

Human language
support from
Drupal 5 to Drupal 6

Gábor Hojtsy
August 26., 2007.

About me

- Working with Open Source since 1999, was head of PHP.net and the PHP documentation
- Developing with Drupal since 2003, multiple contributed modules, Hungarian translations
- Drupal 6 core committer

Experience

- Was instrumental in building the PHP documentation translation system
- Has experience in translating documentation, books, articles
- Wrote my MsC thesis about multilanguage support in Open Source Content Management Systems

About you

- Who is experienced with Drupal?
- With multilingual issues?
- With both?

Concepts

Your target audience

- A **multilingual web site** is available in multiple languages. It is not necessarily an international one.
- An **international web site** is intended to be used internationally. It is not necessarily a multilingual one.



Two terms

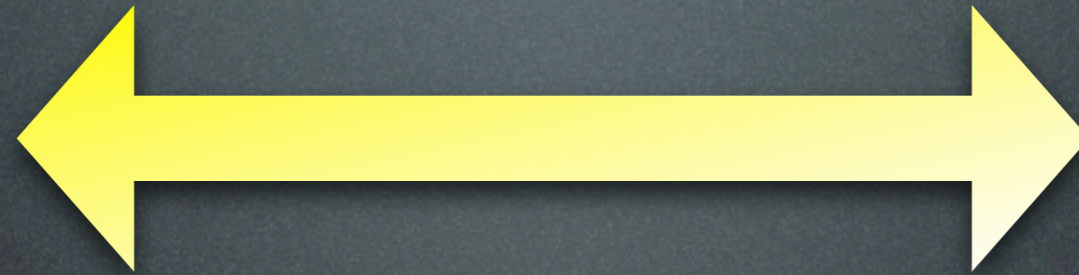
Internationalization (i18n) is the design and development of a product, application or document content that enables easy localization for target groups that vary in culture, region or language (locale).

Two terms

Localization (L10n) is the adaptation of a product, application or document content to meet the language, cultural and other requirements of a specific target market (locale).

