

Internationalization T̂ipš and T̂rićkš

Session 244

Dave DeLong

iOS Frameworks Engineer

These are confidential sessions—please refrain from streaming, blogging, or taking pictures

365 Million

155 Countries

One App
Everyone, Everywhere

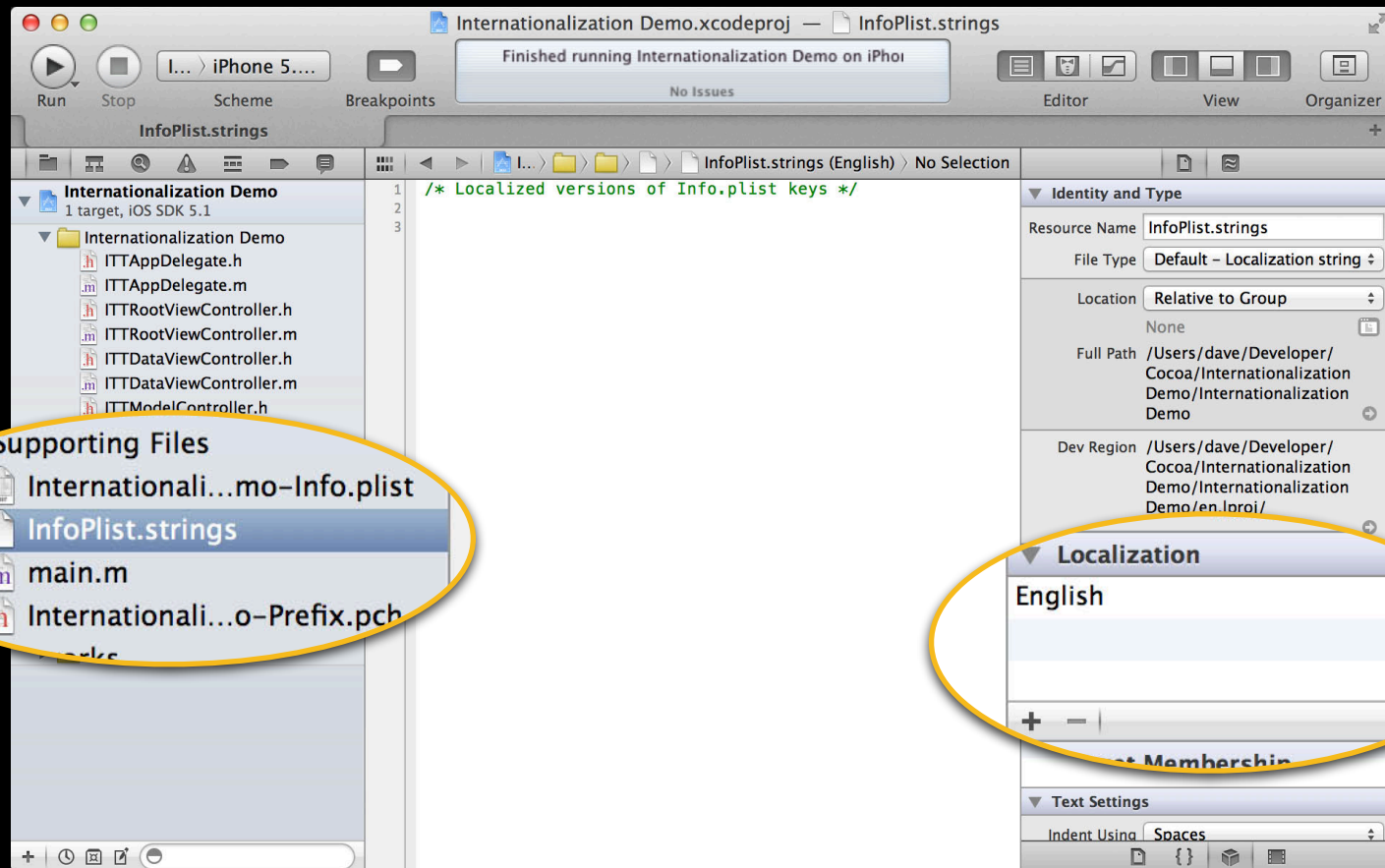
