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CSSE 376
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[Question 1 (5 pts)] In your own words, what is the difference between internationalization and localization?

Internationalization deals with making an application compatible across various languages and regions of the world without having to completely rewrite the code. An example would be creating Windows 7 be designed to work in the United States as well as France by taking different languages and date formats into consideration when designing Windows.

Localization focuses on making the software work with a certain region or language of the world. An example here would be making Windows 7's dialog boxes and text in French rather than English and changing the currency symbols from Dollars to Euros.

[Question 2 (5 pts)] Why is internationalization and localization important in software? Give an example to illustrate the need for i18n and l10n.

Internationalization and Localization are important in software today due to the world becoming increasingly connected. As the need for programs to work across cultural and nation boundaries increases, software developers need to take i18n and l10n into account so that they don't need to completely rewrite their programs for each region and language in the world. In addition, by taking i18n and l10n into account, maintainability of the code is easier since every time a bug is patched, the code doesn't need to be rebuilt or recompiled in each language and region.

A big example for the need of i18n and l10n is banking software in America. With so many different languages spoken in the US, the need for reliable banking software that supports more than English and USD is important. The software needs to handle i18n for being able to display English as well as Spanish, French or whatever language is needed. For l10n, the help menus, currency symbols and display of money needs to be able to change from language to language.