

Drupal world domination

Translating interface and content

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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

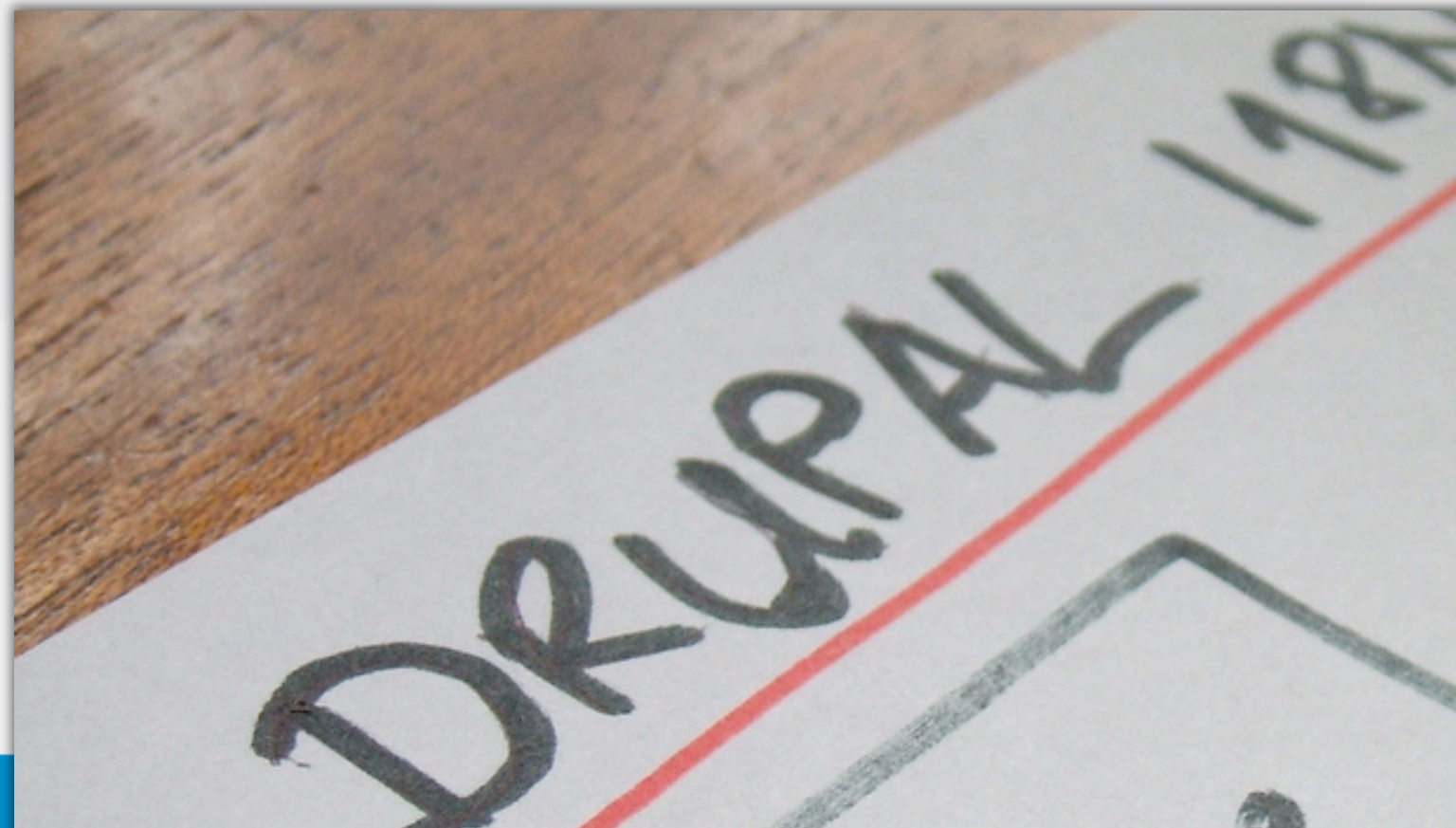
About you

- 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)



