

# The randtext package\*

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Provides one useful macro, `\randomize{<text>}`. Result is a typeset box that looks, on paper, like `<text>`, but whose letters have in fact been placed in random order so that they are not copiable from the file directly.

In other words, typing:

```
This is a \randomize{random-text} test.
```

would produce output that looks like:

```
This is a random-text test.
```

but if you tried to copy-paste it from the output file, you would probably get

```
This is a mdoxt-etnra test.
```

The function of this odd macro is to obfuscate e-mail addresses, say on a PDF document put online, so that the human reader sees the address as expected, but e-mail address harvesters and spambots cannot determine the address. Since this macro is done entirely using  $\TeX$  typesetting commands, it requires no external image generation or anything, and the typeset result is just as high-quality as if no obfuscation had taken place.

This macro does take into account kerning between character pairs, but it does not account for ligatures. To make appropriate ligatures, surround the ligature characters with braces.

This package supersedes `switcheml.sty`, written by the same author. (That is the reason that the internal macros begin with `se@`.)

Requires the file `random.tex`, by Donald Arseneau. I believe that this file comes as part of a standard  $\TeX$  distribution.

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\*This manual corresponds to `randtext.sty`, dated 2004/12/20.