

State of the art of i18n/l10n in Debian

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Talk structure

- 1 Internationalisation...again
- 2 i18n/l10n projects
- 3 i18n/l10n infrastructure
- 4 i18n/l10n tools in Debian
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- 6 Conclusion
- 7 Summary of Debconf BOFs

1 Internationalisation...again

English still sucks

De facto communication language?

Covers 5% to 15% of the world population

OS only in English is not a universal OS

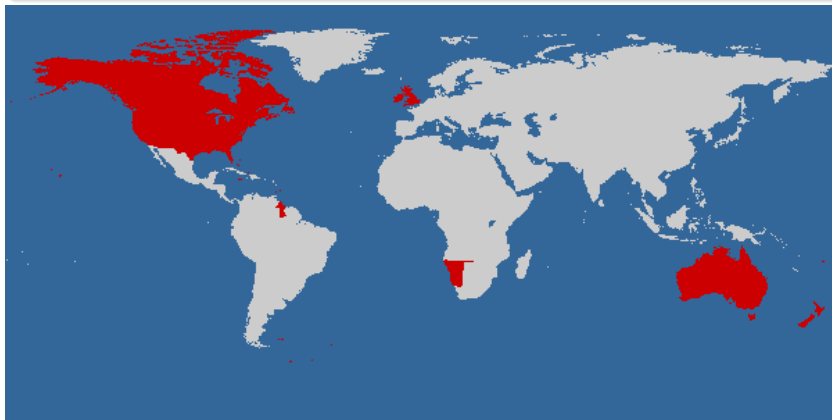
Even not all geeks speak English

Towards World Domination



Towards World Domination

D-I Potato: 1 language



Towards World Domination

D-I Woody: 16 languages



Towards World Domination

D-I Sarge: 42 languages



Towards World Domination

D-I Etch beta2: 53 languages



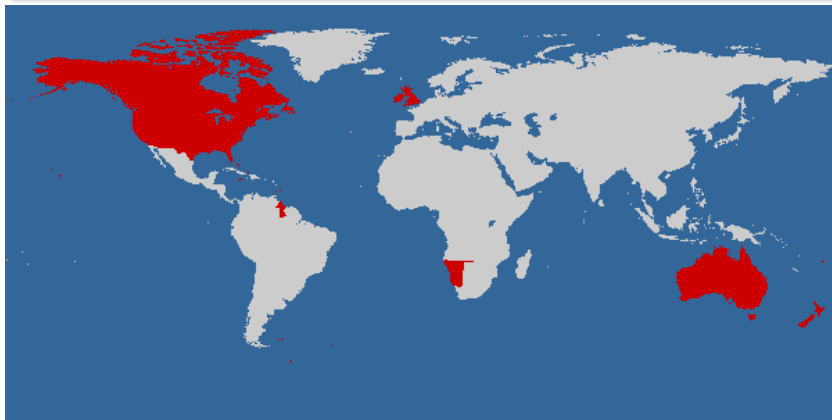
Towards World Domination

D-I Etch: 63 languages



Towards World Domination

D-I Potato: 1 language



Towards World Domination

D-I Woody: 16 languages



Towards World Domination

D-I Sarge: 42 languages



Towards World Domination

D-I Etch beta2: 53 languages



Towards World Domination

Daß ist gut!



Maintainers/Translators wars are over

Up to 2000-2002

i18n/l10n as the last wheel

FLOSS coverage increasing

i18n/l10n closer to the heart of development issues and teams

Please, no more skirmishes

Translations are good for your code / packages

- Add them as soon as possible, do not wait for a new release.
- Consider translators valuable contributors and treat them as such.

Some helpful advice

- Translations help reviewing your language use and consistency.
- Do string freezes.
- Ask for translations if you need them done or updated.

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i18n/l10n projects

- Web site
- Documentation
- Debian packages
 - Packages descriptions
 - Debconf templates

Web site translation

Translated content

- Available through Content Negotiation
- Managed with:
 - ▶ Translation headers
 - ▶ Gettext

Status

- Translated to 33 languages
- Stats: 6 languages over 50% pages translated (7 if counting size %)

Documentation translation

Documentation availability

- DDP CVS access for translators
- Some documents outside DDP
- Starting to use doc-check / poxml

Manpages

- Internal project to use po4a
- Some handled outside upstream (manpages-XX)
- Big mess.

What about *info* ?

Documentation translation status

Overall Status

- DDP:
 - ▶ Release Notes: 11 languages
 - ▶ More than 20 different language teams
 - ▶ Only some teams translated over 10 docs (of 40)
- D-i Manual: 15 languages
- Better than other FLOSS projects

Packages descriptions (DDTP)

Demanded by our users

- *What should I install?*
- *What is this software doing in my system?*

Available at <http://ddtp.debian.org/>

Issues

- Project was abandoned (FIXED)
- Needed APT changes (DONE in 0.6)
- Ubuntu translations (?)
- Ftpmasters have to introduce it in the archive.

