

pkgmeta Package

Package Metadata Information in L^AT_EX

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`pkgmeta` provides a small interface for retrieving metadata declared by a L^AT_EX package or file without loading the target file.

```
\pkgmeta[<key>]{<package or file>}
```

The available keys are:

Key	Information
<code>default</code>	Date, version, and description
<code>version</code>	Version number
<code>date</code>	Release date
<code>year</code>	Release year
<code>month</code>	Release month
<code>day</code>	Release day
<code>description</code>	Package description

For example:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{pkgmeta}

\begin{document}
  \pkgmeta{geometry}\par
  Version: \pkgmeta[version]{geometry}\par
  Date: \pkgmeta[date]{geometry}\par
  Custom Date: \pkgmeta[year]{geometry}-\pkgmeta[month]{geom
    \rightarrow etry}-\pkgmeta[day]{geometry}\par
  Description: \pkgmeta[description]{geometry}
\end{document}
```

produces:

2026/03/07 v6.0 Page Geometry Version: 6.0 Date: 2026/03/07 Custom Date: 2026-03-07 Description: Page Geometry
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`pkgmeta` recognizes metadata declared by `\ProvidesPackage`, `\ProvidesFile`, `\ProvidesExplPackage`, and `\ProvidesExplFile`.

With Lua_{TEX}, the target file is read as text rather than processed by _{TEX}. This allows `pkgmeta` to handle files such as `bidi.sty`, whose metadata may contain commands rather than literal date and version strings. With Xe_{TEX} and pdf_{TEX}, `pkgmeta` uses `readprov` as its backend and may therefore have the same limitations when processing such files.

Under Lua_{TEX}, metadata is available in expandable contexts. Under Xe_{TEX} and pdf_{TEX}, metadata for an already loaded package is expandable through `\UseDateOf` and `\UseVersionOf`. For an unloaded package, the first lookup requires `readprov` to read the file and is not expandable.