Drupal world domination

Translating interface and content

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August 27th, 2008., Drupalcon Szeged
About the presenter

• Web developer since 1999, building open communities and contributing to open source projects ever since
• Works with and contributes to Drupal since 2003, also the Drupal 6 branch maintainer
• Code gardener at Acquia
• Co-lead organizer to Drupalcon Szeged 2008
About you

• Built non-Drupal multilingual site?
• Built Drupal site?
• Built Drupal multilingual site?

• Who is not on Drupal 6 yet?
• “Users”?
• “Developers”?
Setting the stage
Drupal “by design”

- There is the **built in interface**, which is always served from code
- Everything else is **user provided** (posts, menu items, admin defined blocks, and so on)
Famous issues

- Default content type names and descriptions are not translated
- Built-in, but modified menu items are neither
- The “Forums” vocabulary title is not translated
Before Drupal 6
Just the interface

- Translatable installer (D5)
- Basic interface language list setup
- Runtime interface translation with per user preferences
How does it work (still)?

- GNU gettext backend and format used
- Translation templates extracted from source code
- CVS used to store/release translations
- User imports translation files in Drupal (which stores them in the DB)
Recognize the source

- \texttt{t(‘Go to \%page’, array(‘\%page’ => $p));}
- \texttt{\textbf{format\_plural}(}
  \begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{$count,}
  \item \texttt{‘1 year’,}
  \item \texttt{‘@count years’}
  \end{itemize}
- \texttt{);}
- Several special cases: permissions, watchdog type names, and so on
Contributed modules

• Autolocale / localized profile
• Internationalization module suite
• Localizer module suite
• XLIFF tools
• ...

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In Drupal 6
Drupal 6 goes forward!

• New language subsystem
• Easy interface translation import
• Performance optimizations
• Content translation
• Textgroups API
Drupal 6 architecture

This is all implemented on the API level only.
Languages!

- English and native language names
- Writing direction (LTR or RTL)
- Defined ordering
- Path prefix and (sub)domain setup and recognition
Right to left themes

- All CSS file additions are intercepted and RTL cascade files are searched for
- All core themes have RTL support
- Easy to write RTL supporting themes, even with color module
Language detection

- Based on the IRI (domain, path)
- User preferences
- Browser settings
- Falls back on site default
Automated import

- Friendlier translation package format
- Batch API for tasks to run in multiple HTTP requests
- Install time import of interface translations
- Module/theme changes result in translation imports
Translatable JavaScript

- **Drupal.t()** and **Drupal.formatPlural()** to translate strings in JavaScript
- Works with on the fly string collection or preprocessing
- Also brings simple theming to JavaScript
Text groups API

• Multiple text groups possible to translate user defined content
• This remains a programming API for Drupal 6, not used in the core system
• i18n module uses this feature to translate taxonomy, menu items, ...
Any post can have a language associated, or can be neutral
This is configurable per content type
Does not mean content translation

What about CCK?
Content translation

- Posts can be associated with each other, organized into translation sets
- Basic workflow supported to check for outdated translations
- Translation links, language switcher block
- Simple API for content/field types
Per-language aliases

- Path aliases can be language dependent
- Still fall back to default alias, if no specific alias defined
- Examples: ‘home’, ‘honlap’, ‘inicio’
Lower level changes

- Multilingual request handling made possible
- Emails are sent in the language of the user targeted (API also changed a lot)
- Log messages are stored in English, localized on display
More for hard-core people

- Modify some site interface strings by adding an array to settings.php
- No need for locale module, could be used to customize English sites
Now come shocking revelations
Drupal 6 cannot translate

- Site settings
- Taxonomy
- User defined menus
- Aggregator categories
- Profile field titles and categories
- Content type properties
- Blocks
- Node lists!
Quirks for users in core

- Language negotiation settings have long help text and need to be read and thought through.
- Polls options are not carried over on adding a new translation.
- Taxonomy terms, path aliases, poll options, etc. are not shared among translations.
Quirks for developers

• Links only localized if told so (need to pass language code, even if linking to node in specific language)

• With a non-CCK custom node type, you need to copy over values for translation in the editing form

• Sending mails became a bit more complex
So how come we named this a multilanguage release?
Laying the ground

• There is so much time in our life...
• We plant the multilanguage spirit to Drupal
• Contributed module developers will take language into account more
• Better to not go the full road once, so we can better adjust to user feedback
• We left the ball rolling in contrib
There come the contribs
String overrides

• Just replace any text which was passed through t() and friends
• Less resource intensive then locale module
• Also override in any language on Drupal 6
Localization client

- New feature in Drupal 6 allows us to collect strings used on the page
- A nifty little tool to translate strings while you walk around pages
- Can share translations to a central server while you submit them
Localization server

• Making interface translation for language groups a lot easier
• Intent to move from CVS and drupal.org project management to a web application
• Translation sharing, support for the new packaging format
• Uses translation template extractor
Google translate

- Google operates an online translation service
- This module just passes text through that service via their normal web interface
- The output is wrapped, so users don’t see it going through Google
- Does not work for logged-in users
Translatable comments

- Uses Google AJAX Translation API
- Completely JavaScript based
- Uses a fixed set of languages
Translation overview

• Nice overview screen for the existing translation notes
• Works with the core translation system
Views 2

- Views 2 for Drupal 6 RC2 supports languages
- Filter on language for nodes
- (Only if translation module enabled)
i18n module

• Core functionality covers variables and an extended language API
• Language based listing with extended options
  • Current language and language neutral
  • Mixed current language (if available) or default language (if not) and language neutral
  • Only default language and language neutral
  • Only current language
  • All content - no language conditions apply
i18nstrings module

- Implements strings translation API via textgroups
- Object based translation system which almost made it to Drupal 6
- Other modules like i18nblocks, i18nmenu and i18ntaxonomy use it
i18nsync module

• Helps you sync translations between different languages
• When you have CCK fields, it is not shared between the translation nodes
• i18npoll module will help you aggregate poll results for translations
XLIFF Tools

Drupal XLIFF tools

Original content → XLIFF → Translated XLIFF → Translated content

External CAT tool

Pre-translated XLIFF → Translation memory

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AWTW

- Automated Web Translation Workflow
- Similar to XLIFF Tools, but easier to use
- Exports to custom XML format
- Saves node number to output
- Allows you to import it back easily, as it finds the originating node
It is all about LEGO
It is all about LEGO

- Lots of different requirements
- You need to LEGO and adapt what is there
- Even more fun options then what I was able to cover