

# Machine translation at Volkswagen

People can't share knowledge if they don't speak a common language.

Third Joint EM+/CNGL Workshop Bringing MT to the User: Research Meets Translators Luxembourg, 14 October 2011



## **Overview**

- Volkswagen Group in 2010 facts and figures
- Machine translation (MT) at VW facts and figures
- Machine translation in application
- Problems (technical and user-generated)
- Security problems with machine translation on the internet
- Future and wishes

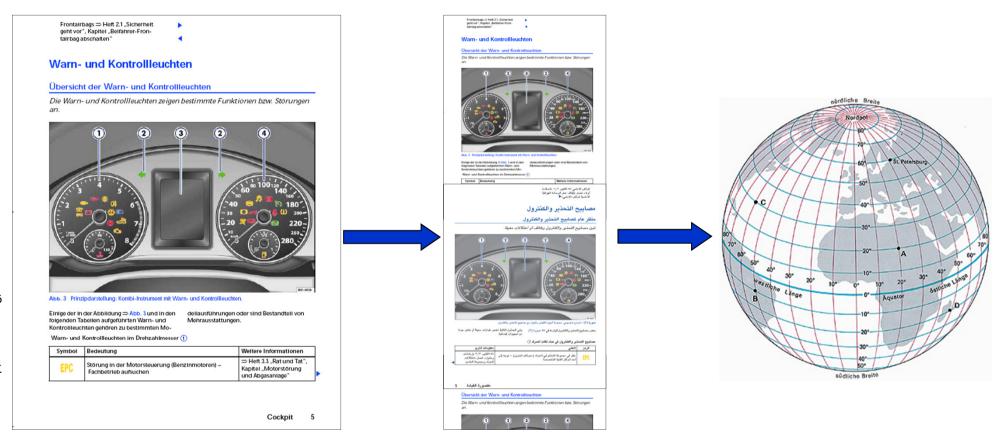


# **Volkswagen Group in 2010**

- HQ in Wolfsburg, Germany
- Brands: Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, Škoda, Bentley, Lamborghini, Bugatti, VW Commercial Vehicles, Scania
- approx. 400,000 employees worldwide
- 62 production sites worldwide
- 7.2 million cars sold
- Turnover: 126.9 billion euros
- Language department: annual throughput
  - ≈ 31,000 translations (≈ 18.5 m pages / ≈ 338 m words)
  - + 1,200 interpreting jobs



# Volkswagen Group Translation Volume in 2010



338,410,000 words

approx. 40,200 km DIN-A4



# MT and Language Portal: Benefits & Aims

- Acceleration of corporate communication (especially routine jobs such as reading emails, reports etc.)
- Acceleration of decision-making processes (when speed is most important)
- Optimisation of corporate communication
   (in German and, more importantly, in a range of other languages)
- Raising awareness of language issues (Importance of uniform and clear corporate language)
- Data security (Security issue: machine translation in the Internet)
- Demonstration of economic benefit (ROI)



# Machine Translation at Volkswagen

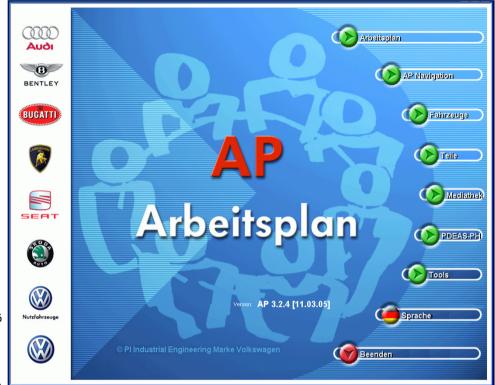
# Facts and figures:

- Target group: Everybody, throughout the Group, throughout the world (approx. 300,000+ PC users with access to the group intranet)
- Availability: > 99 %
- Languages: German, English, French, Russian, Spanish
- Translations per working day: 11,000
  - = approx. 2,200 standard pages/day
  - = approx. 380,000 words/day
  - = approx. 90 m words/year

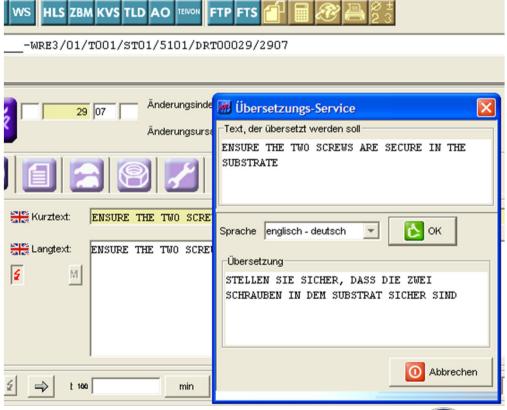
14 October 2011



# Volkswagen "Arbeitsplan"



"Arbeitsplan" integrates plans for production, assembly, quality control, logistics and workplace, including the planned manufacturing times. It thus covers the complete lifecycle of a product.