Debconf templates

po-debconf: the simple and efficient tool

Writing style and overall consistency

- section 6.5 of the Developer's Reference
- Listen to lintian

Communicate with translators

- podedbconf-report-po

Provide up-to-date POT files

- debconf-updatepo in clean target (?)

- 3 i18n/I10n infrastructure
- PO translation statistics
 - Installer translation statistics
 - Use of the BTS for I10n work
 - Translation robots

PO-debconf, PO statistics web pages

Early “framework” for localisation

Statistics and access to material

Uses popcon stats

Weaknesses?

- Run under developers accounts
- Only reflect uploaded packages
- No status for testing

Installer translation statistics

All in one page

Direct access to material, grabbed from development trees

Weaknesses

- Depend on seppy
- Sensitive to upstream changes
- Does not scale well
- Need a coordinator

Strengths

- Big reactivity
- Enforced “localisation helpers”

Use of the BTS for I10n work

Bug reports

- Severity: wishlist
- Tags: I10n, patch
- Subject: [I10n: code] (type) translation to (language)
- Material attached to the bug report, optionally compressed

Maintainer duties

- Be responsive to bug reports
- Apply ASAP
- Do translation updates during freezes

Translation robots: following I10n processes

General translation processes

- TAF-ITT-RFR-(RFR2-)LCFC-BTS-FIX-DONE

Use of mailing lists and pseudo-URLs in subjects

- [TAF] po://dpkg/es.po XfYu
- [ITT] po://dpkg/es.po
- [RFR] po://dpkg/es.po
- [LCFC] po://dpkg/es.po
- [BTS] po://dpkg/es.po #400000

Tracked by robots to produce status pages

Currently used by 9 teams (out of 21)

4 i18n/l10n tools in Debian

- Doc-check
- Localization-config / tasksel
- Po4a
- Po-debconf

Freshness of documentation I10n

doc-check

- Script to track status of translations
- Uses *translation headers*
- Useful when it is not possible (or translators do not want to) use poxml / po4a

Status / Issues

- Used only by 4 documents
- Different scripts, need to be merged
- Different header formats

Localization-config / tasksel

Translation of installed systems

- Get the system as fully localized as possible
- As few manual actions as possible for users
- Focus on desktop systems

Localization-config

- Localize gdm, KDE, dictionaries, X keyboard selection, etc.
- Previously used by d-i (reintegration needed)

Tasksel's language tasks

- language task, depends only on standard packages
- language-desktop task, l10n for desktop environments and user apps
- Issues with task maintenance

PO4a: PO for Anything

Bring gettext translations to new areas

- Man pages
- Documentation
- ...

PO4a in Debian

- Man pages for native packages
- Experimental status pages for manpages
- Documentation currently prefers POXML

Use it in your packages

- Read the best practices
- Ask for help in `debian-i18n`
- Profit!

PO4A ROCKS!

Po-debconf tools

debconf-updatepo

- Update files in `debian/po`
- Should be run before shipping the package (clean target?)

po2debconf

- Rebuild templates from `debian/templates` and PO files
- Integrated in `dh_installdebconf`

podebconf-report-po

- Warn translators for needed updates

5 Relationship with other projects

- Translation packaging
- Interaction with upstream I10n

Translation packaging

Packages -XX

Maintainers sometimes package translations in indepent packages

The Good

Users will install them if they need them, but not all users have to.

The Bad

Sometimes indepent from upstream code (i.e. manpages)

The Ugly

- Users think they are reading current copy
- Translations get out of date and we do not notice
- Dependency problems when translations are tied to program (thunderbird, mozilla...), breaks transition to testing

Handling updates of upstream I10n

In general: ask translators to work upstream

Depends on Debian-upstream interactions

- Forward I10n updates to upstream
- Mark pending when upstream commits
- Close with new upstream release

During Debian freezes

- Bring I10n updates from upstream
- Call for updates to translators
- Use the BTS

6 Conclusion

Conclusion

We need i18n in more areas

We need to target more languages

We need a better infrastructure

7 Summary of Debconf BOFs

Summary of i18n infrastructure BOFs

We need the i18n infrastructure

We want it as modular-designed as possible

- It should be designed well from the beginning

Two opportunities:

- Google Summer of Code
- Extremadura sessions: <http://wiki.debian.org/WorkSessionExtremadura2006i18n>

Achieved specification analysis

Targets of the i18n infrastructure:

- Translators
- Reviewers
- Team coordinators
- Maintainers
- Visitors
- Administrators (of the system)

Most needs of the targets are roughly known

- Improve analysis of translator needs
- Improve analysis of maintainers needs
- Discussion in `debian-i18n@lists.debian.org`

A way to go: collaboration with Wordforge

Wordforge: build an opened and free framework for I10n in Free Software

Committed to promote open standards

- XLIFF, PO
- Glossaries, translation memories...
- Open protocols to communicate
- Use of computer-assisted localization technology

Not going against Rosetta/Launchpad

- WordForge and Rosetta able to communicate

Modularity is the key

Contacts

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Everything about i18n

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