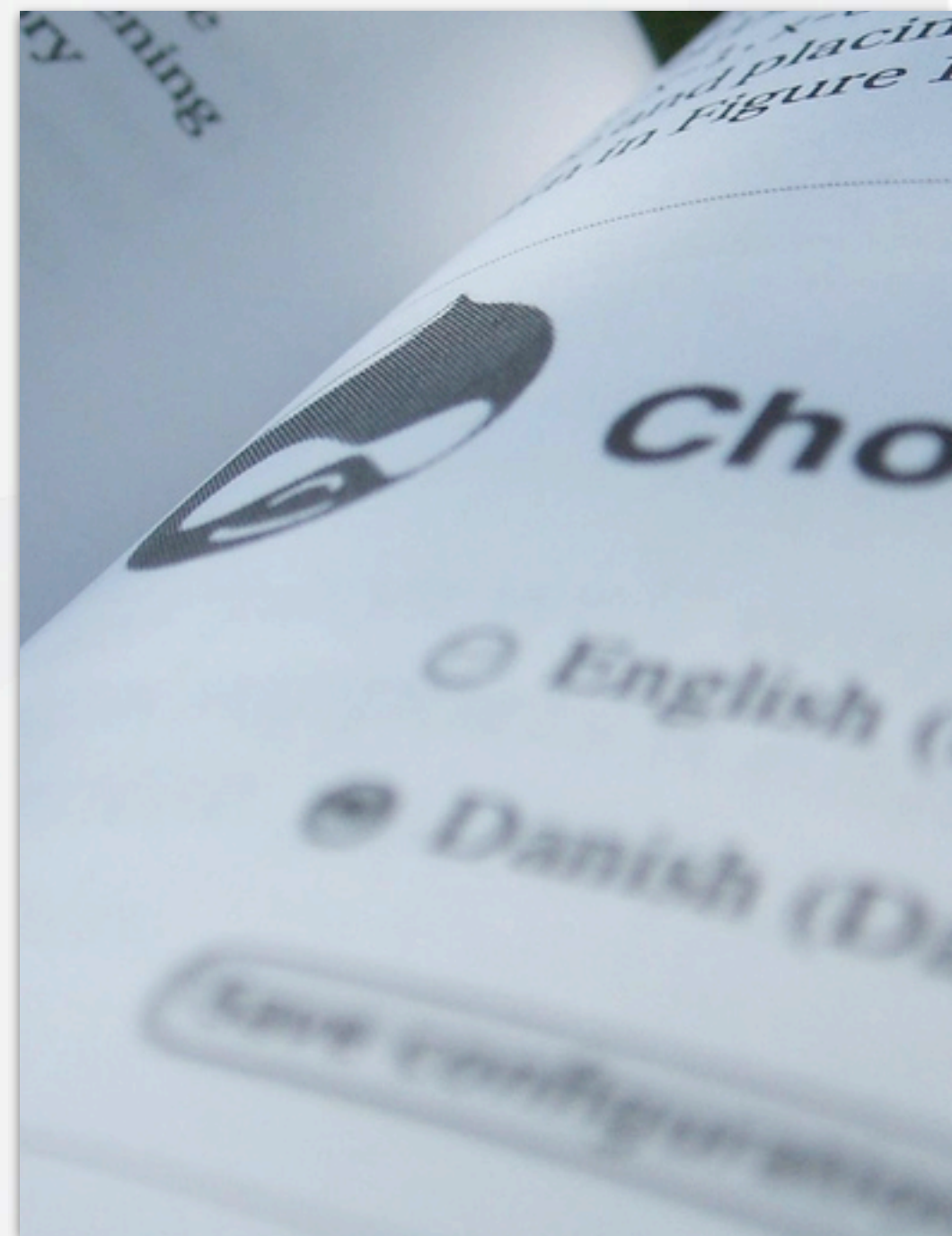
Famous issues

- 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

- `t('Go to %page', array('%page' => $p));`
- `format_plural(
 $count,
 'I year',
 '@count years'
);`
- Several special cases: permissions, watchdog type names, and so on

