



Automating WordPress Translations

One of the strong points of WordPress is that it's easy to translate the tool itself. As discussed in [Translating WordPress Themes](#) the process for translating WordPress elements is as follows:

Add a domain to the `style.css` theme boilerplate to make sure that WordPress doesn't confuse the translations of your content with other plugins, themes, and the core itself.

```
/*!  
Theme Name: rivendellweb  
Version: 1.0.0  
Text Domain: rivendellweb  
*/
```

Then you need to change the way you write strings for WordPress. Instead of using the raw echo command, like this:

```
<?php  
if ($req) echo ('(required)');
```

You'd have to change it to one of the GetText localization functions. The echo example now would look like this:

```
<?php  
if ($req) ( _e( 'Required', textdomain ) );
```

This tells WordPress that this is a translated screen that we echo back to the user but it doesn't actually translate the string.

Rather than providing manual translations we can use tools like POedit or GlotPress to generate automatic translations for WordPress.

POedit

I've documented the translation process using POedit in [Translating WordPress Themes](#) so I won't go into too much detail. For the purpose of this post, we'll assume you've already created a POT for the project.

The idea is that you follow these steps:

1. Open POEdit
2. Select ***Translate WordPress Theme or Plugin***
3. Select ***Create a new translation***
4. Enter or select the language for the translation
5. Begin working with the translations, either manually or automatically (if you use (POedit Pro))

The idea is that this will make your work easier by creating the translation files for you without having to do so manually.

The one disadvantage of POedit is that it doesn't work well in groups. If there's more than one translator there may be problems.

GlottPress

Unlike POedit [Glottpress](#) is designed from the start to be a collaborative translation tool.

After you install the plugin navigate to `server_url/glottpress/`. The first time you access Glottpress you will see something like figure 1.

Create New Project

Create New Project

Name

Slug

If you leave the slug empty,

Description can include HTML

Source file URL

project. You can use %file% and %line%. Ex. <https://trac.webkit.org/>

Parent Project

Figure
1:
Glott
Press
after
first
install

Once we load GlottPress we can click on Create a New Project and we'll be presented with the screen on figure 2.

Create New Project

Create New Project

Name

Slug

If you leave the slug empty,

Description can include HTML

Source file URL

project. You can use %file% and %line%. Ex. <https://trac.webkit.org/>

Parent Project

Figure 2:
Glotpress
project
creation
screen

We will then be presented with a menu of actions for us to do with the project we just created.

Projects / demo project **Active**

demo project (edit)

This is a demo project example to go along with ho

Project actions ↑

- [Import Originals](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [New Sub-Project](#)
- [New Translation Set](#)
- [Mass-create Translation Sets](#)
- [Branch Project](#)
- [Delete Project](#)

There are no translations of this project.

Figure
3: List
of
project
actions
for the
project
we just
created

The first task is to Import `Originals`. This will take a PO or POT translation file created with a different tool and import it into Glotpress so we can use it here.

We then create a new `translation set` which is what Glotpress will present us when we start doing the actual translation work.

[Projects](#) / [demo project](#)

Create New Translation Set

Locale

— Locale —



[Use as name](#)

Name

Slug

default

Project

demo project ▼

Create

or [Cancel](#)

Figure 4:
Glotpress
dialog to
create a
new
translation
set

Once we complete the creation of a new dialogue set we'll see it presented in the home screen.

