Translating in the cloud age

How tradu.cat works

Classical Joomla translator

You might not know it, but translating is
BORING

Until some years ago, translating Joomla!
Basically consisted in a translator facing an endless text file filled with strings he had to construe, delete and rewrite translation.
This also could include gibberish variables or html expressions

```
1150   COM_COMMUNITY_ACTIVITY_FRIENDS_NOW=" {actor} i {target} ara son amics
1151
1152   ;Groups related activities
1153   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_ACTIVITIES_MEMBER_JOIN_GROUP="{multiple}{actors} s'han{/multiple}{single}{actor} s'ha{/singl
1154   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_GROUP_UPDATED=" ha actualitzat el grup, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1155   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_NEW_GROUP_NEWS=" ha publicat un nou avís, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1156   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_NEW_GROUP_CATEGORY="{actor} ha creat un nou grup, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a> a <a href=
1157   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_NEW_GROUP=" ha creat un nou grup, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1158   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_NEW_GROUP_AVATAR="{actor}ha canviat l'avatar pel grup, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1159   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_NEW_GROUP_DISCUSSION=" ha iniciat una nova discussió, <a href=_QQQ_%1s_QQQ_>%2s</a>"
1160   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_WALL_POST_GROUP="{actor} ha afegit una nova publicació al mur del grup, <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQ
1161   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_GROUP_JOIN=" s'han unit al grup <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1162   COM_COMMUNITY_GROUPS_REPLY_DISCUSSION=" ha contestat a la discusió <a href=_QQQ_%1$s_QQQ_>%2$s</a>"
1163
1164
1165   ;Guest in activity stream
1166   COM_COMMUNITY_ACTIVITIES_GUEST="un convidat"
1167
1168
1169   ;activity stream sorting"
1170   COM_COMMUNITY_ME_AND_FRIENDS="Els meus amics i jo"
1171   COM_COMMUNITY_PROFILE_OWNER_AND_FRIENDS="%1$s i amics"
```

Classical Joomla translator

- After that, he had to test the files, locate errors and create the language package.
- We had invaluable tools as pidgeon, Translations Manager (in J1.5) and Localise (it's fork for J2.5-3) that helped us have control on what is translated and what is not, in our **local** Joomla! sites.
- Being local, it was a one man work, if a group wanted to work together, they would usually split language files among them.

