
The powerdot class

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Abstract

powerdot is a presentation class for \LaTeX that allows for the quick and easy development of professional presentations. It comes with many tools that enhance presentations and aid the presenter. Examples are automatic overlays, personal notes and a handout mode. To view a presentation, DVI, PS or PDF output can be used. A powerful template system is available to easily develop new styles. A LyX layout file is provided.



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This class builds on and extends the prosper class [?] and the HA-prosper package [?]. The HA-prosper package was initially intended to extend prosper and correct some bugs and problems of that class. As developments on that package progressed, it was found that unfortunately, not all of the problems could be overcome with the package. That discovery was the start of a new project set up to make a new class to replace the prosper plus HA-prosper combination. You're currently reading the result of that project.



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The remainder of this section will be devoted to giving a feel of what the powerdot presentation source looks like and giving an overview of this documentation.



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The document structure of a presentation is always the same. You can find it in the example below.



Example

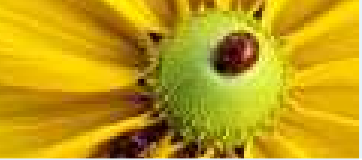
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```
\documentclass [<class options>]{powerdot}
\pdsetup{<presentation options>}
\begin{document}
  \begin{slide}{a slide}
    Contents of the slide.
  \end{slide}
  \section{first section}
  \begin{slide}[<slide options>]{another slide}
    Contents of the slide.
  \end{slide}
  \begin{note}{personal note}
    The note.
  \end{note}
\end{document}
```

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There are several elements that define the document structure. First of all, the class accepts some class options that control the output of the class, for instance, paper type and style. These class options will be discussed in section 0.1. Then there are presentation specific options which control some of the elements of the presentation globally, for instance, the footers. These will be discussed in section ??.



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Once the setup has been decided on, you can use the slide environment to produce slides (see section ??) and the note environment to produce notes that go with the slides (see section ??). You can use overlays to display material in steps. This is described in section ?. The `\section` command provides a way to structure your presentation. This is discussed in section ?. Section ? will show an overview of the styles that come with this class and the characteristics of each style. Section ? will tell you more about how to produce output. This section contains important information on required packages.



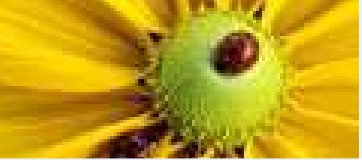
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Section ?? is mostly interesting for people that want to develop their own style for this class or want to modify an existing style. Section ?? explains how LyX [?] can be used to create powerdot presentations. This documentation concludes with a section devoted to questions (section ??), like ‘Where can I find examples?’. It also tells you where to turn to in case your questions are still not solved.



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**Document class
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This section will describe all options that are available to control the output of the presentation and the looks of it.



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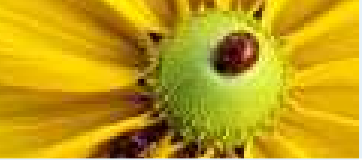
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This section will describe all options that are available to control the output of the presentation and the looks of it.

We will start with the class options that are typed in the `\documentclass` command as a comma-separated list. For each option, the preset value will be mentioned in the description. This is the value that will be used if you decide to not give a value to the option or not use the option at all. The value that will be used when you don't use the option.



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This options controls the kind of output that we want to produce.
The preset value is present.



This options controls the kind of output that we want to produce. The preset value is `present`.

`mode=present`

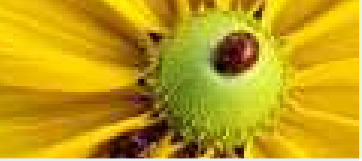
This mode is used when you want to create the actual presentation. It will enable overlays and transition effects. You can read more about overlays in section ??.

`mode=print`

This mode can be used when printing the slides including their visual markup, but without any overlay or transition effects.

`mode=handout`

This mode will produce a black and white overview of your slides that can be used to make personal notes on, for distribution to students, a personal guide during your talk, etcetera.



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`nopagebreaks`

By default, the handout mode produces a document with two slides per page. If you want to fit more slides on a page, specify this option in the `\documentclass` command and powerdot will let \LaTeX decide on the places to insert a page break, namely when a page is full.



`paper` This option has three possible values. The preset value is `screen`.

`paper=screen`

This is a special format with screen optimized ratio (4/3). The actual page dimensions will be 8.25 inch by 11 inch. This paper format is not available for print or handout mode. In these modes, powerdot will switch to a4 paper and put a warning that it did this in the log file of your presentation.

`paper=a4paper`

A4 paper will be used for the presentation or handout.

`paper=letterpaper`

Letter size paper will be used.