

## BUGS

This manpage is horribly incomplete.

## AUTHOR

This partial manpage was written by Taco Hoekwater <[taco@metatex.org](mailto:taco@metatex.org)>. It is based on the **--help** output of **context**.