

April 13, 2007

Question: In \LaTeX , how do I put a box around an entire page of text something like a border? I would like to do this for my entire document so it looks more like a newspaper or a magazine.

Sincerely yours,

R. Friend

Hi R. Friend,

Okay. This is one was difficult to find and is tricky to do but the results are quite impressive. Try the following:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage{fancyheadings}
\newlength{\gnat}
\setlength{\gnat}{\textheight}
\addtolength{\gnat}{+5\baselineskip}
\newlength{\gwen}
\setlength{\gwen}{\textwidth}
\addtolength{\gwen}{+.15\textwidth}
\pagestyle{fancy}
\lhead{\hspace*{- .10\textwidth}}
\lfoot{\rule[-\gnat]{0 pt}{0 pt}\hspace*{\gwen}}
\chead{\raisebox{- .1 in}{\bfseries An Introduction to Simulation}}
\cfoot{\thepage}
\rfoot{}
\lfoot{}
\begin{document}
```

The hard part here is how to sneak the box into the margin. The above solution uses the fancyheadings package, which is an easy way to create a header, to sneak the box into the left header (\lhead) and from there down and around the page. Basically the \gnat value sets the depth of the box and the \gwen value sets the width of the box and the \hspace* value at

the beginning of the `\thead` line puts the box into the left margin. If you actually want to use a running header with this solution, then you have to use something like the `\raisebox` command to lower the header down below the line created by the page bounding box. This is shown in the above example with the `\thead` command.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Struss
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