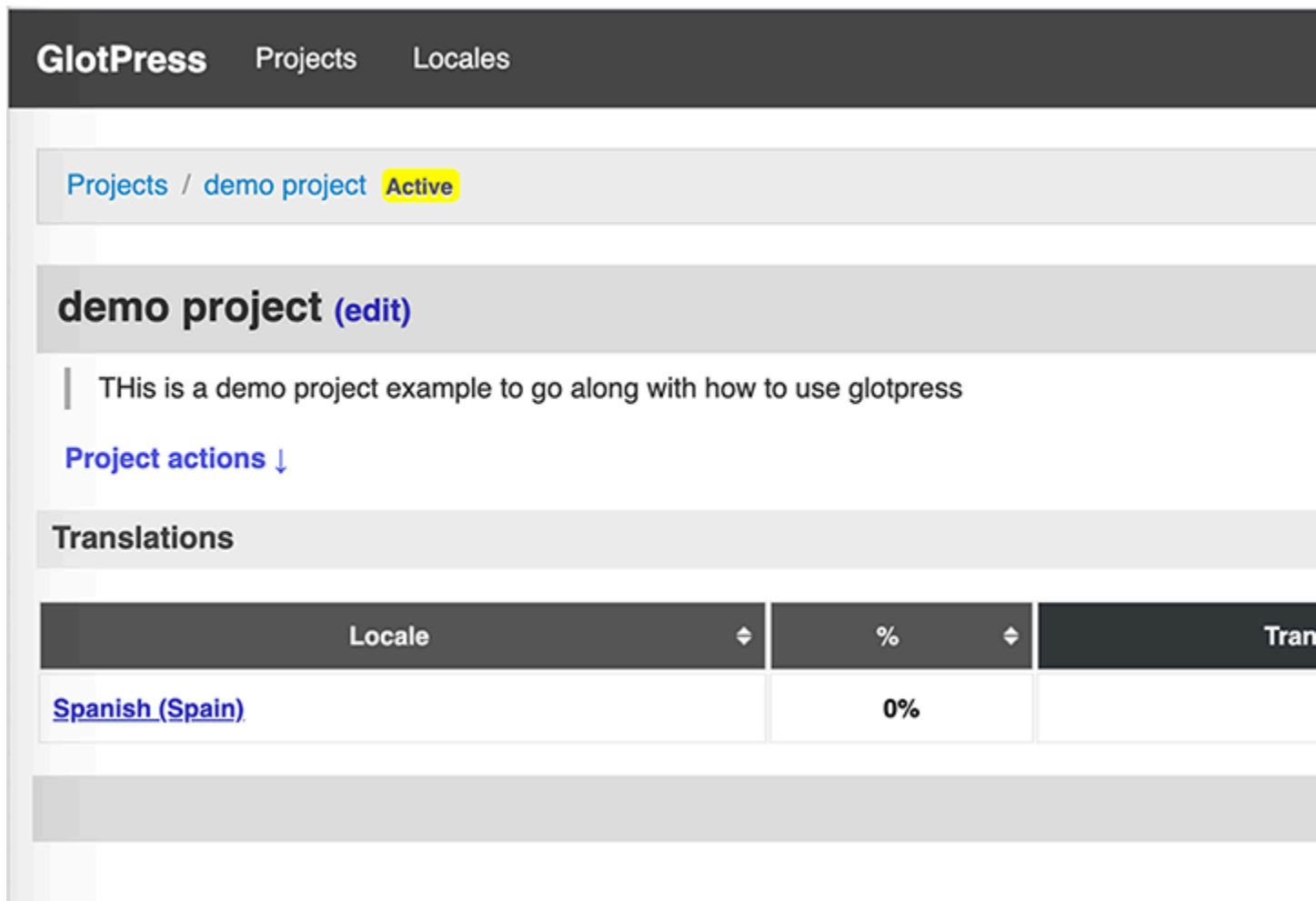


Figure 5: 'alt text'

Before we start working with the translation set we just created is to click on the language we want to work with

[Projects](#) / [demo project](#) / [Spanish \(Spain\)](#)

Translation of demo project: Spanish (Spain) [\(edit\)](#) [\(delete\)](#)

Bulk Actions



Apply

[Filter ↓](#)

[Sort ↓](#)



[All](#)

[Untranslated](#)



[\(random\)](#)

[Waiting](#)



<input type="checkbox"/>	Prio	Original string
<input type="checkbox"/>		Oops! That page can’t be found.
<input type="checkbox"/>		It looks like nothing was found at this location. Maybe try one of the links below or a
<input type="checkbox"/>		Most Used Categories
<input type="checkbox"/>		Try looking in the monthly archives. %1\$s
<input type="checkbox"/>		Newer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Older
<input type="checkbox"/>		Page
<input type="checkbox"/>		One thought on “%1\$s”
<input type="checkbox"/>		%1\$s thought on “%2\$s”
<input type="checkbox"/>		Comments are closed.
<input type="checkbox"/>		https://wordpress.org/
<input type="checkbox"/>		Powered by %s
<input type="checkbox"/>		Theme: %1\$s by %2\$s
<input type="checkbox"/>		Header
<input type="checkbox"/>		Social

Figure 6:
List of
available
translations
strings

Choose the string you want to work with and double click the textbox where it says click to add. You will see something like the following figure.