Internationalization

Preparing Your App
for Translated Content

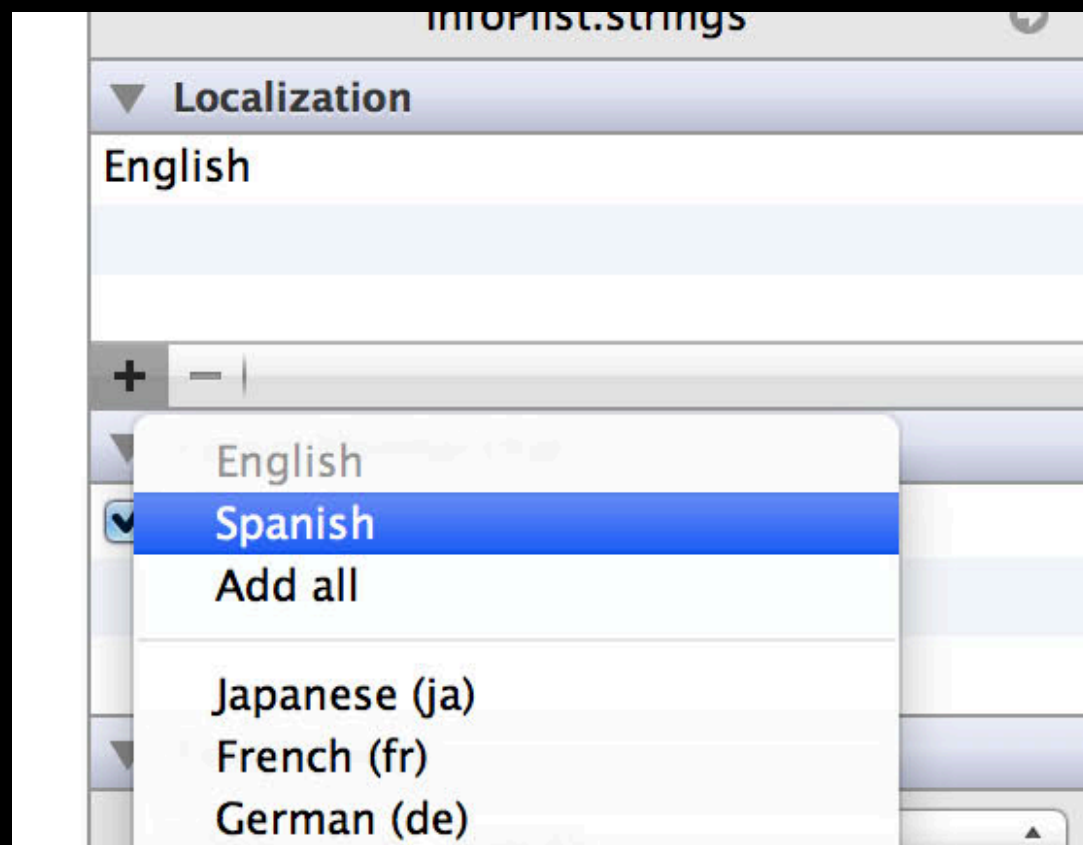
Localization

Integrating Translated Content

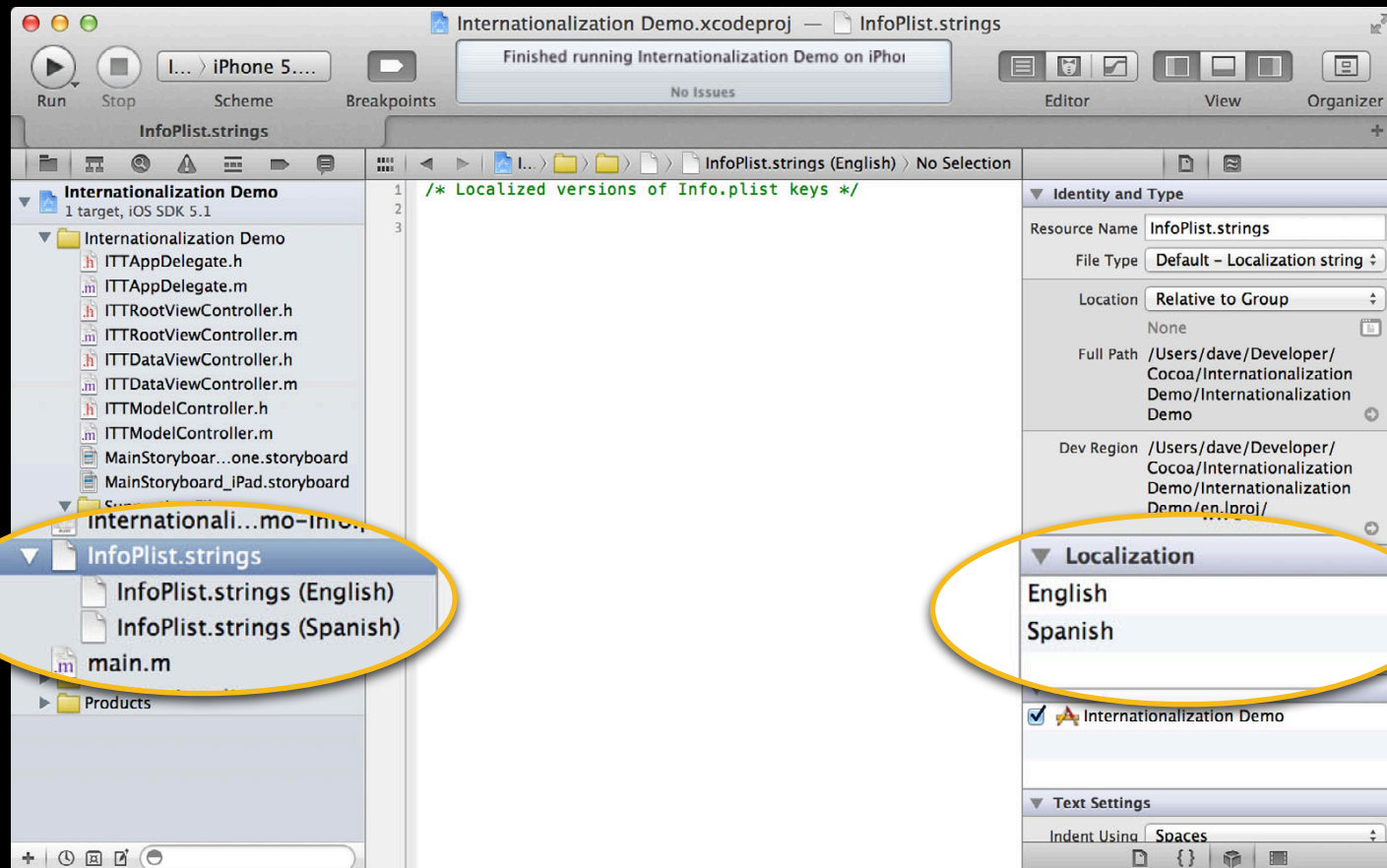
Localizing Resources



Localizing Resources

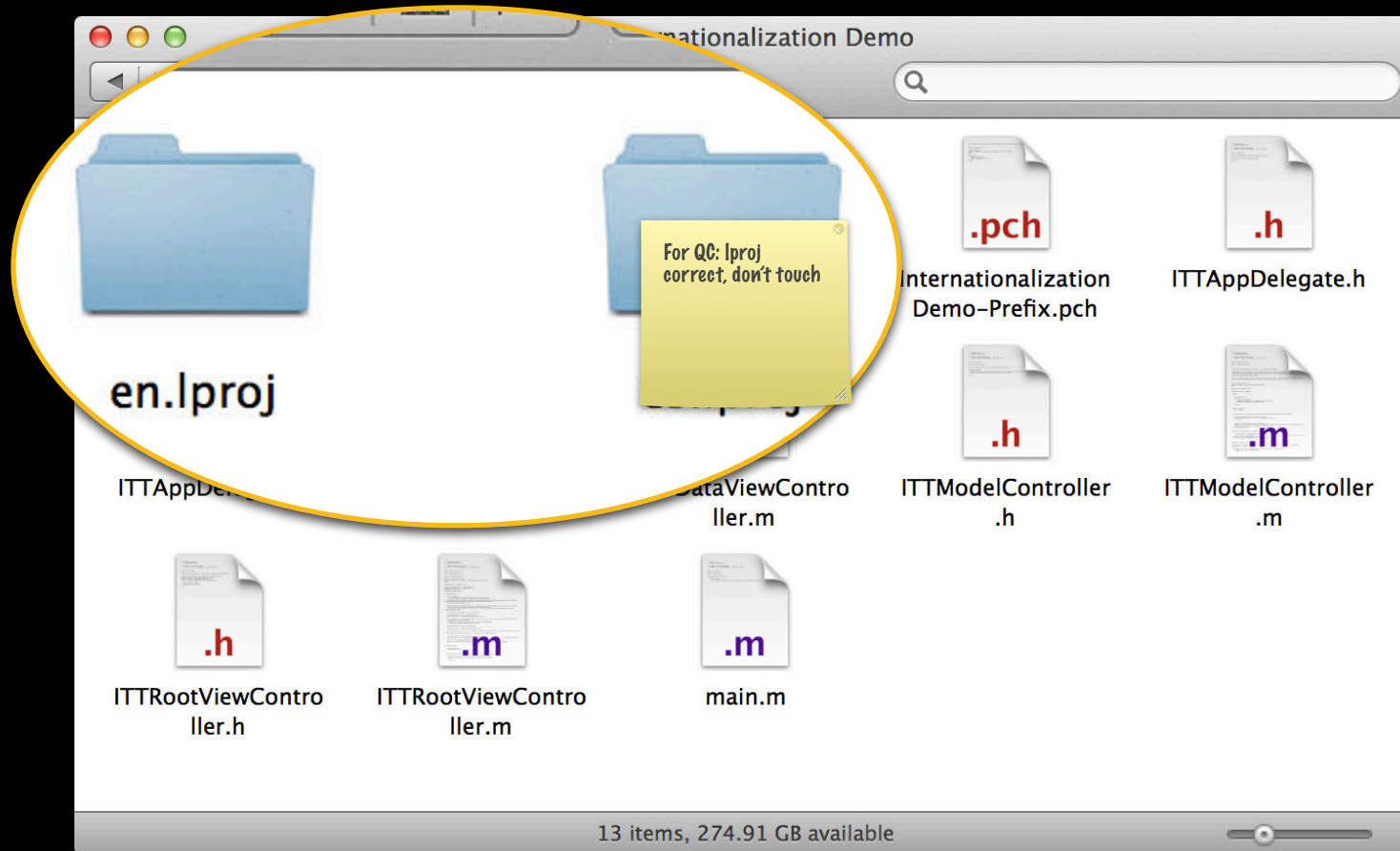


