

Localizer Translation Tool Quick Start Guide

Version 0.08.74

Introduction

This tool is designed to assist with localization of software: extraction of the source material, translation, and coordination between all the parties involved.

The process of software localization is generally more difficult than a straightforward text translation for two reasons: first, the bulk of text to be translated is comprised of short, ambiguous messages for which little context is known. Often these messages are themselves fragments of a longer message. Second, these prompts contain embedded special symbols such as HTML markup or programming constructs like `\n` or `%s`, or very specific quotes. These symbols often get mangled by the tools used by the translators, and while the end result is visually indistinguishable from the original, the substituted or mangled symbols would break the software functionality.

This tool provides solutions for both problems. It carefully separates text to be translated from markup and special symbols, and it allows the teams - developers and translators - to capture the context, screenshots, and comments, that will help in translation.

Installation

Prerequisites:

Needs Oracle Java 7. It may in fact work with Java 6 or OpenJDK on Linux.

TODO: describe installation process.

To install, double click on the JAR file to run the tool. You should see a Welcome dialog the first time you run it.

After that, double clicking the JAR file will launch the tool.

If you don't see anything after a while, please contact tech support.

NOTE. During the installation process, the tool creates your identity key and database in a specific folder in your "home directory", which depends on the OS. The tool also checks for a new version and reports the version you are installing. This helps us to understand the requirements of our users. We do not transmit personal information and do not track individual users.

Quick Start

Double click on the JAR file to launch the tool. You'll see the Document Browser window. This is where you'll see:

- Messages informing you of new work and changes to your current work
- the Documents you currently work with
- Projects (to be implemented)
- information about your Team
- Archive, where you would send finished or obsolete documents.

Add a document. Press Add Document toolbar button or select Document -> Add Document. At each step, the tool generates a preview to help you detect mistakes in the format, encoding, data columns and to correct if necessary.

It is important to import the source material correctly. While some formats are well-defined and straightforward, some others (for instance, CSV) require special care. Make sure there is one prompt per line, verify the text encoding, and pay special attention that programming symbols are imported correctly.

The added document appears under Documents. Double click on it (or click on Open button) to open it. The translation window will open.

You may see a dialog prompting you to configure the languages. Languages, team assignment and roles can be configured by clicking on the Properties button, or selecting File -> Document Properties in the translation window menu.

Many functions are available via context menus. Click with the right mouse button on an item to see an associated context menu. For example, right-click on a document in the Document Browser if you want to change the document properties.

NOTE for Mac users: despite their appearance, many Mac mice do have the right button. If your mouse does not, try holding down the Ctrl key when clicking the mouse button.

Some functions have keyboard shortcuts associated with them. You may configure the shortcuts by going to File -> Preferences (or Localizer -> Preferences) and choosing the Keys panel. If you would like to have a keyboard shortcut added for a specific function, please let us know.

Translation

Translation window has the following features:

- language selector
- filter and search box
- list of prompts
- comment panel
- source document panel
- source text panel
- translation editor
- suggestion panel
- reference panel

Some tips:

Select Custom Filter in the Filter selector to create a more intricate filter for the prompt table.

Search uses simple logic which ignores accents and upper/lower case. To search for specific sequence, or where search expression may include spaces, use "double quotes", or plus sign (+) prefix. To filter unwanted items from the results, use minus sign (-).

Prompts are numbered. Select Prompt -> Go to Prompt Number menu or press Ctrl-L to go to a specific prompt.

At the bottom of the Source panel you may see the context area. There you'll find context information imported from the source file, or added by the developers or coordinators. Screenshots will also appear there. If your role permits it, you may right click on it and select Edit Context or Add Screenshot (or use Context menu) to add more. You can only edit your own portion of the context.

Certain source formats support plural quantities. The number and exact rules for plural forms differ between languages. The translation editor contains logic that handles these dependencies. A <Quantity~X> special symbol contains the example of a number to help the translator choose the appropriate variant.

An option named "Copy special symbols" in the Preferences -> Translation Editor pane controls whether the special symbols are automatically copied to the editor field.

Source and translation panels provide Google search link from the context menu.

Translation statistics is available via Translation -> Statistics menu.

