Internationalize Your Domino Applications
For Use Across Multiple Languages

In today's global business environment, many organizations have locations and people spanning different languages and cultures. This has created a demand for centralized applications that promote consistency and standardization while respecting regional and cultural differences.

Teamwork Solutions' Internationalization Toolset is a new technology platform that makes browser-deployed, Domino-based applications work across the globe by adapting interfaces to render in multiple languages and with regional-specific settings. Using our Internationalization Toolset, internationalizing Lotus Notes applications is not only possible, but simple.

Detecting users' browser language or regional settings, the Internationalization Toolset displays the appropriate language of the contents of all non-text fields. A translation hierarchy working behind the scenes provides the framework for context-specific words, phrases, or sentences to be defined as resources. This allows each application to be configured with translations that are specific to how the words are being used.

- Easy: Adding new languages and changing existing translations is a simple task in the hierarchy interface and doesn't require any programming.

- Compatible: Works with all A-class browsers including Firefox, Opera, Internet Explorer, Safari, and others.

- Fast: In keeping with our model of delivering immediate results with long-term benefits, our Internationalization Toolset technology is designed for rapid implementation while promoting industry best practices.

ProcessIt™
Software by Teamwork Solutions

IBM Business Partner

Internationalization vs. Translation

Translation software performs literal word-by-word translation. In applications, translating text (or RTF) fields requires real-time, on-the-fly translation services. While these services exist, there are not terribly accurate. In our last discussion with IBM about this, accuracy rates in the 85-90% range seem to be where translation services are hovering. That's probably good enough for casual usage but for business-critical applications it's not.

Internationalization is the means of adapting software to different languages and regional differences so that the non-editable, free-form text elements of the application and its content can be rendered in user-specific languages and settings. In the Internationalization Toolset, this includes numbers, dates, keywords, buttons, prompts, email messages, and much more.

So, internationalizing an application is not the same as translating the data in the application. For example, suppose you have a CRM application that has a Contacts view containing many Contact documents. An internationalized version of that application would show you column headers and action buttons that are specific to the language your browser is set to. Opening a Contact document in English and Spanish might look like this:

English		Spanish	
Name	John Smith	Nombre	John Smith
Address	123 Main St	Dirección	123 Main St
Birthday	May 7	Cumpleaño	Mayo 7
Comments	Likes football and race cars	Commentario	Likes football and race cars

Notice that all the tags have been translated, as has the date, but the contents of the fields have not. That's what the Internationalization Toolset does.

Best of all, its functionality is transparent to users.