Localizing Resources

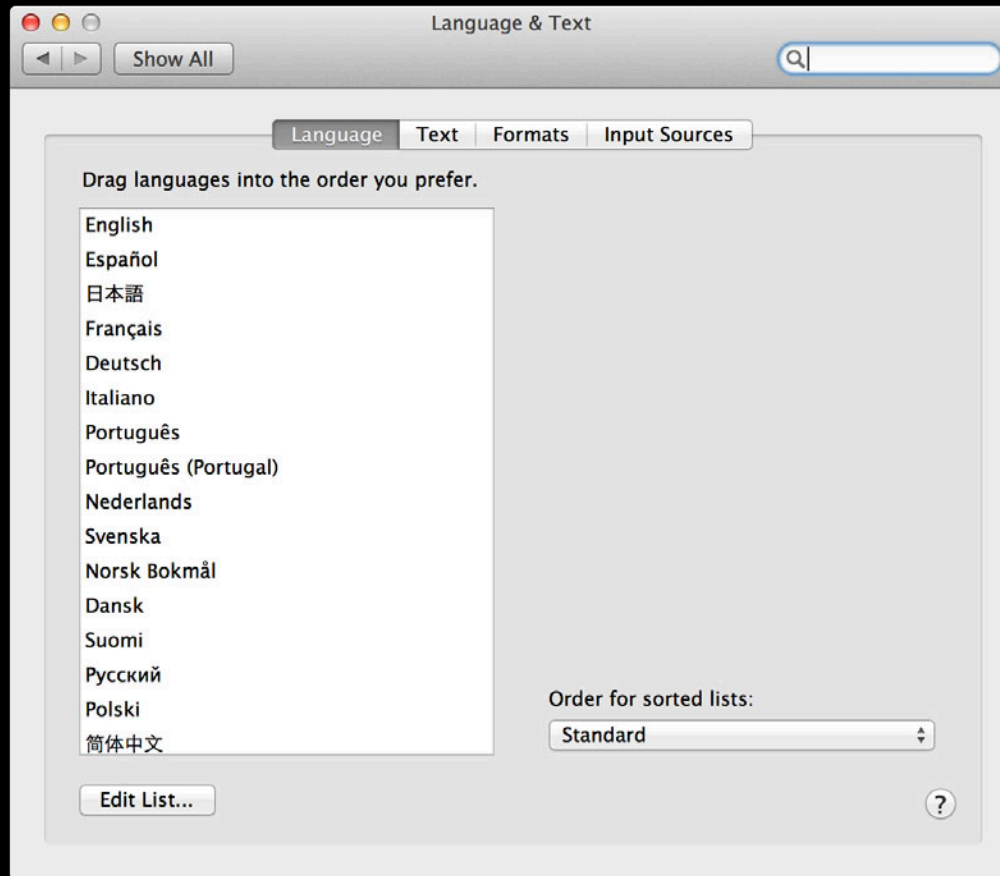


Language-specific Project Directory

lproj



Language and Locale



Language and Locale



NSLocale

- Conventions and standards
- `+currentLocale`
 - `+autoupdatingCurrentLocale`
- `NSCurrentLocaleDidChangeNotification`