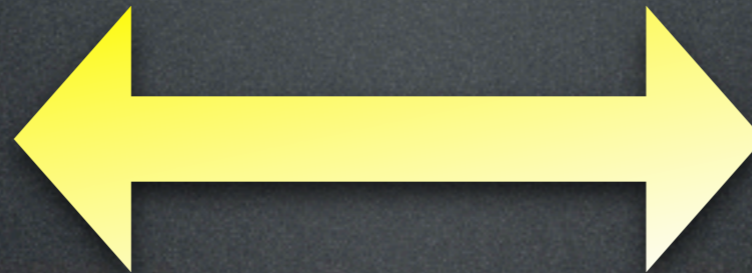
Confusions

i18n



L10n

multilingual

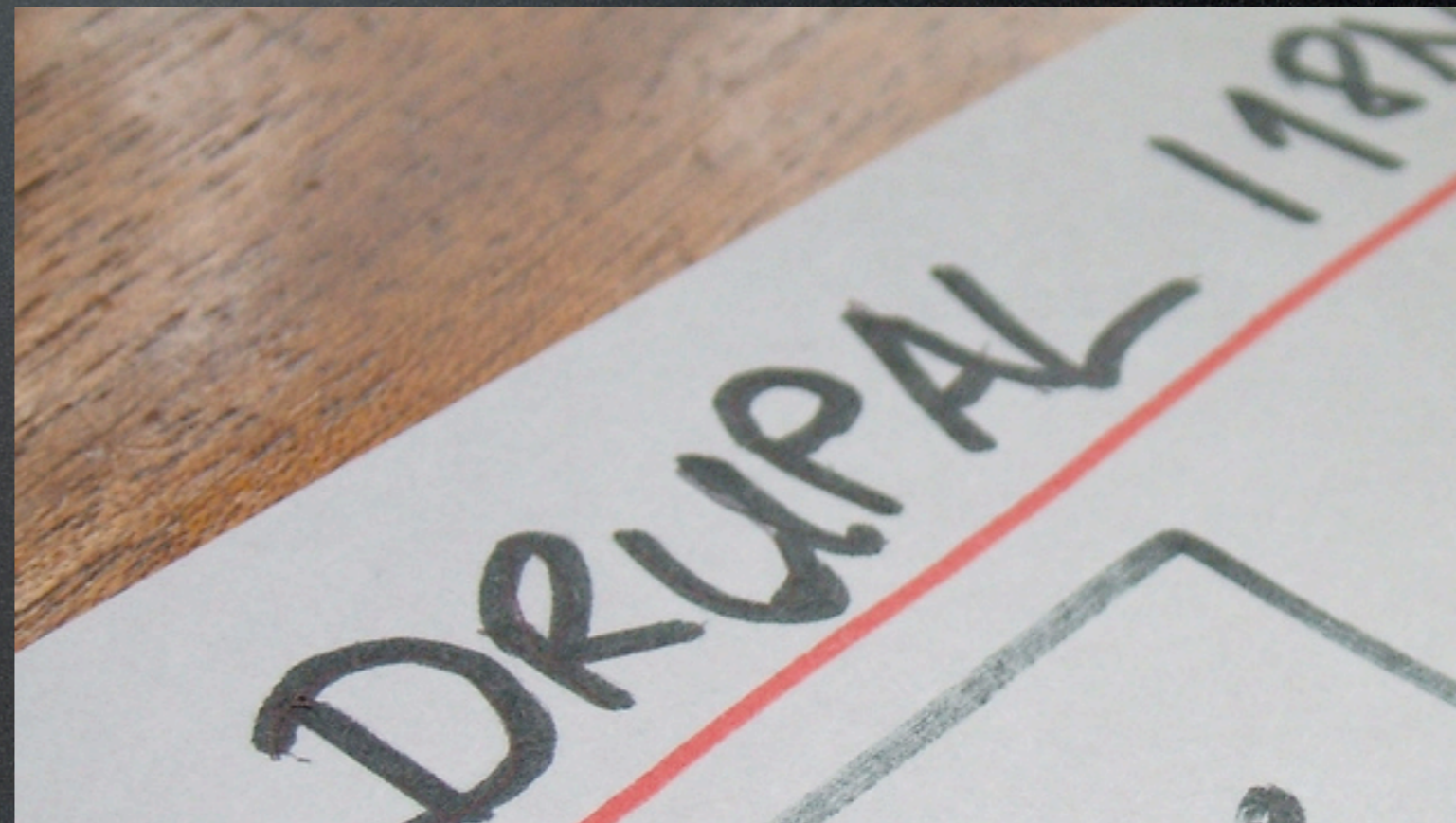


international

Drupal

Drupal “by design”

- There is the **built in interface**, which is always served from code
- **You** provide everything else (posts, menu items, admin defined blocks, and so on)