# Volkswagen Language Portal



" Startseite " FE Home " Suchen " Directory " Telefonbuch " Hil

## **Sprachenportal**

Startseite

Volkswagen Wörterbuch

Maschinelle Übersetzung

Fremdsprachenmanagement

Glossar



Deutsch







Russisch



Spanisch



Tschechisch



## People can't share knowledge if they don't speak a common language.

(Davenport/Prusak: Working Knowledge, Harvard Business School Press, 1998)

Man kann Wissen nur mit jemandem teilen, wenn man dieselbe Sprache spricht.

Das Volkswagen Sprachenportal ist ein Angebot, das das Volkswagen After Sales Fremdsprachenmanagement konzernweit für alle Mitarbeiter bereitstellt. Über das Sprachenportal erhalten Sie direkten Zugang zu Informationen und Anwendungen zu folgenden Themen:

- Volkswagen Wörterbuch
- Maschinelle Übersetzung
- Online-Beauftragung für Übersetzungen und Dolmetscheranforderung
- Terminologiemanagement
- Übersetzung
- Dolmetschen

Das Ziel des Sprachenportals ist vorrangig die Bereitstellung spezifischer (Fremd-)Sprachen-Informationen und -Dienstleistungen zur Beschleunigung interner Kommunikationsprozesse. Dabei sollen die im Konzern verwendeten Fachbegriffe aus der Automobilindustrie von Experten der jeweiligen Fachabteilungen nach festgelegten Prozessen geprüft, standardisiert und frei gegeben werden, um sie zu jeder Zeit, an jedem Standort auf einem konstant



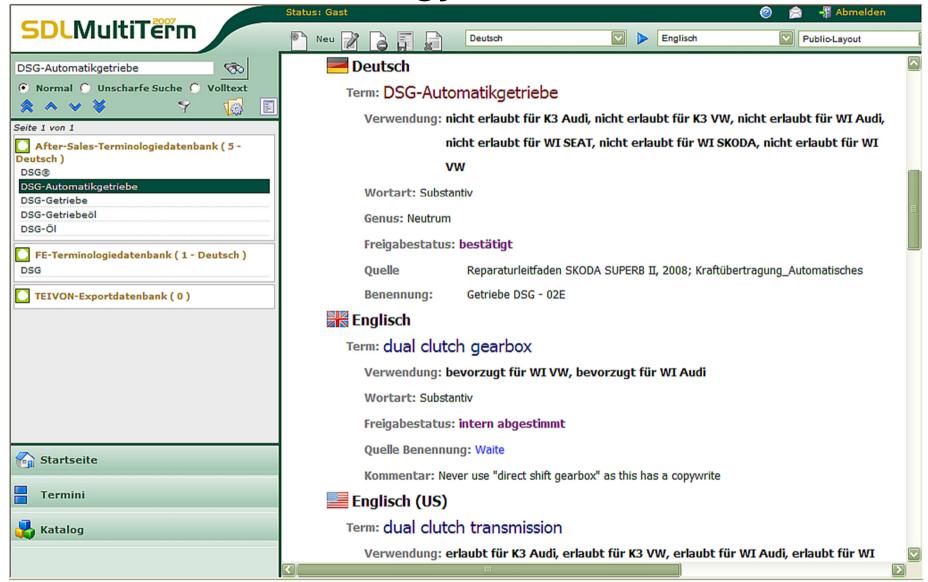
Interne Beauftragung Übersetzen oder Dolmetschen? Deutsche Rechtschreibung Links Portalstruktur

## **Impressum**

Redaktion Umsetzung



# **After-Sales Terminology Database**





# Machine Translation at Volkswagen



Startseite FE Home Suchen Directory Telefonbuch Hi

Home

Volkswagen Dictionary

## **Machine Translation**

Possibilities and Limitations

Writing texts for translation

## Online translation

Foreign Language Management Glossary







Russian



Czech



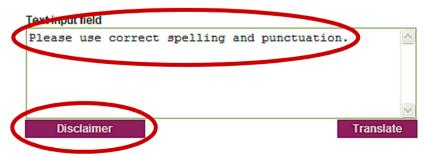
## And this is how it works:

- 1. Select a direction for translation.
- 2. Copy your text into "Text input field".
- 3. Click "Translate".
- 4. The result will be displayed in a new window.

