Logrus International
Corporation

Deployment of XTranslate Technology Cuts Localization Company's Costs of Printed Documentation Updates for Simultaneous Release in Several Languages

Region:
Worldwide

Technologies
- XTranslate
- TTX
- XML

Applications
- TRADOS XTranslate 6.0
- TRADOS TagEditor 6.0
- TRADOS S-Tagger for FrameMaker 6.0
- Adobe FrameMaker 6.0

Platforms
- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional
- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional

Logrus specialists have developed and introduced a technology that enables translation to be done automatically without native language speakers and considerably faster and more efficiently than normal update process using TM and regular matches. The Logrus solution overcomes common update problems such as the selection of one translation from several possibilities and the conversion of final documents to FrameMaker format during the update process. Specific numbers obtained in actual projects show that a documentation package up to half-a-million words in size, consisting of several dozen manuals and including up to 10 languages (with the four major Asian languages) can be updated within a single day by two engineers. And this is instead of the 20 person-days of editorial labor usually required to read through this volume of text. The technology uses the TRADOS XTranslate process.

Automating the Update Procedure

The localization company Logrus International (more information is available at www.logrus.ru), established worldwide supplier of software localization and internationalization services into various languages, is expanding the basic technologies used in the localization and translation industry in order to cut production costs and improve end-product quality. Here, "basic" technologies means translation memory technologies (translation databases), the best-known of which is the TM of the TRADOS computer-aided translation and localization project management system.

In the localization industry, the following business process is typical:

- The vendor receives a project to be translated for the first time, the so-called "first-time translation," and performs the translation, which is reviewed by experienced editors. Then the bilingual document receives approved status.

- The publisher releases a new version of the product and updates the corresponding documentation; often the update may be cosmetic; i.e., it contains a small number of new words (which is an important measure in calculating the volume of work).

- The vendor receives a new order (which is practically always extremely urgent) with an updated set of source files and the translation database generated by the first version.

New Process

Logrus has developed and introduced a process that enables translation to be done automatically without native language speakers and considerably faster and more efficiently than normal update process using TM and normal matches. Logrus process overcomes familiar update problems such as the selection of one translation from several possibilities and the conversion of final documents to FrameMaker format during the update.

If the vendor structures the rest of the process using computer-aided translation of the updated set of source files based on the TM, degradation in the quality of the translated material is guaranteed, as practice shows. Restoring the lost quality takes time and re-involvement of a translator-editor in the process, whose cost to the company is generally higher than that of the technical specialist who performs the update. This creates a paradoxical situation in which work performed repeatedly cannot be performed efficiently without additional labor cost, even when customer-accepted and approved resources are available.

Analysis performed by Logrus analysts has revealed the following bottlenecks in the business process:

Problem 1, translation
The translation database, for a variety of internal reasons such as multiple translations, does not permit automatic translation of an updated set of source files without subsequent editorial review.

Problem 2, multilingual
The update has to be assigned to translators from the corresponding language, i.e., technical work that could be concentrated in the hands of qualified engineering staff has to be outsourced along with the translation.

Problem 3, makeup
A characteristic feature of the business process of releasing printed documentation is the final phase of makeup in FrameMaker. Thus, all translated materials must be converted back, one way or another, to the model, i.e. to FM format.

Solution Based on TRADOS Technologies

Based on the results of the analysis, Logrus specialists faced the challenge of developing a procedure that would automatically insert previously approved translations into the new set of files, automatically convert documents to required formats, and automatically prepare materials for possible output in a universal format to outside contractors. Additionally, all of these phases had to be equally applicable for any language pair—any combination of source and target translation languages.

The TRADOS 6 LSP localization application package was selected as the basis for realization of the business process. The distinguishing features of the implementation were:
- use of the TRADOS XTranslate Wizard for automatic insertion of approved translations into the new file set;
- use of the TTX format, which is based on XML, as the basic format for storage of bilingual parallel texts;
- use of TRADOS S-Tagger for conversion to/from MIF FrameMaker tagged format.

Results of Deployment

Logrus has developed and introduced a process that enables translation to be done automatically without native language speakers and considerably faster and more efficiently than normal update process using TM and normal matches. Logrus process overcomes familiar update problems such as the selection of one translation from several possibilities and the conversion of final documents to FrameMaker format during the update. Specific numbers obtained in actual customer projects show that a documentation package up to half-a-million words in size, consisting of several dozen manuals and including up to 10 languages (with the four major Asian languages) can be updated within a single day by two engineers. And this is instead of the 20 person-days of editorial labor usually required to read through this volume of text.

About Logrus

Logrus International Corporation is a software localization and engineering company specializing in multilingual software and Web-site engineering and localization, as well as testing for Western-European, Eastern-European and double-byte languages. The company is proud of its unique problem-solving skills and minimal support requirements, and considers itself the leader in Localization Sanitation. All kinds of challenges, such as large-scale and complex projects, tricky tools, harsh technical requirements, etc. are most welcome.

With offices in Philadelphia and Moscow, Logrus provides a winning combination of transparent and convenient front-end for clients all over the world and top-notch, affordable services rendered by the experienced team in Moscow.

With an unmatched number of large multilingual projects under its belt and dedication, Logrus has established itself as the supplier of services for most of the large software publishers, including Microsoft, IBM (Lotus) and Oracle. The company has received the recognition award from IBM as the Lotus Software Supplier of the Year 2002 (Category: Outsourced Engineering).

Web: www.logrus.ru.

Conclusion

Using TRADOS technologies, Logrus has implemented a business process that automates the company's work flow in a critically important segment: multiple updates of printed documentation accompanying the release of new versions of customer products. The update procedure works equally well for Western languages and for double-byte languages, and it remains adaptable to new formats and technologies.

Through this deployment, Logrus has both improved the quality and speed of its services and enabled itself to offer Extended XTranslate as a new service on the localization market. We are continuing to develop this approach to the development and provision of efficient services to our customers and to the development of fully automated multilingual work flow through the inclusion of similar expansions in the near future.