Localization tutorial for Debian

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1. General stuff

2. Example of a debconf translation

3. Example of a web page translation

4. Summary
1 General stuff
Questions addressed by this tutorial

- what things do we translate in Debian?
- what workflows are used to get material translated?
- how can I get involved in translation efforts?
Questions NOT addressed by this tutorial

- how is software|web|wiki|whatever internationalized?
- why is information about i18n so badly organized in Debian?
- what is your favorite color?
A few reminders

- **Internationalization (i18n)**
  - Get software ready to work with different languages in different countries

- **Localization (l10n)**
  - Translate software and documentation to different languages
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What do we translate?

- Debian native software
- Packages’ interaction with users (debconf, installer)
- Web site
- Debian News, Press releases, Announcements
- Packages descriptions
- Debian specific documentation (Debian Documentation Project): Release Notes, Debian FAQ, Developer’s Reference...
- Books (Debian Administration Handbook)
What DON’T we translate?

- Upstream software (Iceweasel, LibreOffice, GNOME...)
- Wiki pages
- Derivatives distributions (or at least, this is NOT ONLY why you should join)
Translation process workflow overview

- Find what to translate (translator work)
- Find who to work with (translator and team work)
- Translate (translator work)
- Review (team work)
- Apply (maintainer or translator work)
- NMU (i18n exterminators work)
- Let's enter The Quest For The Holy 100%
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How to find what to translate?

- Programs, debconf: status pages
- Installer: specific status page
- Website: specific status page
- Debian News, announcements, etc.: i18n mailing list, the mailing list for your language
- Package descriptions: DDTSS
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Example of a debconf translation
Let’s translate something to Spanish

- Spanish not 100% for debconf templates
- Let’s pick something by looking at status pages
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- I would like to translate this tomoyo-tools thing
- Don’t start now. Check if somebody is already doing it. Source of information debian-l10n-spanish mailing list and coordination pages
- Don’t start now. Interact with others. Use the mailing list.
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Translation workflow

Traduction A Faire = Translation To Do

TAF → ITT
  Intent To Translate
  Translator does the translation

ITT → RFR
  Request For Review

RFR → RFR2
  Last Chance For Comments
  Translator sends to the bug tracking system

RFR2 → LCFC

LCFC → BTS#
  Last Chance For Comments
  Translator sends to the bug tracking system

BTS# → DONE
  Maintainer uploads with the new translation
  Translation is published, work finished (for now...)

The original document or program changes
Let’s REALLY translate something to Spanish

- Send an Intent To Translate mail
- Let’s get the translation material: back to status pages
- Get the POT file
- Put it in a work directory
- Unzip it and rename it as “es.po”
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Tools to work with PO files

- Dedicated tools recommended
  - Lokalize
  - Poedit
  - Gtranslator
  - Vi PO-mode
- Take care to PROPERLY configure the tools
  - Last-Translator: YOU
  - Language-Team: debian-l10n-<foo>@lists.debian.org (ONLY if it exists)
  - Language (for Plural-Forms, etc.)
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Let’s visualize the workflow process as a tree...

- “Someone” mentions the need to update the translation
- A translator intends to work on it
- (s)He sends a Request For Review
- Other contributors send suggestions
- Or other suggestions
- After “enough” time, the original translator sends a Last Chance For Comments
- After “enough” time, (s)he sends the translation as a bug report
- After some completely unknown time, the maintainer updates....
- ...or “someone” does a Non-Maintainer Upload to fix pending translations
- ...which will happen soon for postfix...:-)
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Example of a web page translation
And now for something completely different...

- Web site translations
- No PO files
- No fancy VCS: still using CVS
- And, still, it’s working
- How?
Debian website translation

- One or more coordinator per language
- Has commit rights and can dispatch and prioritize work
- Similar TAF->ITT->RFR->LCFC process
- At the end, no bug report, the coordinator commits the file..
- ...and sends a DONE message
Illustration on French translations of the website

- The coordinator uses the web status pages
- (s)He sends a MAJ or TAF message (French: Mise À Jour, Traduction À Faire)
- Then we enter the ITT/RFR/LCFC loop
- Then the coordinator commits the updated file
Summary
Challenges for Debian localization

- Very rock-solid processes
- Disorganized information
- No point-and-click translation
Move automated tasks to a DSA machine: i18n.debian.org

Centralize information and material source: how to centralize something that is by definition NOT centralized

Lower the entry barrier (but maybe not too much)
Work in progress

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Translators are 100% part of Debian

- You can become a DD through the “translation/documentation” path
- “Non uploading” Debian Developer: has access to Debian machines, can vote, can be the DPL, etc.
- No longer “second-class citizens”
- We need more (only 5 ATM)
Questions