Contributed modules

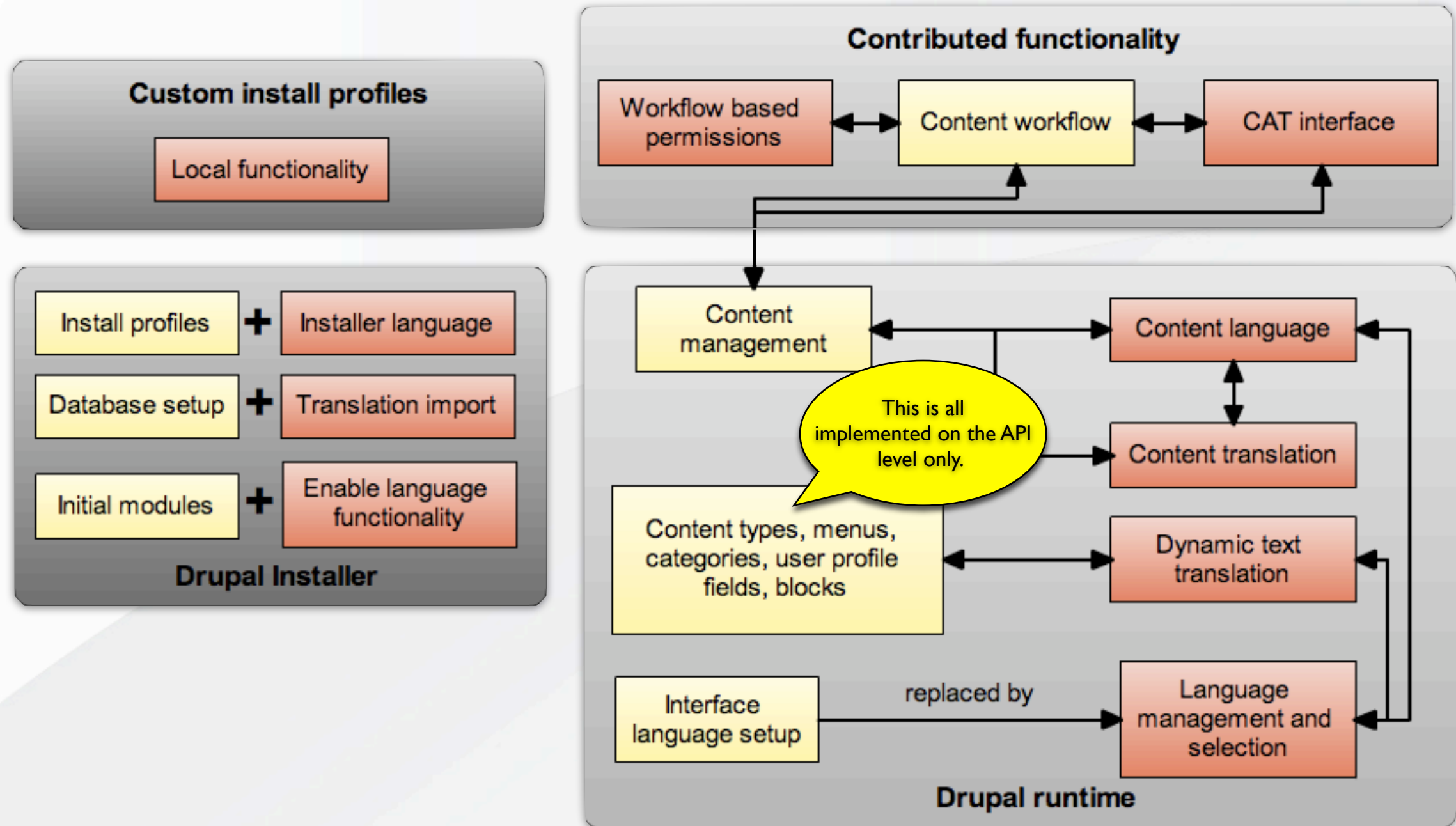
- Autolocale / localized profile
- Internationalization module suite
- Localizer module suite
- XLIFF tools
- ...

In Drupal 6

Drupal 6 goes forward!

- New language subsystem
- Easy interface translation import
- Performance optimizations
- Content translation
- Textgroups API