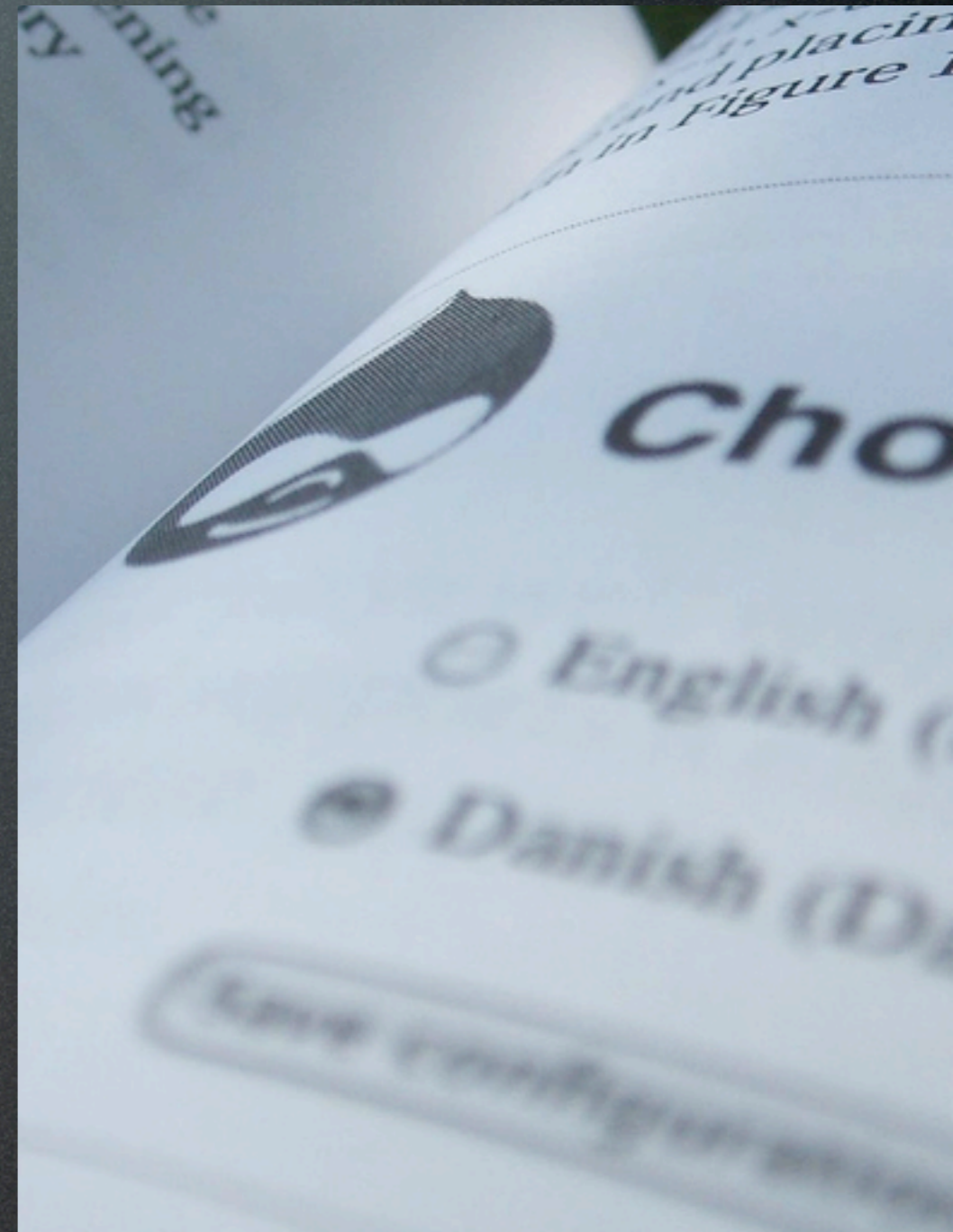
Famous issues

- ◎ Default content type names are not translated
- ◎ Built-in, but modified menu items are neither
- ◎ The “Forums” vocabulary title is not translated

Drupal 5

Built into Drupal 5

- Translatable installer
- Basic interface language list setup
- Runtime interface translation with per user preferences



How does it work?

- GNU gettext backend and format used
- Translation templates extracted from source code
- CVS used to store/release translations
- User imports translation files in Drupal (which stores them in the DB)

Recognize the source

- **t**('Go to %page', array('%page' => \$p));
- **format_plural**(\$count, '1 year', '@count years');
- Several special cases: permissions, watchdog type names, and so on

Contributed modules

- Autolocale / localized profile
- Internationalization module suite
- Localizer module suite
- XLIFF tools

Greener grass?



Joomla!

- Built-in interface translation, based on PHP constants
- JoomFish addon to translate content objects (with a very basic interface)
- Works on the database column level
- Version 1.5 to bring new features, not released yet

TYP03

- Interface translated using the custom locallang-XML format
- Multilanguage content method: different trees for different languages
- Multilanguage content integration: on the content object level
- Localization manager: MS Excel in/out

Plone

- Interface translation with GNU gettext files
- LinguaPlone: translation content objects related
- XLIFF import and export support

Drupal 6

Drupal 6 goes forward!

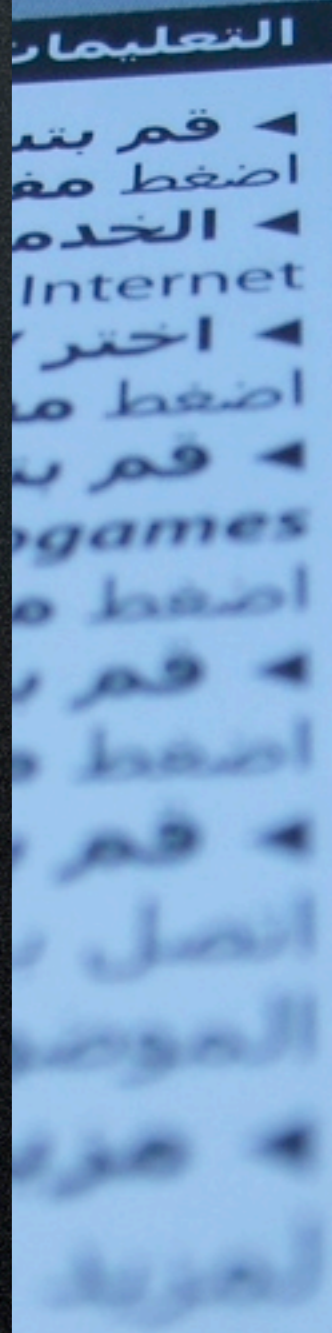
- New language subsystem
- Easy interface translation import
- Performance optimizations
- Content translation
- Textgroups API

Languages!

