

Translation HOWTO

Translation is done using in so-called *PO files*. *PO files* (shortly POs, extension * .po) are raw text files in Unicode format. One file contains translation of some part of the system from English to destination language.

To create a translation, fill-in translations into PO files. This can be done using *Notepad* (any other raw text editor you like would be sufficient). Or one can use specialized tool like *Virtaal* which simplifies translating by suggesting translation, taking care of file's proper format and much more. *Virtaal* can be used without any installation.

This document describes, how to translate PO file directly using *Notepad*. If you are interested in more comfortable way, look at *Virtaal HOWTO* document.

Translation Using Notepad

Open a PO file in Notepad. Structure of the file is straightforward. At the beginning you see header describing purpose of the file. Header ends with an empty line.

Following text is divided by empty lines into items. Each item forms one translation record and can contain up to three types of lines – a comment, original text and translated text.

```
#. AreaStatusDetailForm..btnCancel..Caption
#. Programmer's name for it: resCancel
#: AreaStatusDetail.dfm:28 LangString.pas:27
msgid "Cancel"
msgstr "Storno"
```

A *comment* line starts with hash symbol (#) and describes context of the item, e.g. where translated item is used, what is supposed to be translated and how etc. There can be none or more comment lines for one item. These lines are for your information, leave them as they are.

Original text line starts with *msgid* text, followed by original text in quotes. The text between quotes is what should be translated. **Do not edit this text!** If you find mistake in original text, write incorrect and corrected text into another file and send them to the author with your translations.

Translated text line starts with *msgstr* text, followed by empty quotes or by quoted text. If there is no text between quotes, there is no translation. Write your translation of original text between quotes. If translation between quotes exists, skip this item and continue with the next item.

To translate the file, go through items one by one and fill or update item's *translated text* lines (lines starting by *msgstr*). Remember to preserve special symbols and sequences from the original text (see bellow).

Sending Back Your Translation

When you are done, save the file and send it back to the author.

Special Symbols and Sequences

Original text can contain special text sequences that must be preserved in translated texts in the same order and format. These are:

- symbol % followed by a one of the chars *f, d, n, p, s, x*; there can be dot (.), number or colon (:) between starting percentage symbol and ending char; space in the sequence is not allowed
- if quote symbol (") is present in the text, it must be escaped by backslash symbol (\)
- backslash symbol (\) followed by one of the chars *t* (tabulator), *r* (carriage return), *n* (new line)