

ASLIB

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Linport: toward an open standard for language projects and translation tasks

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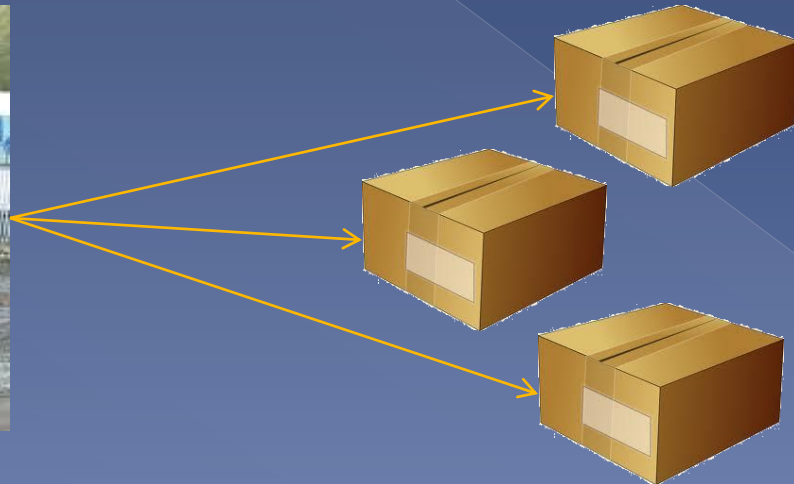


What is Linport? (this slide and 2 more)

- An acronym for **L**anguage **I**nteroperability **P**ortfolio
- Complete and interoperable container solution for both:
 - > Translation projects (portfolio, n-lingual)
 - > Tasks within projects (package = 1 project task)



Linport Portfolio



Packages



an idea whose time has come...



and a project

- ◉ With one main deliverable: a “blueprint”
 - > Blueprint = draft standard to be submitted to an industry standards body
- ◉ And secondary deliverables
 - > Open-source reference software for proof-of-concept and for implementers
- ◉ Hosted by LTAC Global (a non-profit organization)
- ◉ Open to all interested parties
- ◉ **Not** a competing translation tool

Why I am Involved in Linport

- Having worked on various “payload” standards (such as TMX and TBX), it is logical to work on containers to put them in
- To promote Structured Translation Specifications (STS) as part of the payload
 - > 21 parameters for quality translations:
 - Source
 - Target
 - Production
 - Environment
 - Relationships
 - > Found in: [ISO/TS 11669](#)



Source Parameters describe the source text

- ◎ [1] textual characteristics
 - > (a) source language; (b) text type; (c) audience; (d) purpose
- ◎ [2] specialized language
 - > (a) subject field; (b) [monolingual] terminology
- ◎ [3] volume (words, characters, or other measure)
- ◎ [4] complexity (non-native author; graphics; etc)
- ◎ [5] origin (where did this source text come from?)

Target parameters state linguistic requirements

- [6] target language information
 - > (a) target language; (b) [bilingual] terminology
- [7] audience (sometimes differs from source)
- [8] purpose (sometimes difference from source)
- [9] content correspondence
 - > (summary/full; overt/covert; etc)
- [10] register (often implied by text type)
- [11] file format
- [12] style
 - > (a) style guide; (b) style relevance
- [13] layout

Production parameters state tasks to be performed by whom

- ◎ [14] typical production tasks
 - > (a) preparation
 - > (b) initial translation (human or machine)
 - > (c) in-process quality assurance
 - self-checking/post-editing; revision; review; final formatting; proofreading
- ◎ [15] additional tasks

Environment parameters

- ◉ [16] technology
 - > (any interoperable tool? Particular tools?)
- ◉ [17] reference materials
 - > Style guides, translation memories , etc
- ◉ [18] workplace requirements
 - > Anywhere? Designated secure facility?

Relationship parameters

- ◉ [19] permissions
 - > (a) copyright; (b) recognition; (c) restrictions;
- ◉ [20] submissions
 - > (a) qualifications; (b) deliverables;
 - > (c) delivery [method]; (d) deadline
- ◉ [21] expectations
 - > (a) compensation; (b) communication

Webpage: 21 parameters

◎ www.ttt.org/specs

Container contents besides the structured specifications

- ◉ Source text(s)
- ◉ Target texts when done; or bi-text format
- ◉ Resources to carry out translation (per specs)
 - > Terminology
 - > Translation memory
 - > Style guide
 - > **What else?**

One group working on **What else**, esp. for MT, is the **MultilingualWeb-LT Working Group** drafting the **ITS 2.0 (Internationalization Tag Set)** standard for submission to **W3C**, the **World Wide Web Consortium**.