Overview

- Text
- Dates
- Numbers
- Images

Related Sessions

Introduction to Auto Layout for iOS and OS X

Mission
Tuesday 10:15AM

Best Practices for Mastering Auto Layout

Mission
Thursday 9:00AM

Text

Text

- Bulk of internationalized content

NSString

NSStringFromClass

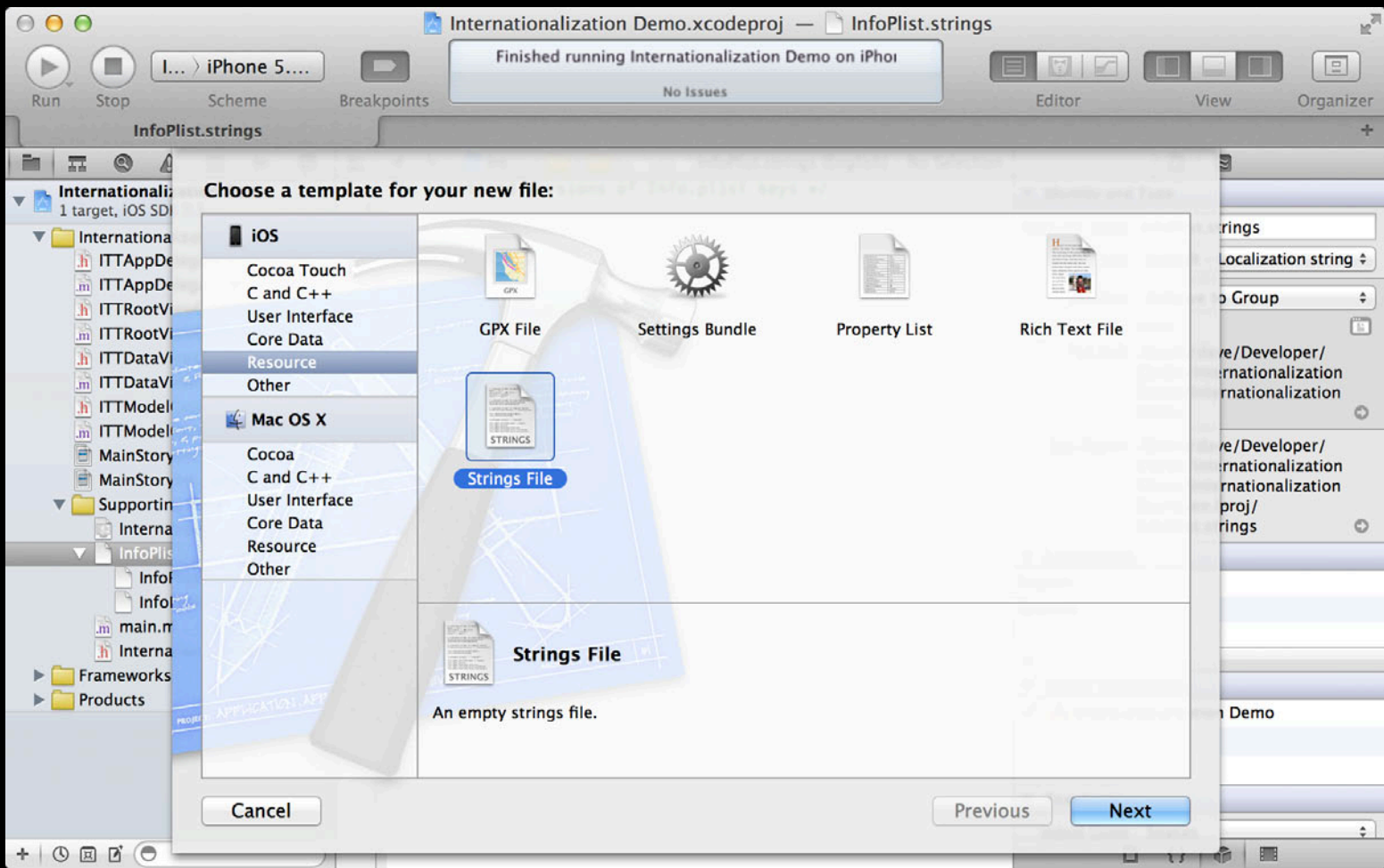
NSStringFromClassInBundle

NSStringFromClassWithDefaultValue

–[NSBundle localizedStringForKey:value:table:]

String Tables

- Localized strings stored in “tables”
- Localizable.strings
- Stored as key-value pairs
 - “Key” = “Value”;

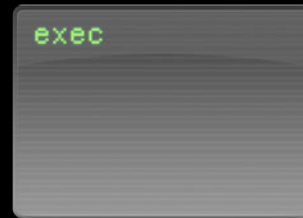


genstrings

- Generates strings tables
- Easily integrated into scripts
- Customizable
- `man genstrings`

genstrings

```
find . -name \*.m | xargs genstrings -o en.lproj/
```



en.lproj

genstrings

```
NSStringLocalizedString(  
    @"RequiredEnergyAmount",  
    @"the energy needed for the machine to operate");
```

genstrings

```
NSStringLocalizedString(  
    @"RequiredEnergyAmount",  
    @"the energy needed for the machine to operate");
```

```
/*
```

```
=
```

```
*/
```

```
;
```

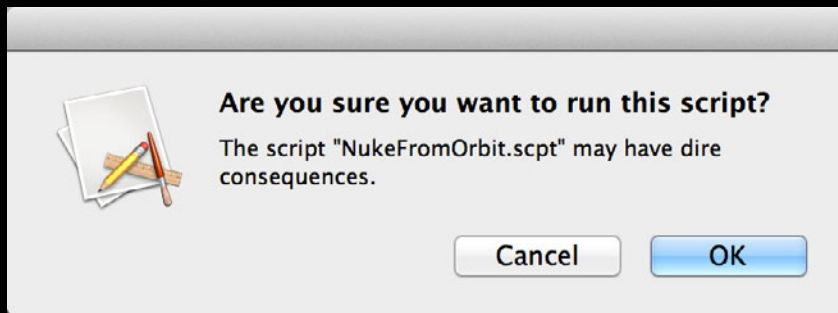
genstrings

```
NSStringLocalizedString(  
    @"RequiredEnergyAmount",  
    @"the energy needed for the machine to operate");
```

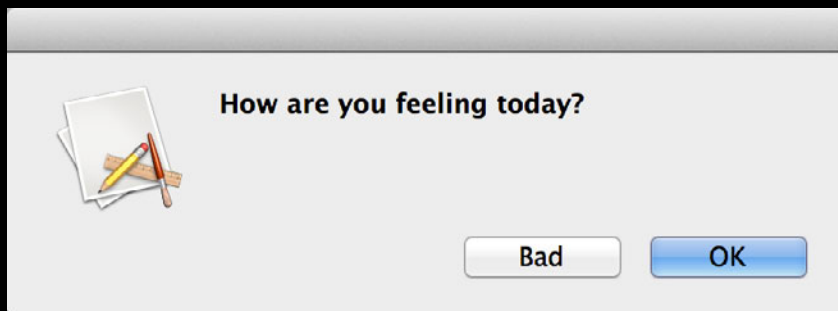
```
/* the energy needed for the machine to operate */  
"RequiredEnergyAmount" = "1.21 Gigawatts";
```