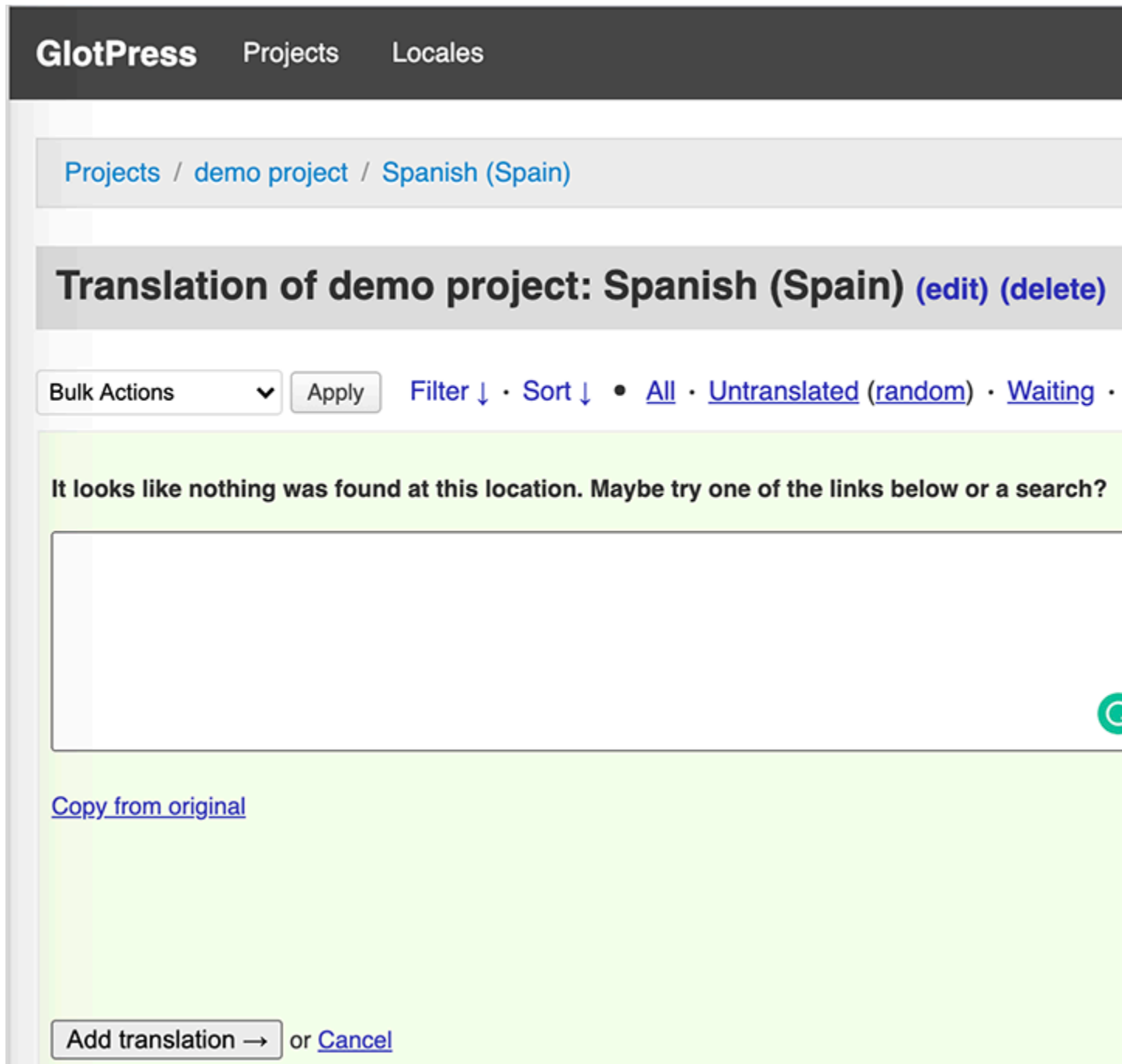


Figure 7: 'alt text'

Enter as many translations and you like. When you're done click on add translation -> or cancel if you change your mind.

The last step, once you've completed the translations, is to export to a PO or POT format.

One way to do it is to click on the export link at the bottom of the screen and keep it the default settings as they are.

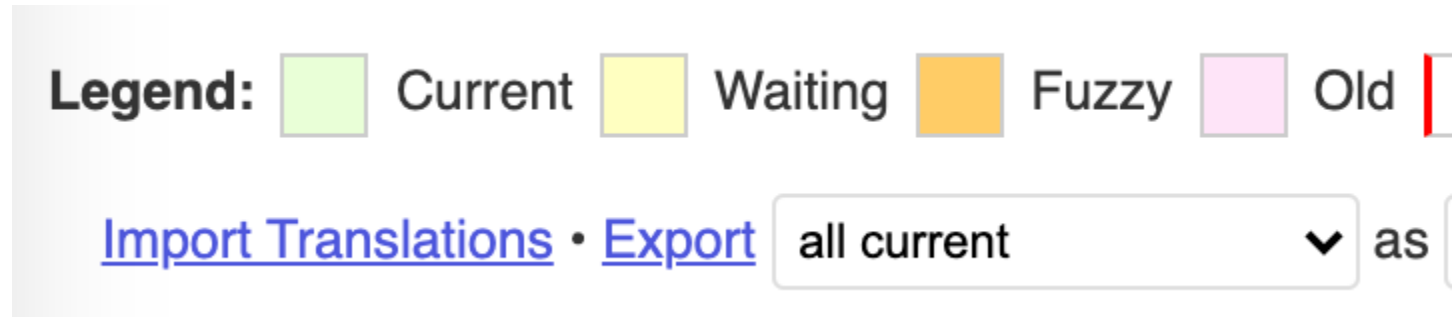


Figure 8: Links to import and export translations from Glotpress

Conclusions

POedit and Glotpress have their advantages and disadvantages.

One thing you could consider is using them together.

Use POedit to generate your first, automated, pass at translation and then upload it to Glotpress and let your colleagues and your localization contractors work with the translations there.

There are other ways where on their own or both together these tools can be useful for translating WordPress themes and plugins. This is a starting point for you to work on your own translations.