

# The changelog Package

Rebecca Turner\*

2.6.0 (2024/12/18)

## Abstract

Changelogs are important. `changelog` defines a changelog environment to make writing changelogs declarative and easy.  
For rationale, read [keepachangelog.com](https://keepachangelog.com).

**NOTE** Browse the sources, contribute, or complain at  
[github.com/9999years/latex-changelog](https://github.com/9999years/latex-changelog)

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>I don't want to read this documentation</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Intro</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Why? . . . . .	2
2.2	The competition . . . . .	3
<b>3</b>	<b>The <code>changelog</code> environment</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1	Helper commands . . . . .	5
3.2	Customization . . . . .	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Translations</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Creating new translations . . . . .	6
<b>5</b>	<b>Contributors</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Changelog</b>	<b>7</b>

---

\*[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)

# 1 I don't want to read this documentation

Perfectly understandable. `changelog` comes in a “simple” flavor:

<b>Changelog</b>
1.0.0 Rebecca Turner (2018-12-28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cool features</li><li>• Bug fixes</li></ul>
0.1.0 Rebecca Turner (2018-10-25) — Initial beta

```
\begin{changelog}[author=Rebecca
  Turner, simple,
  sectioncmd=\section*]
\begin{version}[v=1.0.0,
  date=2018-12-28]
  \item Cool features
  \item Bug fixes
\end{version}
\shortversion{v=0.1.0,
  date=2018-10-25,
  changes=Initial beta}
\end{changelog}
```

And a more organized variant based on [keepachangelog.com](http://keepachangelog.com):

<b>Changelog</b>
1.0.0 Rebecca Turner (2018-12-28)
<b>Added</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cool features</li></ul>
<b>Fixed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bug fixes</li></ul>
0.1.0 Rebecca Turner (2018-10-25) — Initial beta

```
\begin{changelog}[author=Rebecca
  Turner, sectioncmd=\section*]
\begin{version}[v=1.0.0,
  date=2018-12-28]
  \added
  \item Cool features
  \fixed
  \item Bug fixes
\end{version}
\shortversion{v=0.1.0,
  date=2018-10-25,
  changes=Initial beta}
\end{changelog}
```

## 2 Intro

### 2.1 Why?

Read [Olivier Lacan's](http://OlivierLacan.com) lovely site [keepachangelog.com](http://keepachangelog.com). To excerpt:

#### 2.1.1 What is a changelog?

A changelog is a file which contains a curated, chronologically ordered list of notable changes for each version of a project.

#### 2.1.2 Why keep a changelog?

To make it easier for users and contributors to see precisely what notable changes have been made between each release (or version) of the project.

#### 2.1.3 Who needs a changelog?

People do. Whether consumers or developers, the end users of software are human beings who care about what's in the

software. When the software changes, people want to know why and how.

## 2.2 The competition

It's always good to know the competition. Unfortunately, there isn't much here. Know of another package with similar functionality? Drop me a line or open a pull request!

**vhistory** provides a decent-looking changelog. However, it's designed for short changes and provides a less-than-elegant interface. Additionally, it's based on the `ltxtable` package, meaning it makes restrictions on the contents of version information and writes the table to a file.

**holtxdoc** has a decent changelog feature (via Oberdiek's `History and Version` environments), but **holtxdoc** "contains some private macros and setup for my needs. Thus do not use it." In addition, Oberdiek's changelogs don't support multiple authors.

**gitlog** is an interesting idea, but **gitlog** "is a proof-of-concept release to allow users an early evaluation..."

Also, [friends don't let friends dump git logs into changelogs](#).

## 3 The changelog environment

```
\begin{changelog}[options]\dots\end{changelog}
```

Wraps description while providing the `version` environment and the `\shortversion` command. In addition to the options shown below, *options* may contain any of the options for `version` as a form of "partial application"; this may be useful if, for example, most of your versions have the same author.