Text Gotchas

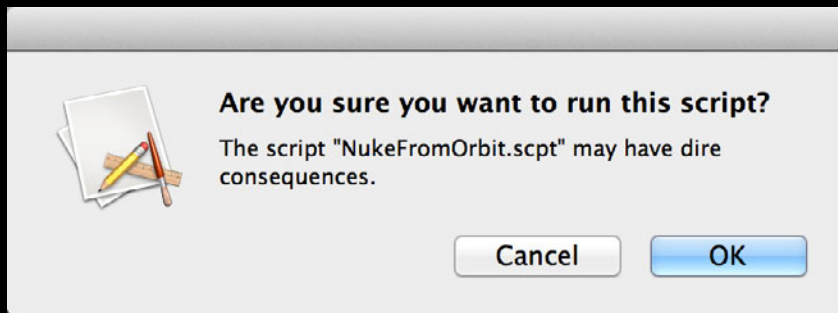
Overloading Keys



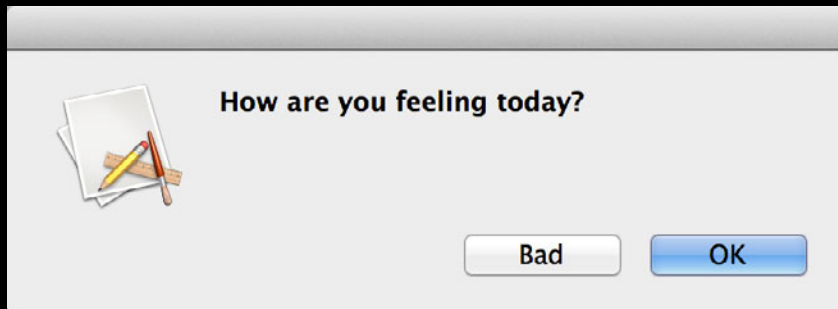
```
NSString(@"OK",  
@"Alert button title")
```



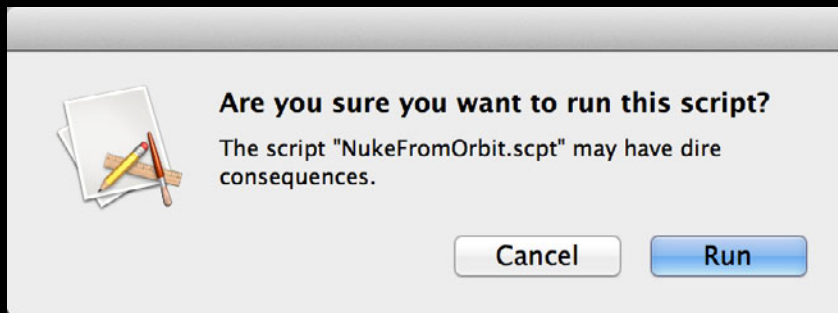
Overloading Keys



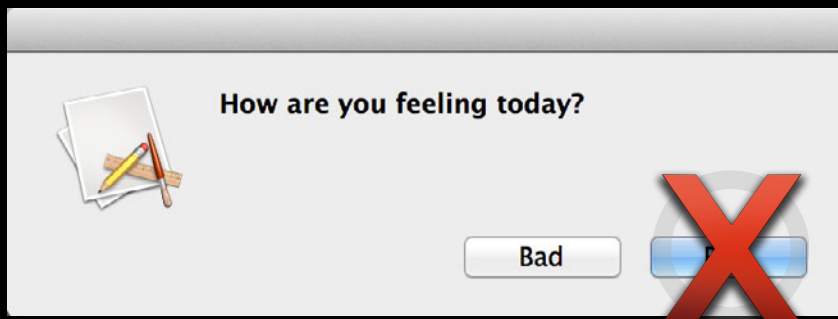
```
NSString(@"Run",  
@"Alert button title")
```



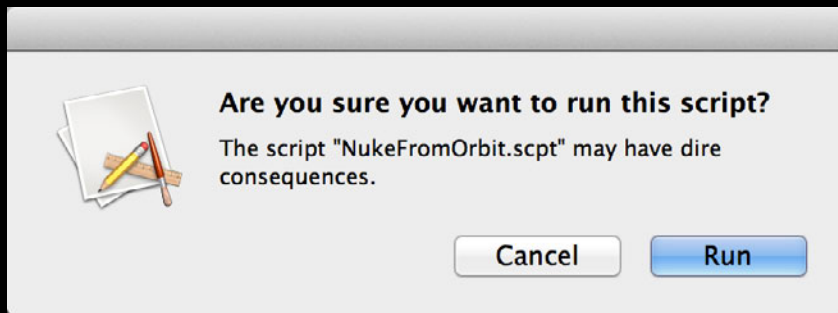
Overloading Keys



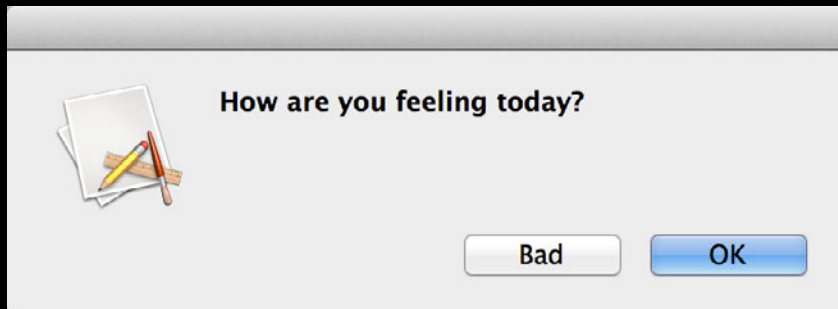
```
NSString(@"Run",  
@"Alert button title")
```



Overloading Keys



```
NSString(@"Run",  
@"Indicates a script may  
be run")
```



```
NSString(@"OK",  
@"Affirmative response  
to how a user is  
feeling")
```

Vague Context

- Comments are there for a reason

```
/* No comment provided by engineer */  
"Show" = "Show";
```

Vague Context

- Comments are there for a reason

```
/* One of a list of activities to go do.  
   Ex: "go see a show" */  
"ActivityListOptionShow" = "Show";
```

Composing

- The unit of translation is the sentence
- Number and gender must agree

Composing

```
/* Go to next [chapter, page] */  
"GoToNext" = "Go to next %@";  
"Page"     = "page";  
"Chapter"  = "chapter";
```

Go to next page

Fem. Fem.