Drupal 6 architecture

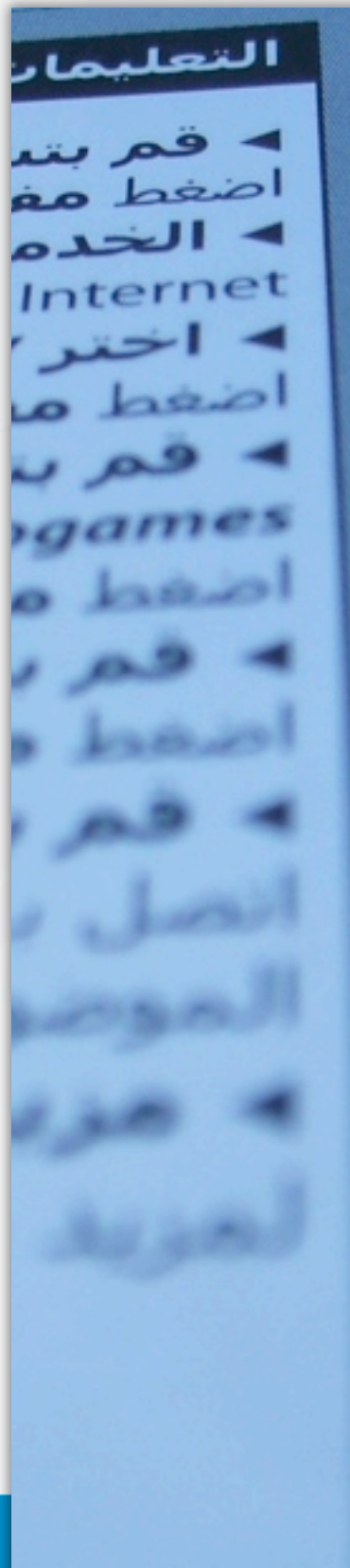


Languages!

- 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, ...

Content language

- 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?

avaScript
Wie Drupal Java
integriert, welche Hil
jetzt und in Zukunft be
wie JavaScript am el
Drupal integriert wir
Track: Drupal
Sprache: deutsch
Uhrzeit: 16:30
um: HS6
Kons

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 than 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

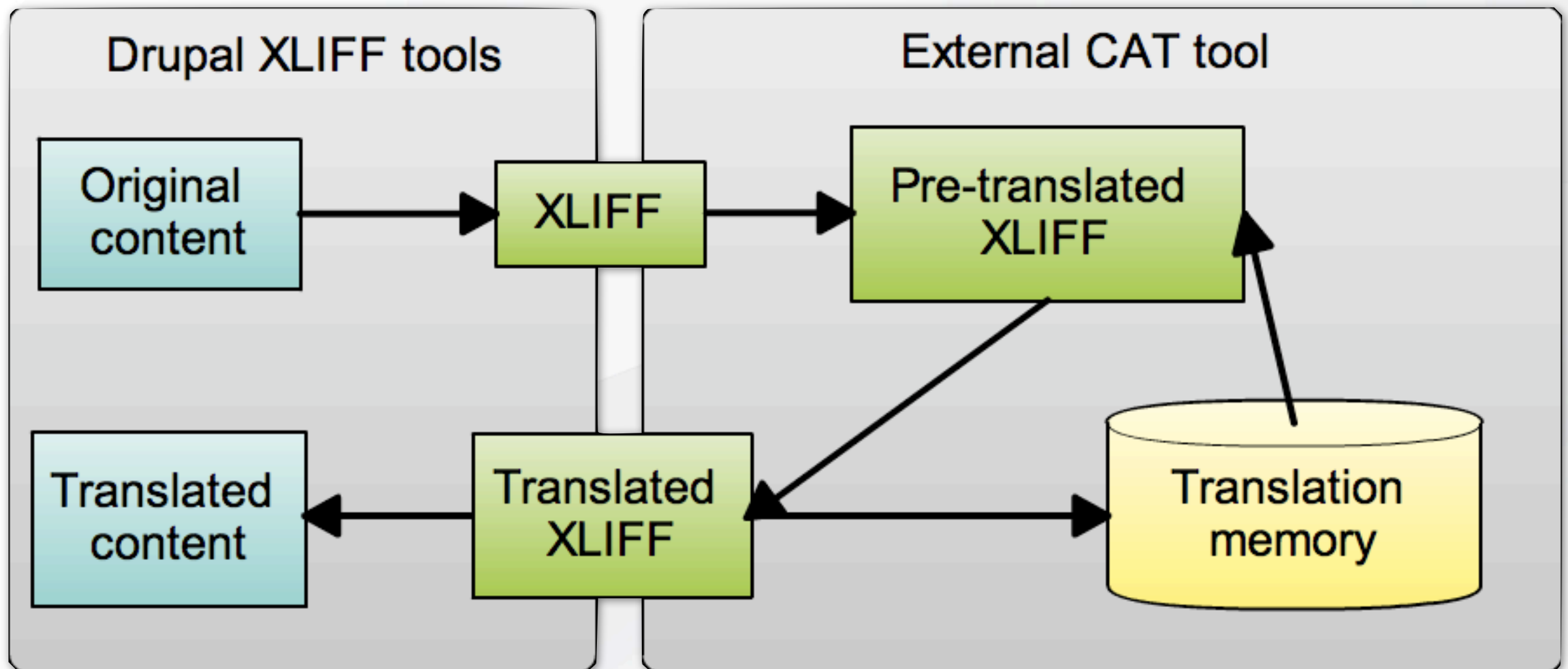
i18nstrings module

- 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



- 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 its 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