

# 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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- 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

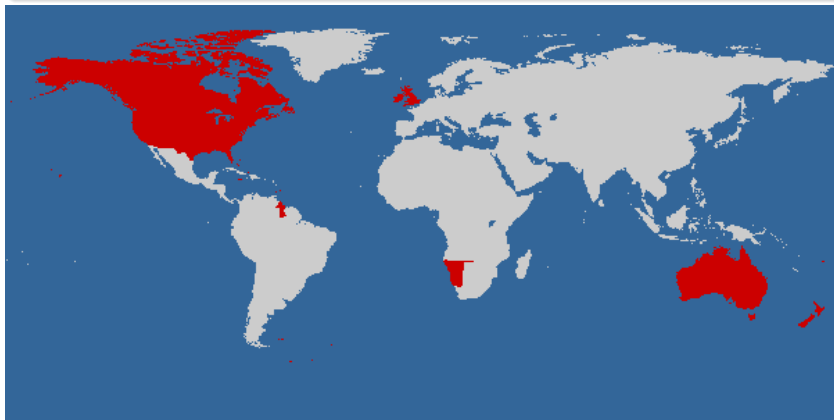
Even not all geeks speak English

# 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



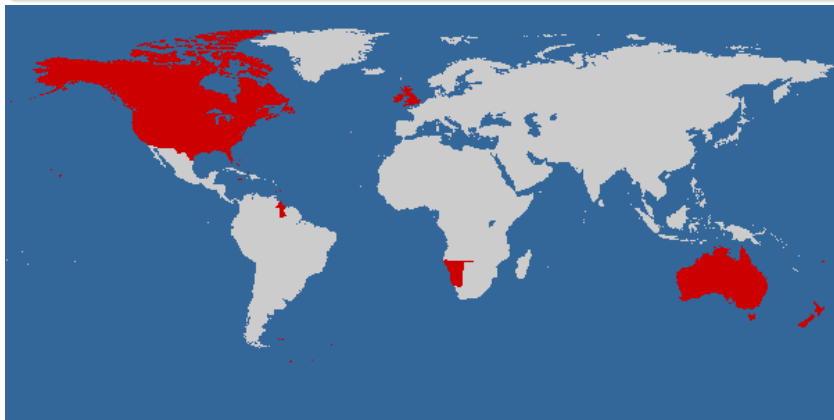
# Towards World Domination

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

- podesbconf-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/I10n 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

## Everything about us, ask Google

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- Javier: [jfs@computer.org](mailto:jfs@computer.org)

## Everything about i18n

- [debian-i18n@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-i18n@lists.debian.org)
- #debian-i18n @ oftc