Portfolios

- Can be split into bilingual packages
 - > Each package is a **TIPP** (from **IN!**)
- A package is associated with one task
 - > Initial translation (human or machine)
 - > Revision of HT or post-editing of raw MT
 - > Review, etc.
- After tasks are performed
 - > Response packages can be merged back into a revised portfolio

Why Linport is important to translation project managers

- No need to “re-package” data as it passes between translation tools
- No lost specifications
- Thus, increased efficiency and quality



Linport from the perspective of content owner/originator

- Can send out the same project portfolio when working with multiple translation service providers (internal or external)
- A portfolio with specifications is useful for archiving and assessment even if the translation system is entirely on-line
- A project portfolio is not tied to any particular translation tool



Linport and Tool developers



- Some tool developers will be early adopters
 - > Some will implement only the TIPP package
 - > Others will also implement portfolios
- Most tool developers will wait until Linport is an industry standard
- At some point, service requesters require Linport support in the tools they use or consider using



Why it is important for translators



- Ensures that you will have access to the project specifications (also STS)
- Increases interoperability between tools
- Easier to use your favorite tool because of data-tool separation

Why it is important for translator trainers

- Students learn translation project elements and workflow scenarios
- Structured Translation Specifications are basic to any discussion of translation quality
- All of this in a tool independent learning environment

Why Linport is important for machine translation developers

- Standardized way for computers to extract the necessary data, perform machine translation, and return results
- Task object for Translation API
- ***Research challenge: MT system someday be able to read the structured specifications and tailor the translation accordingly***



What's upcoming

- ◉ Refine & formalize portfolio data model
 - > Later: authoring and publication portfolios
- ◉ More testing of STS builder
- ◉ Develop Portfolio Builder software
 - ◉ Roundtrip: portfolio, task packages, portfolio
- ◉ Submit to standards bodies:
 - > OASIS or ETSI (to be decided)
 - > ISO (fast track after industry standard)
- ◉ Implementation by tool developers

What's related

- ◉ Quality Translation Launch Pad
 - An EC-funded project
- ◉ XLIFF:doc from IN! (automated workflow)
 - > Hopefully a true profile of XLIFF version 2
- ◉ TAUS
 - > Translation API
 - For transmission of portfolios and packages



How to get involved

- Join the Linport community
 - > www.linport.org
- Share real translation project data
 - > Urgently needed!
 - > Must be non-confidential or sanitized
- Help with proof-of-concept software
 - > Test apps developed at Brigham Young U.
 - > Develop your own reference software
 - > Implement portfolios and/or packages in your tool as an early adopter



Glossary of acronyms used

- **DGT** – Directorate General for Translation
 - > A part of the EC; JIAMCATT Partner
 - > ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation
- **EC** – European Commission
- **ETSI** – European Telecommunications Standards Institute
 - > www.etsi.org
- **IN!** – Interoperability Now!
 - > group working to improve the interoperability of tools and technology within the localization industry
 - > code.google.com/p/interoperability-now
- **ISO** – International Standards Organization
 - > JIAMCATT Partner
 - > www.iso.org
- **Linport** – The Language Interoperability Portfolio Project
 - > www.linport.org
- **LISA** - Localization Industry Standards Association
 - > *Ceased to exist March 2011*
- **OASIS** - Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
 - > www.oasis-open.org
- **QTLP** → **QTLaunchPad** → Quality Translation Launch Pad.
 - EC-CORDIS-PF7-LT project 296347 cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/103949_en.html (2012-07-01 to 2014-06-30)
- **TAUS** – Translation Automation
 - > www.translationautomation.com
- **TIPP** – Translation Interoperability Protocol Package – an **IN!** project
- **XLIFF** – XML Localisation Interchange File Format
 - > XLIFF 1.2: docs.oasis-open.org/xliff/xliff-core/xliff-core.html

Questions?

Willing to submit project data?
info@linport.org