Basics: Possibilities and Limitations

## Please select a direction for translation:

$\odot$	German →	English	0	English → German
0	German →	Russian	0	Russian → German
0	German →	French	0	French → German
0	German →	Spanish	0	Spanish → German





German spelling Translation or interpreting? Links Sitemap

## Staff

Editorial Staff Implementation



# **Machine Translation in 5 Languages**



"Startseite "FE Home "Suchen "Directory "Telefonbuch "Hil-

## Языковой портал

## Главный сайт

Словарь концерна Volkswagen

## Автоматический перевод

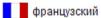
Достоинства и недостатки автоматического перевода Приемлемое для перевода написание

Автоматический перевод

Отдел иностранных языков



английский





испанский



#### Шаг за шагом:

- 1. Выберите нужный Вам вариант перевода.
- Скопируйте Ваш текст для перевода и поместите его в поле «Текст для перевода».
- 3. Нажмите на приказ «Перевести».
- 4. Результат появится в другом окошке.

## Коротко о главном:

Правильно подготовленный к переводу текст – 5 полезных советов

## Выберите, пожалуйста, нужный Вам вариант перевода:

Немецкий → русский ○ русский → немецкий
 Немецкий → английский ○ английский → немецкий
 Немецкий → Французский ○ Французский → немецкий
 Немецкий → испанский ○ испанский → немецкий

## «текст для перевода»

Пожалуйста, соблюдайте правила орфографии и расстановки знаков препинания.



Немецкая орфография Письменный или устный перевод?

Полезные лингвистические ссылки

Структура портала

## Выходные данные

Редакция Рабочая группа



## When does machine translation make sense?

- When specific terminology is available.
- When this terminology has been standardised and when it is used.
- When source texts are limited to standardised terminology wherever possible.
- When decisions have to be made quickly.
- When speed is more important than accuracy.
- Target: Increased efficiency (cost saving through time saving)

## However: the GIGO principle must be considered!

Machine translation cannot but convert a flawed source text into flawed or incomprehensible *output*.



# What machine translation is not capable of

- Reading between the lines
- Guessing, interpreting, assuming, associating, anticipating etc.
- Toleration of mistakes
- Independent learning
- Paraphrasing/translation of text that cannot be translated directly
- Differentiation between sense and nonsense
- Making decisions
- etc.

**Example:** Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana.



# 3rd Joint EM+/CNGL Workshop, Luxemburg, 14 Oct. 201

# Mixture of source and target languages, spelling mistakes and abbreviations

In fact this confusion will delay the Freigabe of crosspolo and NCAP drawings in addition to KAF ... For the future we are working with TR and TP on a pauschal payment system so that payment is less a matter then before.

bei der hinterrad scheibenbremese darf bei null stellung des hand bremshebels das abstand[s]mass "a" (siehe ansicht X) zwischen bremshebel und anschalg an dem bremssattel links und rechts in summe max[.] 4 mm nicht ueberschreiten[,] wobei der max[.] abstand von 3mm an einer bremse nicht uberschritten werden darf[.]

habe u.g. HWMotor 6J0.955.711 hinsichtl. ENBaulage an drei Bsp. aktueller VW-Neuprojekte gegengeprüft. demnach ist dieser HWMot. für uns zur Anfrage

# Big Issue: Data Security and Machine Translation

 For reasons of data security, the use of machine translation on the internet is not permitted throughout the Group. Access to the relevant web sites has been blocked.

## Challenges:

- 1. Adding more languages to the in-house machine translation portal (incl. processing of VW-specific terminology)
- 2. Increasing the awareness of users as to the risks encountered on the internet and the superior quality of the in-house tool



## Recommendations

- User awareness:
  - Top-down approach
  - Use of clear communication
  - Use of standardised VW terminology
  - Internet risks
- Institutionalisation of machine translation at VW
- Close cooperation with universities etc.
  - Improved quality
  - Processing of terminology
  - Further development based on practical experience



## **Future and wishes**

- Interface between terminology database and MT
- Continuous analysis of the log files for term candidates
- Integration of MT in MS Office applications
- Translation of files (MS Office, xml, rtf etc.) by upload
- Translation of websites
- Chinese, (Brazilian) Portuguese, Czech ....
- Integration of spell-checking

# Long-term future

- Development of a process chain for MT
- MT for texts where controlled language is applied



# Thank you very much for your attention

Jörg Porsiel

VST-1/3 Fremdsprachenmanagement

phone: +49-5361-977040

email: joerg.porsiel@volkswagen.de