- English and native language names
- Writing direction (LTR or RTL)
- Weights
- Path prefix and subdomain setup and recognition

Right to left themes

- All CSS file additions are intercepted and RTL cascade files are searched for
- Some core themes already have RTL support, full support expected in final release



Language detection

- Based on the IRI (domain, path)
- User preferences
- Browser settings
- Falls back on site default

Automated import

- Friendlier translation package format
- Batch API for tasks to run in multiple HTTP requests
- Install time import of interface translations
- Module/theme changes result in translation imports

Translatable JavaScript

- **Drupal.t()** and **Drupal.formatPlural()** to translate strings in JavaScript
- Works with on the fly string collection or preprocessing
- Also brings simple theming to JavaScript

Text groups API

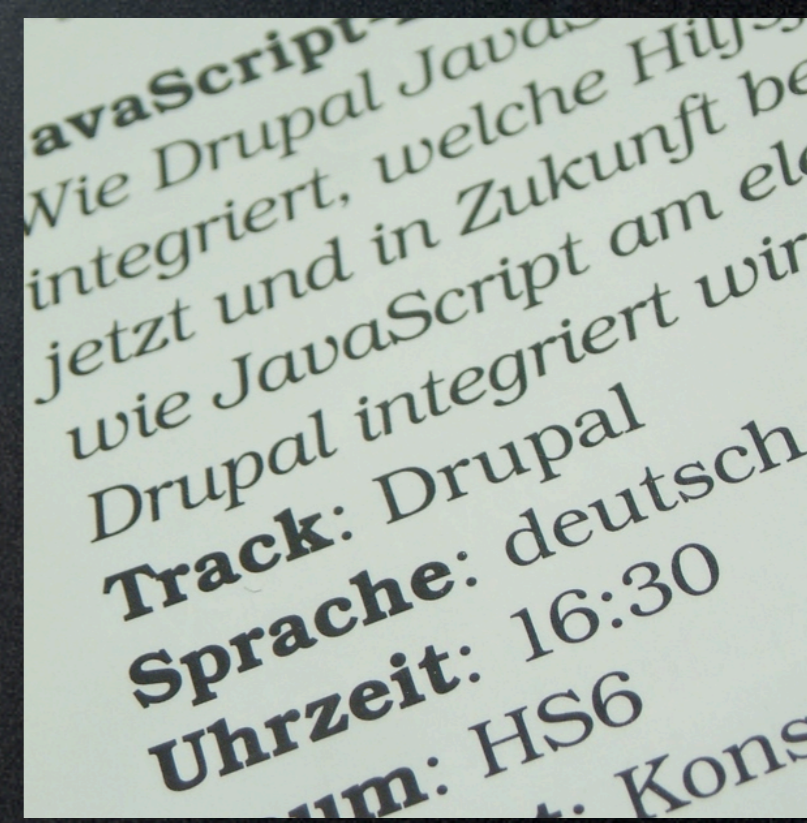
- Multiple text groups possible to translate user defined content
- This remains a programming API for Drupal 6, not used in the core system

On-page interface translation

- Ability to collect all strings used to build the page
- Try **localization client** module for Drupal 6!
- Also useful for by-site optimization

Content language

- Any post can have a language associated, or can be neutral
- This is configurable per content type
- Does not mean content translation



JavaScript
Wie Drupal Java
integriert, welche Hil
jetzt und in Zukunft be
wie JavaScript am el
Drupal integriert wir
Track: Drupal
Sprache: deutsch
Uhrzeit: 16:30
um: HS6
Kons

Content translation

- Posts can be associated with each other, organized into translation sets
- Basic workflow supported to check for outdated translations
- Translation links, language switcher block
- Simple API for content/field types

Per-language aliases

- Path aliases can be language dependent
- Still fall back to default alias, if no specific alias defined
- Examples: 'home', 'honlap', 'inicio'

Lower level changes

- Multilingual request handling made possible
- Emails are sent in the language of the user targeted (API also changed a lot)
- Log messages are stored in English, localized on display



More for hard-core people

- Modify some site interface strings by adding an array to settings.php
- No need for locale module, could be used to customize English sites

Still no way to translate

- Site settings
- Categories
- User defined menus
- Aggregator categories
- Profile field titles and category names
- Content type properties



You still need contributed modules

- Watch whether/how i18n and localizer get updated
- Many contributed modules can/should use these enhancements

But...

There is a lot more to
love in Drupal 6

(although there is no time now to explain)

More to come

Localization server

- Making interface translation for language groups a lot easier
- We are moving from CVS and project management to a web application
- Translation sharing, support for the new packaging format

Try Drupal 6!

- Nightly development snapshot:
<http://drupal.org/node/97368>
- Report bugs at http://drupal.org/node/add/project_issue/drupal/bug
- We hope to release a beta version soon

Read the thesis

- <http://hojtsy.hu/files/GaborHojtsyThesis.pdf>
- A summary of i18n related problems
- How Drupal 5, Joomla 1.0, TYPO3 4.1 and Plone approach these problems
- Planning of the Drupal 6 solutions
- Not everything ended up implemented as documented there

Sponsored by

- Development Seed (infrastructure, Jose A. Reyero)
- Google Summer of Code (localization tools for Drupal 6)

Thanks!

All photos included made by myself in
Hungary, Bonn and Sankt Augustin.