

## Auto Multiple Choice - Bug # 533: pdflatex --shell-escape

<b>Status:</b>	Closed	<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Author:</b>	Giovanni Morando	<b>Category:</b>	
<b>Created:</b>	02/22/2018	<b>Assignee:</b>	
<b>Updated:</b>	02/08/2021	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Description:</b>	As explained in the guide I try to change the local or global latex engine (search for "engine" in <a href="https://www.auto-multiple-choice.net/auto-multiple-choice.en/latex.shtml">https://www.auto-multiple-choice.net/auto-multiple-choice.en/latex.shtml</a> ) in order to set it to "pdflatex --shell-escape" so that tikzexternal may be used with AMC. I change the engine, I save the settings but my choice is not registered: the compilation does not work and if I open the preferences once again my former choice is cancelled. Any ideas? Thank in advance.		

### History

#### 02/23/2018 03:22 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe

What AMC version do you use?

Open your project.

When you open the `_Edit/Preferences_` window, what is the value of `_External commands/LaTeX engine_` \*in the `_Project_` tab\*?

#### 02/24/2018 10:27 am - Giovanni Morando

I have AMC 1.3.0.

If I open `_Edit/Preferences_` window as the first operation after launching AMC I get "pdflatex" in `_main preferences_` and "pdflatex --shell-escape" in the `_project_` tab. As soon as I perform any operation, as opening `_preferences_` again or compiling the source (and getting an error message), it seems that preferences are cancelled since, if I open `_preference_` once again I find both fields empty.

Thanks

#### 02/24/2018 03:02 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe

Can you try these exact steps and send the resulting `@log@` file?

# Open AMC

# Switch to debugging mode (from the `_Help_` menu)

# Open your project

# Open the Edit/Preferences menu, and set `_External commands/LaTeX engine_` in the `_Project_` tab to `@pdflatex -shell-escape@`

# Build the project documents

#### 02/24/2018 03:59 pm - Giovanni Morando

- File *AMC-DEBUG-untwPnhY.log* added

Here is the log file.

Thanks for help,

Giovanni

#### 02/24/2018 04:02 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe

So in this case the documents were built properly?

#### 02/24/2018 04:13 pm - Giovanni Morando

- File *AMC-DEBUG-jDL7pSKL.log* added

Ops, I am sorry I compiled the document using the trick I adopted to complete the job (importing images with graphicx package from a different file). Here attached you can find the log of the situation with the error.

Sorry,  
Giovanni

**02/24/2018 04:21 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe**

> [ 8413, 2.30] Command [8431] : auto-multiple-choice prepare --with "pdflatex --shell-escape" ...  
> [...]  
> [ 8431, 0.14] %%% Compiling: pass 1  
> This is pdfTeX, Version 3.14159265-2.6-1.40.16 (TeX Live 2015/Debian) (preloaded format=pdflatex)  
> \write18 enabled.  
It seems from the log file that @-shell-escape@ was used.  
Can you write a minimal source file that produces the error?

**02/24/2018 04:24 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe**

Is there any file named @amc-compiled-figure0.log@ in the project directory?

**02/24/2018 04:41 pm - Giovanni Morando**

- File *amc-compiled-figure0.log* added
- File *simple.tex* added
- File *AMC-DEBUG-C9JhlcCN.log* added

Here is the minimal source *simple.tex*, the *amc-debug-....log* and the *amc-compiled-figure0.log*

**02/24/2018 05:51 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe**

Thanks for the source file.  
The problem here comes from the jobname, that is set by AMC to something different from the source file name. This seems to be incompatible with tikz's externalization (see "this page":<https://tex.stackexchange.com/questions/273898/tikz-externalize-not-working-when-jobname-is-specified-for-main-document>).  
You can use tikz without externalization, or try the solution provided in the page mentioned above.

**02/24/2018 05:56 pm - Giovanni Morando**

Thanks a lot, I'll read the page and see what's easier between the suggested solution and my dumb procedure (compiling images in an non-AMC file and importing them by means of graphicx package).

**02/08/2021 04:25 pm - Alexis Bienvenüe**

- Status changed from *New* to *Closed*
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

**Files**

AMC-DEBUG-untwPnhY.log	171 kB	02/24/2018	Giovanni Morando
AMC-DEBUG-jDL7pSKL.log	101.8 kB	02/24/2018	Giovanni Morando
amc-compiled-figure0.log	836 Bytes	02/24/2018	Giovanni Morando
simple.tex	929 Bytes	02/24/2018	Giovanni Morando
AMC-DEBUG-C9JhlcCN.log	94.4 kB	02/24/2018	Giovanni Morando