



Managing Localizations: **What you should and shouldn't do**

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2010. 7. 4. | Tampere, Finland | Academy 2010



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Who

- Musa is using KDE; he wants to spread KDE to his friends, however it's all in English
- Gildong is using KDE in his mother tongue; some translations are missing
- Anne translated KDE for several years; now she want some other person to do her work



Translator: be energetic

- Familiar with KDE
- Understand KDE terms
- Aware differences between message and doc
- Fluent language skill
- Passion definitely required



Coordinator: pick a good person

- Passionate about translation
- Not one-time translator
 - KDE is evolving even in today
- Collaborate easily with others



Beginning

- KDE usage & background knowledge
- Lokalize, poEdit, vim, notepad, etc.
- kde-i18n-doc@kde.org
- `kdelibs4.po`, `kdebase`,
`desktop_kdelibs.po`, `desktop_l10n.po`
- SVN write access (optional)



One person could...

- ... complete almost 40% of KDE translation
 - (early 4.x trunk)
- ... collect translations by other parties
 - Done by each distribution
 - Localized Linux distribution
 - Floating work done by others



One person could not...

- ... complete 'every' part of translation
 - Documentation is hard work
 - String is changing even in today
- ... cope with emergencies
 - Cathedral vs Bazaar



Common style

- Locally administered style guide
 - Do not force one's idea
- Build team internal lexicon
 - Use KDE features to think about translations
- “Do not invent style”
 - Pick something widely accepted
 - Follow common style of the time