<b>section</b> = <i>&lt;true false&gt;</i>	<code>true</code>
Insert a <code>\section</code> before the changelog? If <code>section=false</code> , no <code>\label</code> will be generated.	
<b>sectioncmd</b> = <i>&lt;command&gt;</i>	<code>\section</code>
Which sectioning command to use?	
<b>title</b> = <i>&lt;txt&gt;</i>	<code>Changelog</code>
What to title the changelog section?	
<b>label</b> = <i>&lt;label&gt;</i>	<code>sec:changelog</code>
What to <code>\label</code> the section? If the <code>label</code> option is empty ( <code>label=</code> ), no label will be inserted.	

`\begin{version}[options]... \end{version}`

Gives a single version; wraps `itemize`.

If the `date` option is absent, the date isn't printed.

If the `v/version` option is absent, the date is used in its place.

If both `version` and `date` are absent, the version is shown as `Unreleased` and `\today` is used for the date. `\today` isn't ideal (which is to say, not [iso 8601](#) compliant) but it's well-known and easy to redefine.<sup>1</sup>

*options* may include:

**version**=*<version string>*

The version string for this version

**v**=*<version string>*

An alias for `version`

**author**=*<author(s)>*

The author(s) of this version

**date**=*<date string>*

The date of this version's release

**yanked**=*<true|false>*

`false`

Indicates that the release was revoked due to a "serious bug or security issue"; prints a visible notice next to the version number

**remark**=*<remark>*

Adds a remark in the style of the yanked key.

**remarks**=*<comma-separated list of remarks>*

Adds multiple remarks in the style of the yanked key.

**simple**=*<true|false>*

`false`

Indicates this version isn't split up into `\added`, `\changed`, etc. categories; if this option is given, a `version` environment acts like a plain `itemize`

**short**=*<true|false>*

`false`

Renders a short version, like `\shortversion's changes` option; useful if you need to put verbatim material in the changes which would otherwise cause an error due to being used in an argument.

`\shortversion{options}`

A short, one-line version. In addition to `version's` options, the following options are available for `\shortversion`:

**changes**=*<change text>*

The changes to display for this version

---

<sup>1</sup>Try the [dateime2](#) package or [any of the other solutions here](#).

### 3.1 Helper commands

The `changelog` package defines several “helper commands.” These commands introduce a *set* of changes within the version. There must be at least one `\item` between one of these commands and the end of the `version` environment.

Note that these commands are *only* available when not using the `simple` option!

`\added`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent added features

`\changed`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent changed features

`\deprecated`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent deprecated features

`\removed`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent features which have been removed

`\fixed`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent bug fixes

`\security`

Introduces a list of `\items` that represent security-fixes and closed security holes

`\newchangelogsection{<command>}{<description>}`

Creates a new command like `\added`, `\changed`, etc., that can be used in the `version` environment.

1.0.0 (2023-02-16)

**Critical**

- Features!

```
\newchangelogsection
  {\critical}{Critical}
\begin{changelog}[section=false]
  \begin{version}[v=1.0.0,
    date=2023-02-16]
    \critical
      \item Features!
    \end{version}
  \end{changelog}
```

### 3.2 Customization

The `changelog` environment wraps `changelogdescription` (which is defined by default to be just the `description` environment), and the `version` environment wraps `changelogitemize`. One could customize these in depth with `enumitem`, as in:

```
\usepackage{enumitem}
\renewenvironment{changelogitemize}
  {\begin{itemize}[label=---]}
  {\end{itemize}}
```

`\changelogyanked`

Prints the “revoked release” notice: **YANKED**. See: [yanked releases on keepachangelog.com](http://yanked.releases.onkeepachangelog.com).

`\changelogremark{<remark>}`

Prints a “remark.” This is used to implement `\changelogyanked` and the `remark` and `remarks` keys of the `version` environment.

## 4 Translations

Want to use `changelog` in a non-English document? Great! `changelog` comes with translations for English, German, Spanish, French, and Japanese, as well as support for adding new translations (see section 5 below for translation credits). To use built-in translations, simply load `babel` with the desired language:

```
1.0.0 Holger Schieferdecker
Hinzugefügt

- Features!

