These instructions are for Windows computers. However, the general method does not differ between platforms and also applies to Mac systems.

Before you begin, it is highly recommended that you download and install [Notepad++.](http://notepad-plus-plus.org/) It is a small and free software which will make editing the core language file a much more pleasant and streamlined process. Once at the Notepad++ website, click on "Download" on the left hand side and select the first entry for the latest version of Notepad++.

You can use other similar editors, and even the built in Notepad software of Windows. Unfortunately, this may result in a more difficult editing experience because these editors may read the format of the language file incorrectly. Consequently, your editing experience may differ from the one outlined below.

The instructions below will also appear in the application’s help files in the coming weeks. How to translate FrontlineSMS Version 2:

1. Open the “messages.properties” file in Notepad++. You can find this file attached to the e-mail.

2. Once open, you should see something similar to the below:

# FrontlineSMS English translation by the FrontlineSMS team, Nairobi

language.name=English

# Common action imperatives - to be used for button labels and similar

action.ok=OK

action.close=Close

action.cancel=Cancel

action.done=Done

action.next=Next

action.prev=Previous

action.back=Back

action.create=Create

action.edit=Edit

action.rename=Rename

action.delete=Delete

action.send=Send

action.export=Export

#Connections:

connection.creation.failed = Connection could not be created {0}

connection.route.destroyed = Destroyed route from {0} to {1}

connection.route.connecting = Connecting...

connection.route.disconnecting = Disconnecting...

connection.route.successNotification = Successfully created route on {0}

connection.route.failNotification = Failed to create route on {0}

connection.route.destroyNotification = Disconnected route on {0}

connection.test.sent = Test message successfully sent to {0} using {1}

If you aren't using Notepad++ you may see something different. While editing this file there are some guidelines that should be followed to ensure that your translation will work once converted:

**Do Not** edit the keys. These are all the entries on the left of the = sign. For example, connection.creation.failed is a key.

**Do Not** edit the arguments. These are indicated by { }. The location of the argument in the sentence or phrase can be adjusted but the content of the brackets should not be altered. Do edit the English phrases on the right of the = sign.

3. The first and most important step is to update the value of the ***language.name*** key. This is found at the top of the file and lets us know what language you have translated into.

Replace "English" with the name of the language you are translating to and move on to the next step. This is how the name of the language will show up in the FrontlineSMS interface.

4. Once you have entered the name of the translation, the rest of the process involved substituting the English with their translated equivalents for each key.

5. When you have finished translation, the file needs to be saved. Do not overwrite the messages.properties file that exists currently. Instead, choose File>Save As..

Enter the file name in the following format: messages\_xy.properties

Where xy is replaced with a two-letter abbreviation of the language you are translating to. For example, the included Swahili translation is called messages\_sw.properties.

Save this new file in the same location as messages.properties. Ensure that you do not overwrite messages.properties.

6. Please e-mail the ***messages\_xy.properties*** file to [e-mail address].