

The drac package*

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Abstract

This package provides `\DeclareRobustActChar` and `\ReDeclareRobActChar` macros.

One uses `\DeclareRobustActChar` as `\DeclareRobustCommand` but the macro `\protects` the active character when it appears in a moving argument, see `ltxdefs.dtx` in `/latex/base/`.

`\ReDeclareRobActChar` redefines the active character, previously defined with `\DeclareRobustActChar`, the way `\renewcommand` does for usual commands.

Résumé

Ce module définit `\DeclareRobustActChar` et `\ReDeclareRobActChar`.

Vous devriez avoir obtenu, avec ce document, les fichiers `drac-fr.dtx` et `drac-fr.pdf` qui donnent la version française de cette documentation.

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1 Introduction

When the macro appeared on `fr.comp.text.tex` in the thread “la question à 100 euros¹”, dated 8th april 2004, its name was `\DeclareRobustActiveCharacter` which had the advantage to be totally descriptive but one drawback viz. it was really long. To alleviate the pains of the typist but *mainly* to avoid a complete mess in the index of this document, I have taken it upon myself to rename it `\DeclareRobustActChar`.

When reading the above mentioned thread, one can easily see that I —i. e. Yvon Henel, T_EXnicien de surface— just asked for code which was provided, very friendly and efficiently, by Josselin Noirel.

I played a bit with Josselin’s code but some months later life hit me hard which would not have been a surprise if I had really understood the classical wisdom I have been educated in during my younger days. But “the light, which experience gives, is a lantern on the stern, which shines only on the waves behind us” as wrote Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Thence when Josselin, who was rather busy as a student, sent me with an email in February 2005 a second version where `\ReDeclareRobActChar` appeared I was in no state to benefit from it.

*This document corresponds to the file `drac v1`, dated 2008/08/14.

1. The 100 euro question.

Then time, the great healer, did fly. . . I'm back to the world and Josselin has left for other shores.

The code exists and works. So instead of leaving it to rot somewhere on my hard disk and for I have spent some hours to update my own packages I have decided to launch `drac` on the vast ocean of life. I just provide the wrapping and push the tiny thing on the nearest CTAN server.

I do suppose that one understood that I can't promise to maintain the following code I hardly understand and that only because of the comments given by Josselin. So now is the time to let Josselin be at the helm. . . and the keyboard.

Le T_EXnicien de surface

2 Usage

This command has the usual syntax of the `\newcommand` and friends: it accepts a starred form depending on whether the active character accepts `\long` arguments (*i.e.* an argument could contain a paragraph ending) or not; next comes the active character; an optional number of arguments, an optional argument which is the optional value of the first argument, and then the actual definition. Here are the valid syntaxes:

```
\DeclareRobustActChar{⟨active character⟩}[n]%  
[⟨default value of the first argument⟩]{⟨definition⟩}  
\DeclareRobustActChar{⟨active character⟩}[n]{⟨definition⟩}  
\DeclareRobustActChar{⟨active character⟩}{⟨definition⟩}  
\DeclareRobustActChar*{⟨active character⟩}[n]%  
[⟨default value of the first argument⟩]{⟨definition⟩}  
\DeclareRobustActChar*{⟨active character⟩}[n]{⟨definition⟩}  
\DeclareRobustActChar*{⟨active character⟩}{⟨definition⟩}
```

Then one will be able to use the active character in moving arguments (in the arguments of `\caption` for instance) and in other cases which demand robust commands (`\protected@edef`, `\protected@write`, and so on).

Similarly `\ReDeclareRobActChar` has the same syntax than `\renewcommand` so here are the possible syntaxes:

```
\ReDeclareRobActChar{⟨active character⟩}[n]%  
[⟨default value of the first argument⟩]{⟨definition⟩}  
\ReDeclareRobActChar{⟨active character⟩}[n]{⟨definition⟩}  
\ReDeclareRobActChar{⟨active character⟩}{⟨definition⟩}  
\ReDeclareRobActChar*{⟨active character⟩}[n]%  
[⟨default value of the first argument⟩]{⟨definition⟩}  
\ReDeclareRobActChar*{⟨active character⟩}[n]{⟨definition⟩}  
\ReDeclareRobActChar*{⟨active character⟩}{⟨definition⟩}
```

Change History

v0		public version	1
	General: Missed to be the 1st public	Introduces \ReDeclareRobActChar	
	version	1
v0.1		v1	
	General: Almost have been the 1st	General: First public version	1