Composing

```
/* Go to next [chapter, page] */  
"GoToNext" = "Go to next %@";  
"Page"     = "page";  
"Chapter"  = "chapter";
```

Go to the next page

Fem. Fem. Fem.

Composing

```
/* Go to next [chapter page] */  
"GoToNext" = "Go to next %@";  
"Page"     = "page";  
"Chapter"  = "chapter";
```

Go to the next chapter

Mas. Mas. Mas.

Composing

```
/* button title: Go to next page */  
"GoToNextPage" = "Go to next page";  
  
* button title: Go to next chapter */  
"GoToNextChapter" = "Go to next chapter";
```

Sorting

- `-compare:` is wrong
- Use `-localizedStandardCompare:`
- Avoid case or diacritic insensitivity

Sorting (b, Ä, c, ä, A, C, a, B) in Swedish

`compare:`

A, Ä, B, C, a, ä, b, c



`localizedCaseInsensitiveCompare:`

A, a, b, B, c, C, ä, Ä



`localizedStandardCompare:`

a, A, b, B, c, C, ä, Ä



Searching

- May use case and diacritic insensitivity
- Specify the locale

`-[NSString rangeOfString:]`



`-[NSString rangeOfString:options:range:locale:]`



Directionality

- Arabic and Hebrew are predominantly right-to-left
- RTL text can contain LTR text



Parsing

- Not all characters fit in a unichar

[@"É" length] = 1

[@"É" length] = 2

[@"🍔" length] = 2

[@"🇺🇸" length] = 4

Parsing

- Avoid

- `-characterAtIndex:`
- `-length`
- `-precomposedStringWithCanonicalMapping`



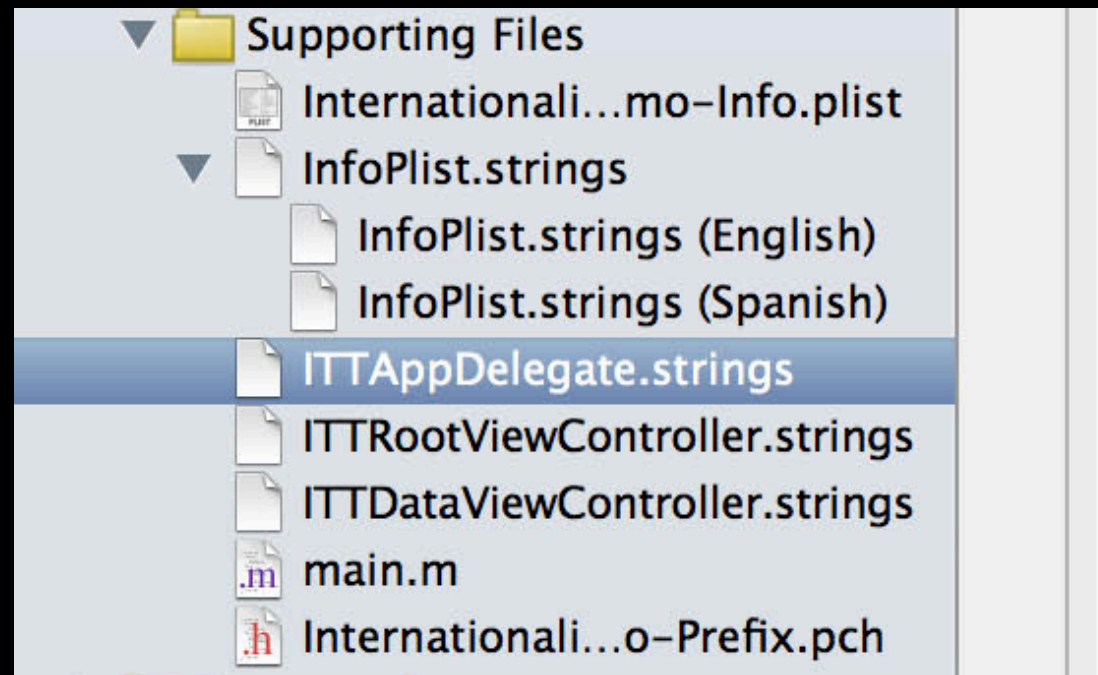
- `-enumerateSubstringsInRange:options:usingBlock:`



Text Tips

Multiple Tables

Encapsulation



Pseudolocalize

Easily find untranslated text



Pseudolocalize

Easily find untranslated text



Custom Macros

```
NSString(@"BackButtonTitle",  
        @"button title");
```

Custom Macros

```
ITTRootViewControllerString(@"BackButtonTitle",  
    @"button title");
```

Custom Macros

```
NSString* ITTRootViewControllerString(  
    NSString *key,  
    NSString *comment)  
{  
    NSBundle *b = [NSBundle mainBundle];  
    NSString *str = [b localizedStringForKey:key  
        value:nil table:@"ITTRootViewController"];  
    #if DEBUG  
        str = ITTPseudolocalize(str);  
    #endif  
    return str;  
}
```


Custom Macros

```
NSString* ITTRootViewControllerString(  
    NSString *key,  
    NSString *comment)  
{  
    NSBundle *b = [NSBundle mainBundle];  
    NSString *str = [b localizedStringForKey:key  
        value:nil table:@"ITTRootViewController"];  
    #if DEBUG  
        str = ITTPseudolocalize(str);  
    #endif  
    return str;  
}
```

Dates

NSDate

- Wraps an `NSTimeInterval`
- Independent of any calendar



NSDateFormatter

Converts a date to and from human-readable form

Initialized with current system settings

Locale-sensitive

+`localizedStringFromDate:dateStyle:timeStyle:`

Date Gotchas

Format Strings

- Avoid explicit format strings for user-visible dates

```
NSDateFormatter *df = [NSDateFormatter new];  
[df setDateFormat:@"M/dd/yyyy"];
```

English (US)	6/15/2012
--------------	-----------

Chinese (China)	6/15/2012
-----------------	-----------



Format Strings

- Avoid explicit format strings for user-visible dates

```
NSDateFormatter *df = [NSDateFormatter new];  
[df setDateStyle:NSDateFormatterShortStyle];
```

