- 1) Internationalization is making an application in such a way that it can be easily translated into another language if someone desires to do so, without serious structural changes to the program. Localization is when someone goes through and adds support for a language to an internationalized program by translating UI and documentation elements as well as adding support for region and dialect specific language features.
- 2) Cost is an important factor when deciding to internationalize a program because having to completely rewrite and recompile a program every time a new language is to be supported is very costly and time-consuming. Localization is important when a third party or the original developer wants to use an application in another language. A good example is Microsoft Office. It is such a large suite of programs that having to recode even part of it would be a lengthy and daunting task. By internationalizing it, if a new language is up for support, they can just send in the localization team to change a few properties files and rewrite the documentation.