Continuous translation with Weblate

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Contents

- Translation process in general
- Integrating translators
- How Weblate can help you
Translating (not only) software

- **Internationalization**
  - Preparing the software for localization.

- **Localization**
  - Writing the translations and local formats.

- **For i18n you need developers**
  - Ideally experienced with the topic.

- **For l10n you need translators**
Translators in software project

- Separated from development
- No developer knowledge
- Good language knowledge
- They need proper context
- New translations for every release
- Need to submit translations
Choices for handling translations

- **No translations**
  - Everybody speaks English, right?

- **Manually accepted patches/updates**
  - Just grab sources and send us updates

- **Web based solution**
  - We want to provide some comfort
Manual handling of translations

- Translators send updated files
  - What if the file has changed in the repository?
- Translators send patch / pull request
  - Usually too complex task.
- Fits technically skilled translators
Web based translation

- **Low entry barrier**
  - If we want, translations can be quite open.

- **Attract non technical people**
  - No need to checkout...

- **Need to synchronize translations**
  - How to get translations to our repository?
Synchronizing translations

• Manually uploading files
  - Easy to forget to update

• Hook the tool into your VCS
  - Automatic updates

• Let the tool push to your VCS
  - Translations appear automatically
Easiest workflow for translations

• Translation tool talks to VCS
  – We want to automate it all
• Get benefits of distributed VCS
  – Translations as a separate branch
• Still using centralized VCS?
  – Consider switching to Git, it is way better
Introducing Weblate

• **Built to integrate with Git**
  - VCS is not addon, it's in the core
  - Now supports Mercurial as well

• **Easy integration**
  - Supports GitHub, GitLab and Bitbucket
  - Anything else by URL hooks

• **Every commit is properly credited**
  - Translators are authors of commits
How does Weblate work?

1. Push
2. Updating translations
3. Pull
6. Push
4. Notification
5. Translate
But what about quality?

• **It all depends on people**
  - Managing people is always the hardest part

• **But it's easy to track authors**
  - Use git blame as with code

• **And tool can always help..**
Translations quality with Weblate

- Translation approval
  - Accepting translations after more approvals
- Review tool
  - Check what others have changed
- Quality checks
- Access control
- Providing good context
Quality checks in Weblate

- **Built in check for message correctness**
  - Thinks like spacing, format strings or XML
- **Include language specific rules**
  - Eg. colon spacing rules
- **Translator is notified of new violations**
  - Some are even automatically fixed
- **It is easy to add custom checks**
  - Few lines of Python code
Access control in Weblate

- Choose what fits best your project
- Open translation
  - Anybody can register and translate
- Moderated translation
  - Members approval
- Closed translation
  - Invite only
Translation context in Weblate

- **Source code context**
  - Links to source code
- **Nearby strings**
  - See strings in same dialog
- **Similar strings**
  - Using translation memory
- **Glossary**
  - Use consistent terminology
I want to use my offline editor

• No problem, Weblate can help
  - Export and import is there

• Imported translations are rebased
  - No more outdated translations files

• You can still make any changes in VCS
  - Once Weblate pulls VCS, all changes are visible in the interface
Supported formats in Weblate

- **Based on translate-toolkit**
  - Provides great base

- **Most frequently used formats**
  - Gettext, Android, iOS, Java, XLIFF, JSON, ...

- **Features slightly differ per format**
  - Plurals are not available in all formats
  - Source string location is not available
Time for demo

- See Weblate in action...
Options to run Weblate

• **Hosted Weblate for free software**
  – Free, but slightly limited features

• **Commercial Hosted Weblate**
  – Hosting plans starting at 19 EUR / month

• **Run your own instance**
  – It's free software
Thanks

• **More information is available:**
  - Website: https://weblate.org/
  - Demo: https://demo.weblate.org/
  - Documentation: https://docs.weblate.org/
  - Git: https://github.com/nijel/weblate
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