The verbdef package*

Author: Robin Fairbairns
Maintainer: LaTeX Project Team
https://github.com/LaTeX-Package-Repositories/verbdef

November 10, 2026

1 What is it for?

Verbatim text is notoriously difficult in TeX; in LaTeX it adds confusion by being "more fragile than fragile".

This package provides one way out of the impasse: the command `\verbdef`, which defines a robust command that expands to verbatim text.

2 Using `\verbdef`

The `\verbdef` command can take an its verbatim string between matching characters, as `\verb` does:

```
\verbdef\demo|demonstration text|
```

or you may give it a more normal-looking argument:

```
\verbdef\demo{demonstration text}
```

The command also respects "`*`", as it's used in `\verb` and the `verbatim` environment:

```
\verbdef*\stardemo{with visible spaces}
```

which will define a verbatim text `with␣visible␣spaces` (just like that).

3 Caveat

If the command you're defining with `\verbdef` is to be used in a `\section`-type command, or a `\caption`, it's going to appear in the table of contents (or list of whatever else). In this case you *must* define the command before the `\tableofcontents` command (or whatever). I recommend defining such commands in the preamble of the document[1].

*This documents version 0.2b, of 2026-11-09.

[1] In fact, the source of the present document is so structured, since `\verbdef` is used to define a command for `\verbdef`…