Translation Editor

Special symbols in the Source text can be copied to the translation editor by clicking on them. Check out the toolbar and the context menu in the Translation panel.

There is a number of keyboard shortcuts available when the editor has focus (they may not be active when some other component is focused). Key bindings marked with (*) can be changed via Preference -> Keys menu.

- Ctrl - Enter: goes not next untranslated prompt (*)
- Ctrl - Up: Arrow goes back one prompt (*)
- Ctrl - Down: Arrow goes forward one prompt (*)
- Page Up: scrolls the prompt table one page up
- Page Down: scrolls the prompt table one page down
- Ctrl-K: copy source
- Ctrl-\: append next special symbol (*)
- Ctrl-L: navigate to prompt by number (*)
- copy
- cut
- paste
- Ctrl - 1 through Ctrl - 0: insert numbered suggestion from Memory
- undo
- redo
- TBD: toggle bookmark
- TBD: mark for review
- TBD: approve

History of translation of the current prompt can be seen by selecting Prompt -> Show History or via context menu in the translation editor.

Translation Memory

The tool provides translation memory. Suggestion are shown in the Reference panel.

The Reference panel also shows concordance results if you click on a word (or select a phrase) in either Source, Source Document, or Translation panels. You can fine-tune the behavior in Preferences -> Translation Editor.

Use Translation -> Translate from Memory and Translation -> Commit Translation to Memory to add every prompt translation in the current document to memory.

The current implementation is somewhat simplistic, so your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Spelling Check

Spelling check requires you to add a dictionary. The tool uses Open Office spell check files (OXT or ZIP) which can be found at

<http://extensions.services.openoffice.org/dictionary>

You'll need to download the file(s) to the disk first, then go to Preferences -> Spelling Check and click on Add Dictionary button.

NOTE: there is a problem with loading Hungarian spell checking dictionary to be resolved later. Also, dictionary for Finnish language is not compatible with the current code, and will require a major effort at later date.

Import

To import translation into an existing document, select Translation -> Import menu.

As with Add Document function, you can preview the result before committing the changes. This might be helpful if you only want to get basic document statistics such as word count or unique prompt count. Preferences -> Counting Words allow to alter the way words are counted.

Export

Select Translation -> Export menu to extract data from the tool. You can save the translation into any supported format, regardless of the original source format.

Pseudolocalization is available via Translation -> Export Pseudolocalization menu.

Translation Memory export is to be implemented later.

Collaboration

The tool allows you to form ad-hoc collaboration teams. Unlike server-based tools that require you to be online, the tool does not require continuous connection. All you need is to sync periodically to update your database.

The tool uses peer-to-peer distributed database where your data is copied to your peer's computers. You do need to contact the sync server periodically, and the server does store your data, but it may not retain you data indefinitely. One feature that is being planned is ability to recover your data should your computer lose the hard disk - since the data is replicated among your peers, a sort of distributed backup.

Before you can send a document or join a project, you need to provide your contact information (that you want to show to your team mates) via Team -> My Profile menu in the document Browser window.

To add a person to your team, select Team -> Invite New Member menu. An email will be sent to the recipient with the instructions how to download the tool and an invitation code. This invitation code will be active for a short period of time (currently 48 hours).

To accept some one else's invitation, you would need to select Team -> Accept Invitation menu. Copy and paste the invitation code and the sender will be added to your Team. The sender will also receive a notification next time he or she invokes Localizer -> Synchronize.

Security

The current version of the tool has no encryption. The data is stored unencrypted and is being transmitted over the internet in the clear.

Encrypted communications will be available in the final product.

Supported Formats

Import and export into the following formats is currently supported:

- Android XML
- Comma-separated value text (CSV)
- Tab-separated value text (TSV)
- Java properties
- Apple XCode Localized.strings
- HTML
- TMX

We are planning to add support for the following formats:

- Microsoft Excel (XLSX)
- Microsoft Word (DOCX)
- GNU Gettext PO
- RTF
- Plain text file

Upgrade

To upgrade to a new version, simply replace the JAR file with the newly released version. No other action is required.

However, if you delete the database folder (located in your "home directory"), your user identity will also be deleted.

Need Help?

We made this tool hoping it will provide assistance, however small, in your work. If you need a new feature, or find a bug — do not hesitate to contact us at support@goryachev.com