```

```
% In the preamble:
% \usepackage[german]{babel}

\begin{changelog}[section=false,
author=Holger Schieferdecker]
  \begin{version}[v=1.0.0]
    \added
      \item Features!
    \end{version}
  \end{changelog}
```

### 4.1 Creating new translations

`changelog` uses the `translations` package to provide translations, and a complete translation looks like this:

```
\documentclass{article}
\usepackage[english]{babel}
\usepackage{translations}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Added}{Added}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Changed}{Changed}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Deprecated}{Deprecated}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Removed}{Removed}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Fixed}{Fixed}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Security}{Security}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Miscellaneous}{Miscellaneous}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Unreleased}{Unreleased}
\DeclareTranslation{English}{changelog-Yanked}{YANKED}
```

```
\begin{document}
% ...
\end{document}
```

Refer to the [translations package documentation](#) and the [babel package documentation](#) for more information.

If you create a translation, please [send me an email](#) and I'll incorporate the translation into [changelog's](#) next release!

## 5 Contributors

**Rebecca Turner** Original implementation.

**Holger Schieferdecker** Internationalization support and German translations.

**David Arnold** <[dar@xoe.solutions](mailto:dar@xoe.solutions)> Support for translating the changelog's section title and Spanish translations.

**Damien Calesse** <[github.com/kranack](https://github.com/kranack)> French translations.

**cmplstofB** <[github.com/cmplstofB](https://github.com/cmplstofB)> Japanese translations.

## 6 Changelog

This is this package's actual changelog — not an example!

2.6.0 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2024-12-18)

### Changed

- If the `label` option for the `changelog` environment is empty, no `\label` will be generated for the changelog section.

The documentation has been clarified to explain that if the `section` option is set to `false`, no label will be generated, as labels are meaningless without being attached to a section.

2.5.1 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2024-09-17)

### Fixed

- Fixed a bug where a version with a date and no version number would display the date twice, like “**2024-09-17** (2024-09-17)”. Now, the date will correctly only be shown once.
- Fixed a bug where a version with a version number but no date or author would be indented.

2.5.0 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2023-02-16)

### Added

- Added the `\newchangelogsection` command to support custom sections.
- Added the `remark` and `remarks` keys to support custom remarks (like “YANKED”) on versions.
- Added the `\changelogremark` command, which renders the “YANKED” remark and other custom remarks.

2.4.1 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2023-02-14)

**Changed**

- Converted the `changelog.sty` implementation to use the `expl3` package. `expl3` provides a reasonable and well-defined programming environment. I believe `expl3` is the future of programming in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , despite its verbosity.

2.4.0 [cmplstofB](https://github.com/cmplstofB) <[github.com/cmplstofB](https://github.com/cmplstofB)> (2020-09-02)

**Added**

- Japanese translations.

2.3.0 Damien Calesse <[github.com/kranack](https://github.com/kranack)> (2020-08-26)

**Added**

- French translations.

2.2.0 David Arnold <[dar@xoe.solutions](mailto:dar@xoe.solutions)> (2020-04-23)

**Added**

- Support for translating the changelog's section title with `\DeclareTranslation{Language}{changelog}{...}`.
- Spanish translations.

2.1.0 Holger Schieferdecker (2019-06-29)

**Added**

- Internationalization support.
- German translations.

2.0.0 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2019-04-15)

**Added**

- Better error handling; more informative messages for empty `version` or `changelog` environments.
- `short` option in versions.

**Removed**

- Removed `color` package option.

**Fixed**

- Added dependencies for `xparse` and `xkeyval`, which had erroneously been excluded from the package.

1.0.0 Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2018-12-28)

**Added**

- The “simple” option for changelogs which aren't split up into sections of added, changed, removed, etc. features

**Changed**

- Instead of commands like `\added` introducing an item, they introduce a list of items; this is what [keepachangelog.com](https://keepachangelog.com) actually intended; previous implementations were incorrect to display an “Added” (or whatever) marker next to each item.



**0.2.1** Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2018-10-26) — Documented yanked option

**0.2.0** Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2018-10-26) — First stable release

**0.1.0** Rebecca Turner <[rbt@sent.as](mailto:rbt@sent.as)> (2018-10-25) — Initial beta