Classical Joomla translator Results

- Massive amount of work for a single person
- Massive amount of work redone with every new extension
- Hard to organize for teams
- Hard to keep homogeneity among translations
- Low translation
- Project halted when translators went MIA
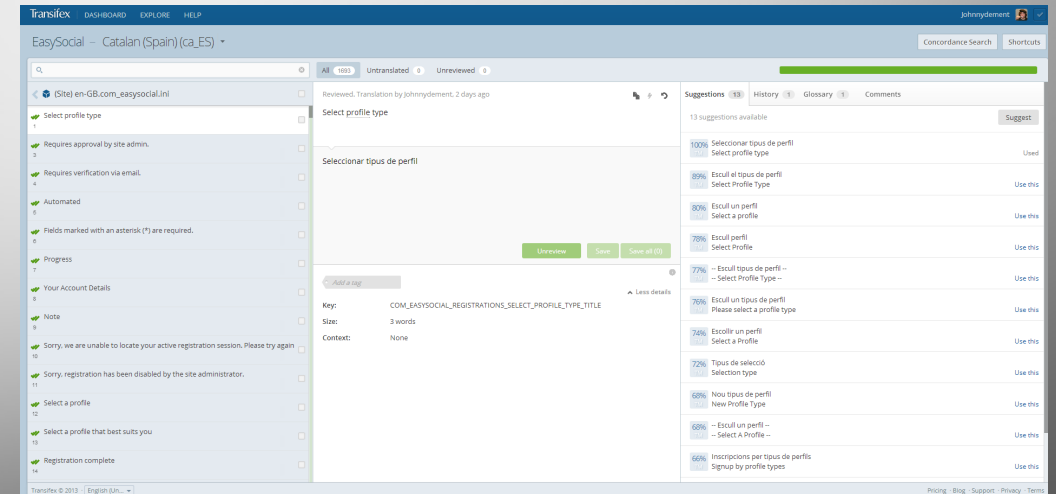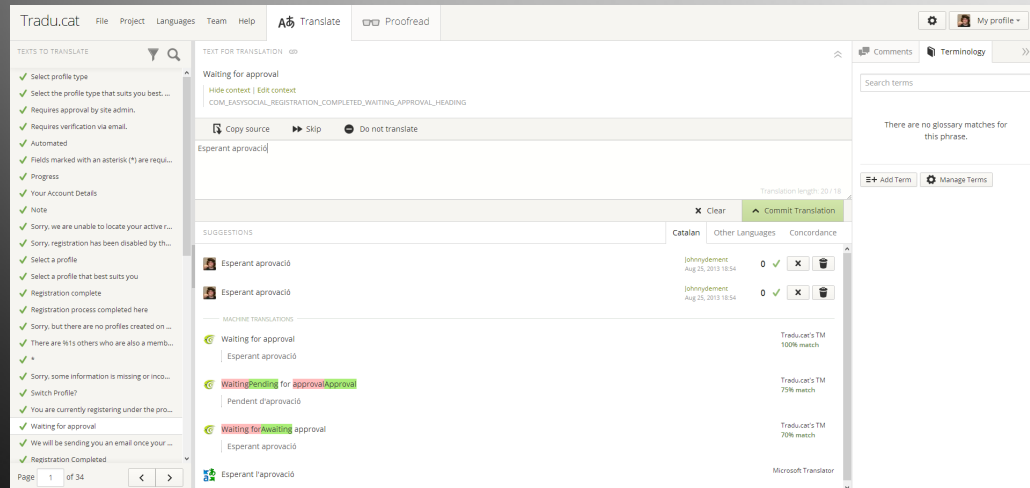
How we work in tradu.cat

Translating is still **BORING** (sorry)

But working in the cloud has massive benefits:

- Have a shared **Translation Memory**
- **Machine Translation**
- Always **Up-to-date** original files
- **Automatic** language package creation
- Doubts resolution and contact with devs
- Real team & volunteer work

How we work in tradu.cat

Basically we move between 2 platforms

Transifex (usual 3rd party J! devs election)

Crowdin (our pick)

How we work in tradu.cat

Why

- Translation Memory helps us to reuse our previous work, giving suggestions for, or auto translating, strings based in previous similar (or exact) strings.
- Machine translation, although crappy, does a good work for single Word or simple strings.
- Having a hub for translation helps us organize our team work, as we don't have to cope with different files to be merged nor MIA translators.
- It's easy! Anyone can come, translate and then we decide if it's a good translation, but at least is done!
- It's really easy to mantain homogeneity among different J! extensions, as suggestions and glossary helps to keep an style.
- Really easy to have support for context doubts, we can even see how other languages teams fixed them
- Transifex and Crowdin APIs allow for on-demand creation of language packets (stackideas or JCE use this)

And same for up-to-date files, they can pick them directly from dev repository!

How we work in tradu.cat
Why we prefer crowdin

- Main point, your Translation Memory is yours, you can download it any time.
- They embrace non-profit GPL
- Versioning, you can go back to an older original file+translation
- Instead of a translated/revised system, it uses a suggested/accepted one, so users can vote on their preferred translations (as Facebook or Twitter did)
- Better use of TM, our files are normally auto-translated to a 20% upon upload
- Branding

How we organize in tradu.cat

- Truth said, volunteers should work at their own pace. We can't ask for more than that without paying!

- We love to meet in person and talk about Joomla!

- Although that, we debate our decisions in our Facebook Group (we might not like it, but everyone has one, and works)

- We have an style guide and a glossary (still a WIP) where we note all of our decisions about terminology, grammar and style.

What we would like in tradu.cat

- We feel Joomla! should embrace this new way of work (not exactly ours)
- We don't have to reinvent wheel, services have APIs we can use to our advantage!
- We've done it before, Joomla! is GitHub friendly already!
- It would improve workflow both for translators and developers
- It would improve quality of translations and homogeneity among them