

i18n & L10n

Thierry Sans

# Internationalization (i18n)

“Internationalization is the process of designing a software application so that it can be adapted to various languages and regions without engineering changes.”

Wikipedia

→ **Make an application language agnostic**

# Localization (L10n)

“Localization is the process of adapting internationalized software for a specific region or language by adding locale-specific components and translating text.”

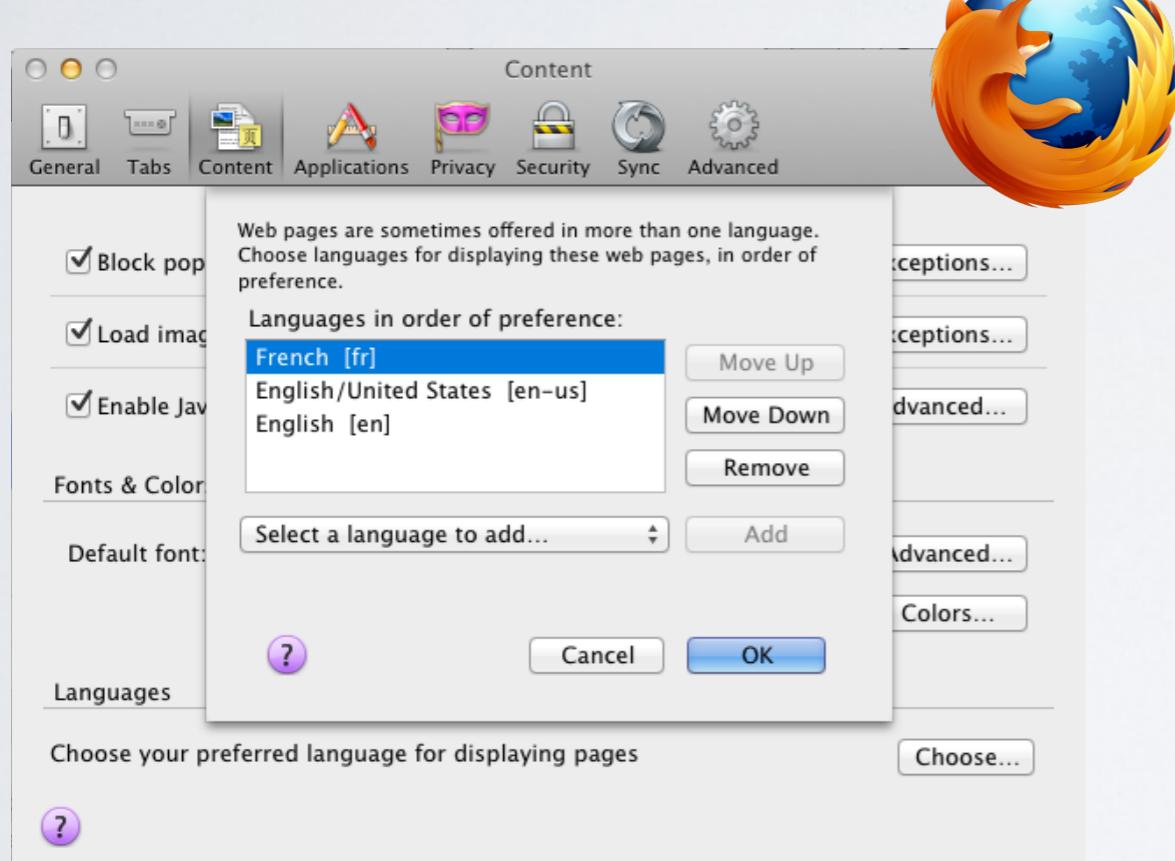
Wikipedia

- **Adapting an application for a specific language (aka *locale*)**

# It is not only about language translation

- Number format
- Date/Time
- Punctuation
- Sort orders
- Units and conversion
- Currency
- Paper size
- Page layout

# Configure your locale preference



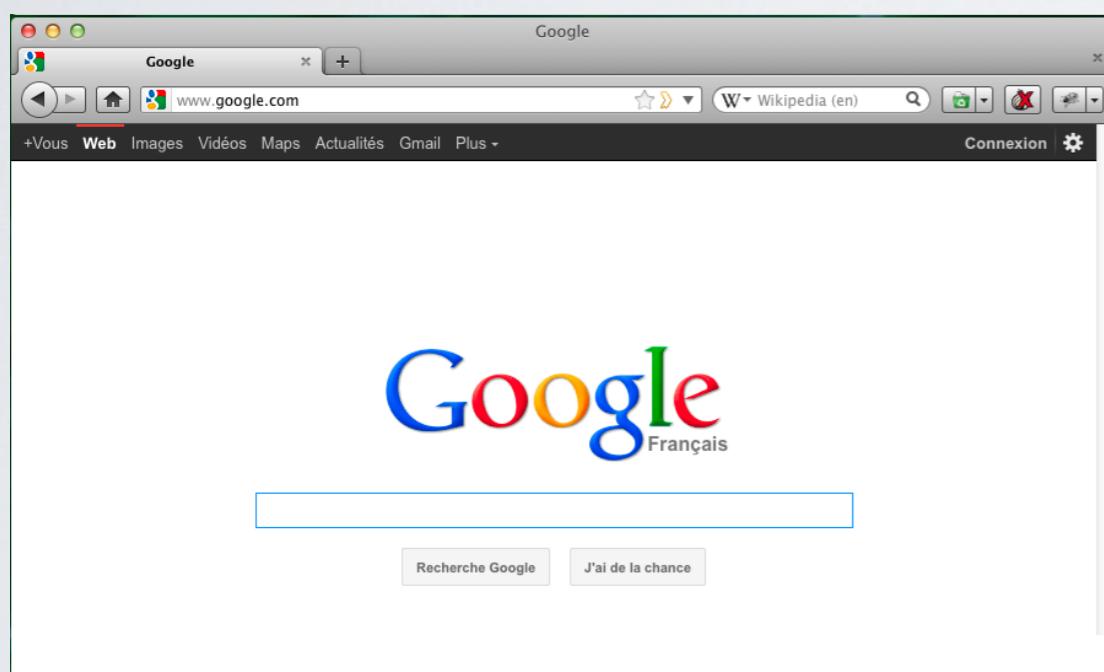
A screenshot of the Google Chrome settings window, specifically the 'Languages' section. The title bar shows 'Settings - Languages' and the URL 'chrome://settings/languages'. The main area displays network proxy settings and a 'Languages' section. In the 'Languages' section, there is a note: 'Change how Chrome handles and displays languages'. Below this is a 'Language and input' button and a checked checkbox for 'Offer to translate'. A 'Languages' sub-menu is open, listing 'French', 'English (United States)', and 'English'. The 'French' entry is highlighted. At the bottom of the sub-menu are 'Add' and 'Done' buttons. Other sections visible include 'Downloads', 'HTTPS/SSL', 'Google Cloud Print', and 'System'.



### Request Headers

[view source](#)

**Host** www.google.com  
**User-Agent** Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.7; rv:7.0.1) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/7.0.1  
**Accept** \*/\*  
**Accept-Language** fr,en-us;q=0.7,en;q=0.3



GET index.html

Google Français



Google

# What are the difference locales?

<http://www.i18nguy.com/unicode/language-identifiers.html>

# Alternative options

- Store the language preference in the URL
- Store the language preference in the user's profile
- Store the language preference in a cookie