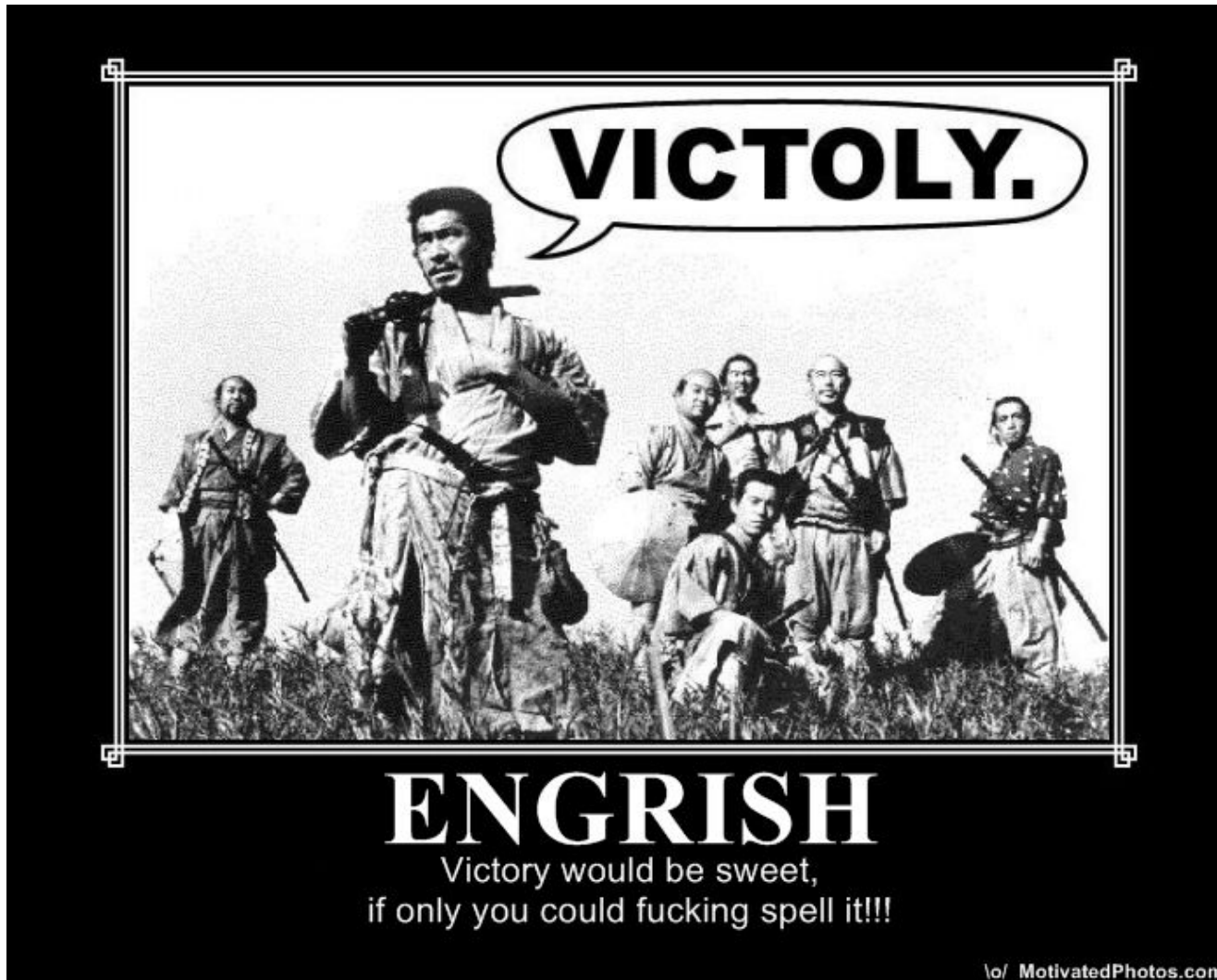


Disagreement

- Nobody can “understand” all the languages
- KDE team has no power and knowledge of “judging” what translation is better!
 - We should notice about it
- Internal resolving is hard
 - Try to solve problem inside the team
 - Redirect to unrelated person when possible



Quality vs. Quantity





Quality vs. Quantity

- Bad localization means bad reputation
- Translators should:
 - Fix partial translation as soon as possible
 - Filter out bad translations when reviewing
 - Actually test the translation whenever possible



When

- Notice by the list
- Different release cycles
 - KDE SC, Extragear, Playground
- Alpha/Beta → Message freeze → Release
- Deadline: some days before tagging



Stable or trunk?

- 6 months for new major release
 - Transition from KDE 3 to 4 was long
- Minor release live only 2~3 months
 - Not all release uploaded to distributions
- Lokalize's 2-way merging
- Stick to trunk: my policy



Where

- Wherever you want, with good connection
 - Your home
 - Work
 - Hack-a-thon
 - Somewhere else



What

- Base system
- Program messages
- Region-specific resources
- Documentation



Base system

- Language-specific characters
- Keyboard layouts
- Good-looking fonts
- Standardization



Bloody history of CJK

- Largest block in Unicode
- Don't fit in 8 bit
 - Regional encoding, replaced by UTF-8
- Customized input method
 - Keyboard layout hard/impossible
- Little number of good free font



Now?

- Not every language are used in computer
 - Complex scripts, special symbols
 - Keyboard layout and/or input method
 - Standardization from government
- Base system itself isn't part of KDE
- Well-structured base system helps KDE



Messages

- Most localization are done here
- Order
 - Essential should go first
 - Common strings shared by programs
 - Frequency of usage

