wiki2xhtml Guidelines for translators

Workings

wiki2xhtml reads the translated texts from text files with the extension .po (PO stands for *Portable Object*). Later on, this files will be needed for generating Java classes, but that is not important for the translation.

The localized `.po` files are named after a special schema: First the language, then the country, if there are local differences. The German language file is therefore simply called `de.po`, the Swiss German `de_CH.po`.

The .po iles have to be refreshed or even initially generated before translation can begin. For that, all `.java` files—the source code files—are searched for text which has to be translated. All this text pieces are then put into the file `keys.pot`, which is a collection of all text pieces to be translated.

After this step, the localized `.po` files are synchronized with the file `keys.pot` and now are up-to-date. The translation may begin.

Work flow for wiki2xhtml

The source code of wiki2xhtml lies on a Subversion repository. Subversion (SVN) is a version management system where changes may be compared and, if necessary, be undone by switching to an older version. Also, multiple users can work on a project at the same time—just like on Wikipedia.

Before starting the translation, the newest version has to be checked out from the SVN repo. This by downloading the following directory with a SVN client:

https://wiki2xhtml.svn.sourceforge.net/svnroot/wiki2xhtml/trunk/wiki2xhtml-current/

The language files are located in the directory `wiki2xhtml-current/l10n/po`. Executing the script `wiki2xhtml/lang-update.sh` will update the files as described above, and now you can start translating.

After translation or at any other moment the language file can be uploaded. Only the translated language file should be uploaded as there can be trouble otherwise.[1]

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1 Example: en_US.po and `de_CH.po` are at revision 1460 (the revision number will be increased by one after each *commit;* all files transferred during this action receive this revision number). User sepp updates the local files to this revision and starts translating. Now a second user, bush, comes and does exactly the same. Short time later bush has changed en_US.po but als uploads de_CH.po. The revision number of this two files is now 1461. Now sepp wants to commit his changes at de_CH.po too. Now here is the problem:

And, before starting your next translation: Don't forget to update!

Requirements

For committing files to the Subversion repository, you need to have an account at http://sourceforge.net and be a project member of wiki2xhtml. Reading, however, is possible for everyone.

The script for updating the `.po` files is a bash script for Linux. If you cannot update the file by yourself, please ask one of the team members to do it [or install Linux :)]. The text which has to be translated won't change very fast, so that is no problem.

Software

Here a few programs which may be used for the translation if you don't have one yet on your PC.

To translate the `.po` files:

- http://kbabel.kde.org/ – KBabel
- http://www.poedit.net/ – Poedit

To access the SVN Repository:

- http://subversion.tigris.org/ – Subversion
- http://kdesvn.alwins-world.de/ – kdesvn

The repo file is at revision 1461, but sepp wants to upload a modified version of 1460 what the system does not allow.
The circumstancial solution in such a case is: sepp copies his translated file to a safe place (this copy is now called *backup*) and can overwrite the de_CH.po unscrupulously by the (untranslated) server version. Now he copies *backup* over the server version and can then upload his changes.