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The OpenOffice Localization Community

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A Global Community

OpenOffice is released in 40 languages

We only release 100% complete translations

About 120 languages available in source code

The sun never sets

We have volunteers from all continents
New ones approach us every day

Large numbers

100+ translation volunteers

Dedicated mailing lists in several languages

All volunteers

Virtually all translators help in their spare time
A few are sponsored by local institutions

What we translate

OpenOffice UI

Mandatory for release
Updated rarely (a few times per year)

OpenOffice documentation

In-app help in internal format (similar to HTML)

Not mandatory for release

OpenOffice website

About 30 pages of general interest
Shown at openoffice.org/LANGCODE

A Community Success Story

Made in Apache

Localization community was restarted from scratch at Apache

Most volunteers are new

Recruitment

Notices on localized web pages ("we need your help")

Clear, nice documentation on the wiki

Infrastructure

Dedicated localization (L10N) list
ASF-wide Pootle server (web-based interface)

Initial contact

Volunteer writes to list

Pootle account is created

Using idle time

Translations occur in a defined period
Volunteers are reused in other fields

From localization to the site

When UI is complete, translators move to the site
They also improved the overall site appearance

From the site to development

Skilled translators will start fixing some bugs in strings
A few even helped with patches

An important part of committership

Most new committers come from localization

Aim: having at least one committer per language

Lessons Learned

Be clear

Initial work on streamlining web pages
Paid off by not having to repeat the same information

Be responsive

We cut down response times from 5-7 to 1-2 days

Much higher involvement of volunteers

Be open

No ICLA needed, just a license statement
A committer will import translations

Be flexible

Pootle for the UI (web based)
ZIP files for the site (dropped the CMS)

Be inclusive

Deadlines are shared and communicated
We keep flexibility whenever we can

Good for the Foundation

Shared infrastructure

The Pootle server is available to all projects

Granular permissions system

Shared resources

A translator is busy only in defined periods
Excellent opportunity to contribute to multiple projects

Thanks!

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