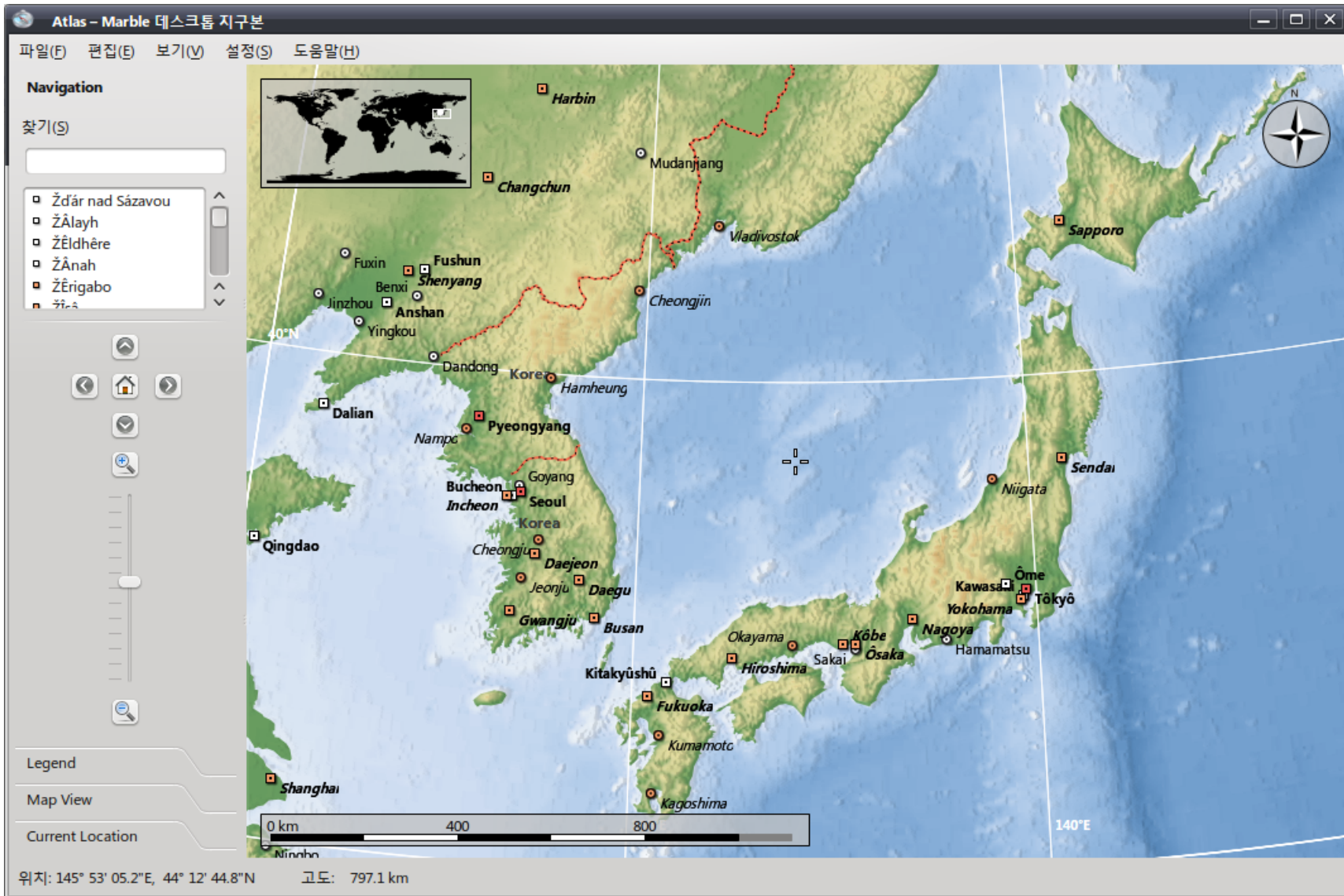


Region-specific resource

- Culture
 - Number/calendar system
 - Holidays
 - Graphics
- Statistics
- Maps



Aware certain area





Documentation

- RTFM
- Not many teams translated yet
- Different from messages
- Tends to update late



Why

- Attract users whose mother tongue isn't English
- Free software easily floats into the Internet
 - Assumptions for each language is bad
- Use your mother tongue in your desktop
- Think about yours



How

- Create a team
- Join to the team
- Translate the message
- Commit



Found a team

- Translate at least 4 base files
- Leave a message at the list
- Sometimes things go not well
 - Different person translate same thing
 - Try to contact each other



Join to the team

- Leave message to coordinator/mailing list
- For small team direct connection is preferred
- Mailing list is not always good
 - Amount of communication
 - Management of mailing list itself
 - Not suited for growing teams



Translate the message

- Prepare favorite PO editor
- Checkout branch for your language
- Read all your team's requirements
- Translate the message
- Test & Commit
 - Send po to your team coordinator
 - Directly commit into SVN



Launchpad

- Web-based translation system itself is great
- Policy is not so good
 - Licensing
 - Quality management
 - Back to upstream
- KDE strongly discourage this
 - Kubuntu specific string
 - Manual copy to upstream



Suggestion: KDE 110n renovation

- Team info: is it really useful?
 - Could be viewed as 'active'
 - Can communicate with local language
 - Easily outdated, external local team page
- Userbase, Techbase: catchy icons. Why not us?
 - Divide section for each group of users
 - Static rather than dynamic



Suggestion: KDE 10n renovation

- Translation HOWTO/Localization guide
 - Mixed targets
 - Maintaining two?
- Accessibility to information
 - Enough links to other page?
 - User survey could help



Thanks

- KDE e.V. for numerous support
- Albert Astals Cid for yielding me the opportunity
 - Also managing entire KDE localization
- Those who translated KDE into Korean
 - Also including other languages



Image courtesies

- <http://www.motivatedphotos.com/?id=984>
- Screen capture of Marble