

# Lessons Learnt As A Translator

FOSDEM

# Hi there

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Long time open source contributor

Contributing as a volunteer to Mattermost for about 4y

 Translations

 Documentation

 QA

 Some programming



# Mattermost

Open source, remote-first, communities-centered company

Accelerate mission critical work in complex environments with a customizable, self-sovereign collaboration hub.

**21** languages / **1.6 million+** words translated



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**9500+**

Strings

**65,000+**

Words

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# What's this talk about?

## Translations community

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Stats  
Good practices

## How devs impact translations

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Always keep i18n in mind!

## Improving the quality of translations

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Good practices

01

# Our translator community

Stats and good practices



# Our Translator Community



680

# active translators  
in the past 3y



15 %

# translators making 75%  
of the translations



High turnaround of  
translators




Small group long term  
contributors




# Motive To Translate

## 85% Translators

- Fixing an annoying error
- Just giving it a try
- I love  and I want to contribute to it

## 15 % Translators

- My peers are using Mattermost
- I want to keep the translations up to date
- I get to know new features or features I don't use by translating
- I love  and I want to contribute to it



# What Scares Translators Away

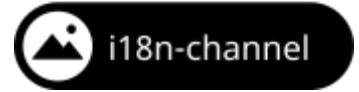


- Not seeing results of their efforts/  
Things that are broken
- Feeling too much pressure to keep contributing
- Not feeling welcome in the community



# How Do We Nurture Our Community?

Our i18n-channel



## Warm welcome

Questions? Remarks?

Ongoing issues



Amy Blais 15:07

A warm welcome to the newest members of our Mattermost translation community who joined Weblate and contributed in December 2023! 🙌🎉

- [caotanduc99](#)
- [Dev-A-Line](#)
- [gabsfrancis](#)
- [cyberjam](#)
- [pgteekens](#)
- [andrius](#)



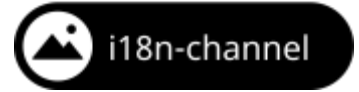
Notifications

Weekly updates

Swag

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Warm welcome

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Ongoing issues

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**T** ThrRip 12:00  
Hi there, I wonder if the *unique emojis* in the new strings added recently is the same as *custom emojis*? I can't seem to find anything in the docs yet.

**T**  ↩ 6 antwoorden Volgen

Notifications

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Weekly updates

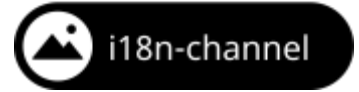
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Swag

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A screenshot of a Slack message from Jesse Hallam, timestamped 21:05. The message text is "So, this is another fun one. We have a merge conflict again...". Below the text is a code block containing an error message: "Error while trying to automerge the PR" followed by "Err PUT https://api.github.com/repos/mattermost/mattermost/pulls/25671/merge: 405 This branch can't be rebased []". The error message is circled in red. Below the code block is a notification from "mattermost-build" stating "removed the Do Not Merge/Mattermod label 2 hours ago". At the bottom of the screenshot is a "Changes approved" notification with a green checkmark icon, stating "2 approving reviews by reviewers with write access. Learn more about pull request reviews." and a "Show all reviewers" link.

Jesse Hallam 21:05

So, this is another fun one. We have a merge conflict again...

```
Error while trying to automerge the PR
Err PUT https://api.github.com/repos/mattermost/mattermost/pulls/25671/merge: 405 This branch can't be rebased []
```

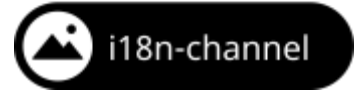
mattermost-build removed the **Do Not Merge/Mattermod** label 2 hours ago

Add more commits by pushing to the **weblate-mattermost-server** branch on **weblate/mattermost-server**.

**Changes approved** [Show all reviewers](#)  
2 approving reviews by reviewers with write access. [Learn more about pull request reviews.](#)

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Swag

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weblate BOT 12:16

Shipped Languages mattermost/webapp is locked now in Weblate cc: @Tom De Moor

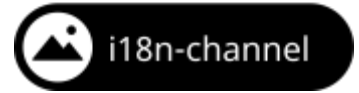


weblate BOT 12:24

Shipped Languages mattermost/mattermost-mobile-v2 is unlocked now in Weblate cc: @Tom De Moor

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**Weekly updates**

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Swag

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Tom De Moor 🌈 17:00

## Weekly Update December 4th

- The deadline for the 9.4-release is probably Monday January 1st!
- The workload is still low
- Thanks to @Sharuru and @ThrRip we can promote Chinese Simplified from Alpha back to Beta ! Thank you for your contributions!
- We moved everybody to the new permission scheme. If you would encounter any problems, reach out and we will solve them as fast as possible

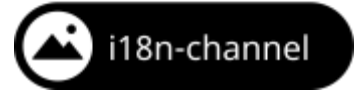


↩ 2 antwoorden

Volgend

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Swag

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# How Do We Nurture Our Community?



**Contributors**



**MVP**

Most Valued Professional



**Reaching out**



**Virtual meetup**



# 02

## How Can Devs Help Translators ?

Good practices





# Use {variables} for everything that doesn't need to be translated

Reorganising our documentation site

=

Risk of severe impact on the translation workload

## How Can Devs Help Translators

Don't  
Split  
Sentences  
Across  
Multiple  
Strings

Like  
Yoda  
Sound  
Will  
The  
Translation



# Does everything need to be translated?

Feedback from an API?

Strings not visible for the end user?

Plugins?

# Provide context



Jan-Peter Rusch 11:58

In other languages translating "at" without context is also a problem. Could be "um", "auf" or "bei" in German...  
DeepL even suggest "unter" (under) as first choice.

# Prepare for the unexpected

Language variants (Australian-English, Brazilian-Portuguese)

Right-to-left languages

Some languages are more verbose than others

Languages that don't use spaces

# Some people are evil

Check your translations `<script>alert("hello world");</script>`

Our permission scheme

# 03

## Increasing the quality of translations

Good practices





# Don't Translate Product Names

Calls, Channels, Playbooks





# Keeping Consistency In Your Translations

Using a style guide to keep the translations consistent



# **Translators are language experts**

Embrace Cultural Differences

**Q&A**  
**Thank you.**

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