English (US)	6/15/2012
Chinese (China)	12年6月15日



Localizing Format Strings

- When the default styles don't meet your needs

```
NSDateFormatter *df = [NSDateFormatter new];  
[df setDateFormat:@"MMM d"];
```

French (France)	juin 15
Chinese (China)	6月 15



Localizing Format Strings

- When the default styles don't meet your needs
- +`dateFormatFromTemplate:options:locale:`

```
NSString *format = [NSDateFormatter  
    dateFormatFromTemplate:@"MMM d"  
    options:0 locale:[NSLocale currentLocale]];  
[dateFormatter setDateFormat:format];
```

French (France)	"d MMM"	15 juin
Chinese (China)	"M月d日"	6月15日



Parsing Date Strings

- Date formatters should be explicitly configured

```
NSDateFormatter *df = [NSDateFormatter new];  
[df setDateFormat:@"MM-dd-yyyy"];  
NSDate *date = [df stringFromDate:@"06-15-2012"];
```

Parsing Date Strings

- Date formatters should be explicitly configured

```
NSDateFormatter *df = [NSDateFormatter new];
NSCalendar *gregorian = [[NSCalendar alloc]
    initWithCalendarIdentifier:NSGregorianCalendar];
[df setCalendar:gregorian];
[df setDateFormat:@"MM-dd-yyyy"];
NSDate *date = [df stringFromDate:@"06-15-2012"];
```

Parsing Date Strings

- Use `strptime_l` with unlocalized dates

NSDate

- Represents a calendaring system
- Calendrical calculations



NSCalendar

- Represents a calendaring system
- Calendrical calculations

Khordad 26, 1391

Paona 8, 1728

Jyaistha 25, 1934



June 15, 2012

Sivan 25, 5772

Rajab 25, 1443

June 15, 24 Heisei

Timezones

- Storing/parsing a date without fixing the timezone

```
[dateFormatter setDateFormat:@"yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss"];  
date = [dateFormatter dateFromString:@"2012-06-15 09:42:00"];
```

In San Francisco (GMT-07:00)

June 15, 2012 9:42:00 AM

In Beijing (GMT+08:00)

2012年06月15日 09:42:00



Timezones

- Storing/parsing a date without fixing the timezone

```
[df setTimeZone:[NSTimeZone timeZoneWithSecondsFromGMT:0]];  
[df setDateFormat:@"yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss"];  
date = [df dateFromString:@"2012-06-15 09:42:00"];
```

In San Francisco (GMT-07:00)

June 15, 2012 2:42:00 AM

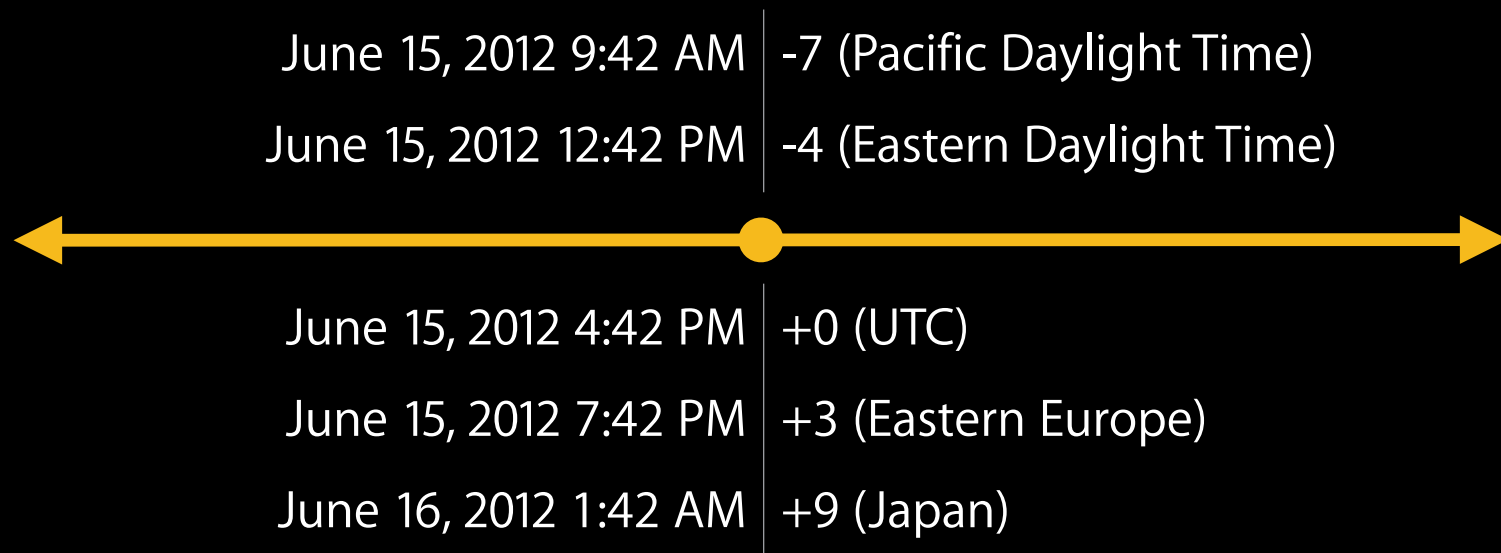
In Beijing (GMT+08:00)

2012年06月15日 17:42:00



NSTimeZone

- Represents an offset from UTC



Date Tips

Proper care and feeding of calendars

86,400

(24 * 60 * 60)

- 1 day = 86,400 seconds

```
NSDate *start = ...; // 3/10/2012 11:50 PM
NSDate *end = [start dateByAddingTimeInterval:86400];
// end is "3/12/2012 00:50 AM"
```

86,400

(24 * 60 * 60)

- 1 day = 86,400 seconds

```
NSDate *start = ...; // 3/10/2012 11:50 PM
NSDateComponents *oneDay = [NSDateComponents new];
[oneDay setDay:1];
```

```
NSCalendar *cal = [NSCalendar currentCalendar];
NSDate *end = [cal dateByAddingComponents:oneDay
toDate:start options:0];
// end is "3/11/2012 11:50 PM"
```

NSDateComponents

- Represents portions of a calendrical date
- Absolute or relative

```
NSDateComponents *c = [NSDateComponents new];  
[c setMonth:13];  
[c setDay:3];  
[c setYear:2000];
```

