

# The `l3docstrip` package

## Code extraction and manipulation\*

The L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 Project<sup>†</sup>

Released 2012/06/08

## 1 Extending DocStrip

The `l3docstrip` module adds L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 extensions to the DocStrip program for extracting code from `.dtx`. As such, this documentation should be read along with that for DocStrip.

## 2 Internal functions and variables

An important consideration for L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X3 development is separating out public and internal functions. Functions and variables which are private to one module should not be used or modified by any other module. As T<sub>E</sub>X does not have any formal namespacing system, this requires a convention for indicating which functions in a code-level module are public and which are private.

Using `l3docstrip` allows internal functions to be indicated using a “two part” system. Within the `.dtx` file, internal functions may be indicated using `@@` in place of the module name, for example

```
\cs_new_protected:Npn \@@_some_function:nn #1#2
{
  % Some code here
}
\tl_new:N \l_@@_internal_tl
```

To extract the code using `l3docstrip`, the “guard” concept used by DocStrip is extended by introduction of the syntax `%<@@=<module>`. The `<module>` name will be used when the code is extracted to replace the `@@`, so that

```
%<*package>
%<@@=foo>
\cs_new_protected:Npn \@@_some_function:nn #1#2
```

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\*This file describes v3787, last revised 2012/06/08.

<sup>†</sup>E-mail: [latex-team@latex-project.org](mailto:latex-team@latex-project.org)

```

    {
      % Some code here
    }
\tl_new:N \l_@@_internal_tl
%</package>

```

will be extracted as

```

\cs_new_protected:Npn \__foo_some_function:nn #1#2
{
  % Some code here
}
\tl_new:N \l__foo_internal_tl

```

where the `__` indicates that the functions and variables are internal to the `foo` module.