Unit Lengths

- [NSCalendar `maximumRangeOfUnit:`]
- [NSCalendar `rangeOfUnit:inUnit:forDate:`]

AM/PM

@"j"

```
NSString *timeFormat = [NSDateFormatter  
dateFormatFromTemplate:@"j"  
options:0  
locale:[NSLocale currentLocale]];
```

United States	h a
Japan	H
France	HH
China	ah
Korea	a h

Date Math

$1+1 \neq 2$

January

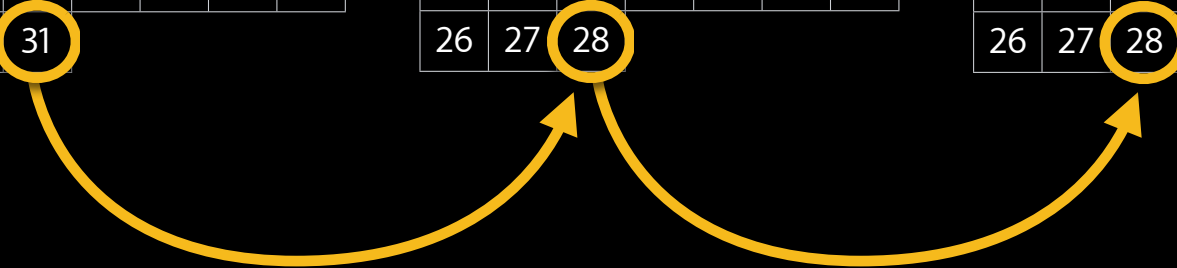
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Date Math

$1+1 \neq 2$

January

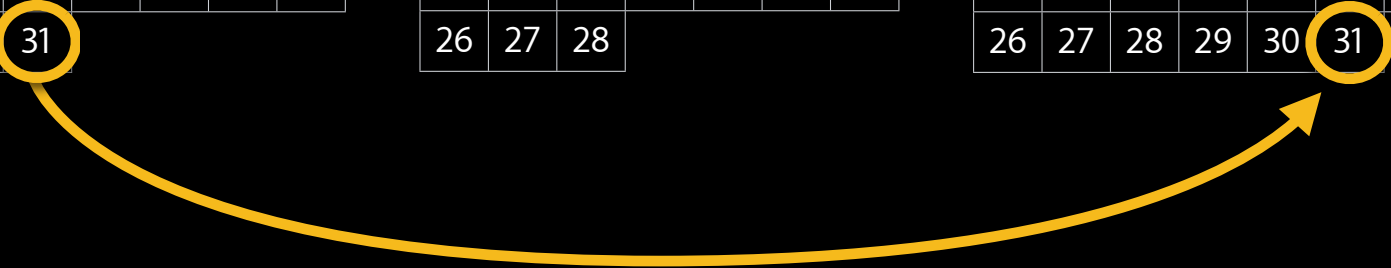
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

March

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Numbers

Localizing Numbers

NSNumberFormatter

Locale-sensitive

+localizedStringFromNumber:numberStyle:

Number Styles

@1234.56

General	1,234.56
Currency	\$1,234.56
Percentage	123,456%
Scientific	1.23456E+03
Spell-out	One thousand two hundred thirty-four point five six

Locale Sensitivity

@1234.56

Digits	1,234.56	١,٢٣٤,٥٦
Decimal point and grouping separator	1,234.56	1 234,56
Currency	\$123.45	¥123.45
Percentage	45%	٤٥٪

Number Gotchas

Parsing

- Avoid `-intValue`, `scanf`, etc

`["@asdf" intValue] → 0`

`["@0" intValue] → 0`

Parsing

- Avoid `-intValue`, `scanf`, etc

```
NSNumberFormatter *nf = [NSNumberFormatter new];  
[nf setNumberStyle:NSNumberFormatterDecimalStyle];  
NSNumber *asdf = [nf numberFromString:@"asdf"]; // nil  
NSNumber *zero = [nf numberFromString:@"0"]; // @0
```


Printing

- Avoid `+stringWithFormat:`, `printf`, etc

```
[NSString stringWithFormat:@"%3.2f", myNumber];
```

English (US)	241.23
Arabic (Egypt)	241.23



Printing

- Avoid `+stringWithFormat:`, `printf`, etc

```
[NSNumberFormatter localizedStringFromNumber:myNumber  
numberStyle:NSNumberFormatterDecimalStyle];
```

English (US)	241.23
Arabic (Egypt)	٢٤١,٢٣



Printing



```
[NSString stringWithFormat:@"%3.2f", myNumber];
```

English (US)	241.23
Arabic (Egypt)	٢٤١,٢٣



Losing the Locale

- Setting a format overrides the locale

```
[numberFormatter setFormat:@"$#,##0.00"];  
[numberFormatter stringFromNumber:@241.23];
```

English (US)	\$241.23
Chinese (China)	\$241.23



Losing the Locale

- Setting a format overrides the locale

```
[numberFormatter setNumberStyle:NSNumberFormatterCurrencyStyle];  
[numberFormatter stringFromNumber:@241.23];
```

English (US)	\$241.23
Chinese (China)	¥241.23



Number Tips

Tips

- Don't forget unit conversion
 - \$42 ≠ €42 ≠ ¥42
 - 1 km ≠ 1 mile
 - Ask `NSLocale`
- Use `strto*_l` functions for unlocalized numbers
- Use predefined formats as much as possible

Images

Beware



Abeja Inteligente

“Smart honeybee”

Culture-Specific Content



```
[UIImage imageNamed:@"StopSign"]
```

```
[UIImage imageNamed:@"StopSign"]
```

Text in Images



Summary

- Standards vary
- Cultures vary
- Test, test, test
- Built-in APIs

More Information

Paul Marcos

Application Services Evangelist
pmarcos@apple.com

Documentation

Introduction to Internationalization Programming Topics
<https://developer.apple.com/>

Apple Developer Forums

<http://devforums.apple.com>

Related Sessions

Introduction to Auto Layout for iOS and OS X

Mission
Tuesday 10:15AM

Accessibility for iOS

Russian Hill
Wednesday 9:00AM

Best Practices for Mastering Auto Layout

Mission
Thursday 9:00AM

Labs

Internationalization Lab

App Services Lab A
Friday 11:30AM

 **WWDC2012**

