

# Three Degrees of Freedom



**OR**  
**THE BENEFITS OF A UNIVERSAL FORMAT FOR**  
**TRANSLATION PACKAGES**

FIT 2011 Session TT-9 Former Title:



# **Integrating Translation Tools**

**Presenter**

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**Chair of the FIT Translation  
Technology Committee**



# What's in a translation project?

- Source text
- Specifications
  - Instructions
  - Resources
  - Agreements
- Deliverables
  - The translation and anything else you deliver when done

# Projects and Tools

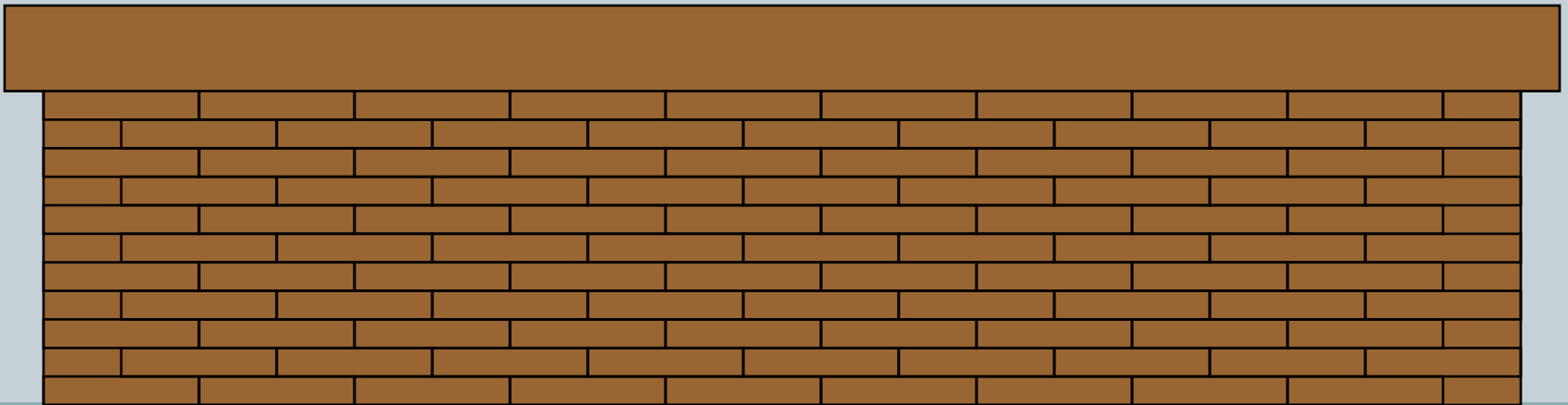


- Sometimes you, as the translator, are required to use a specific tool, such as Trados Studio 2009
- Sometimes this is necessary; sometimes flexibility would be preferable
- Note: translation tools are also called TEnTs (translation environment tools) or CAT (Computer-Assisted Translation) tools

# Claim



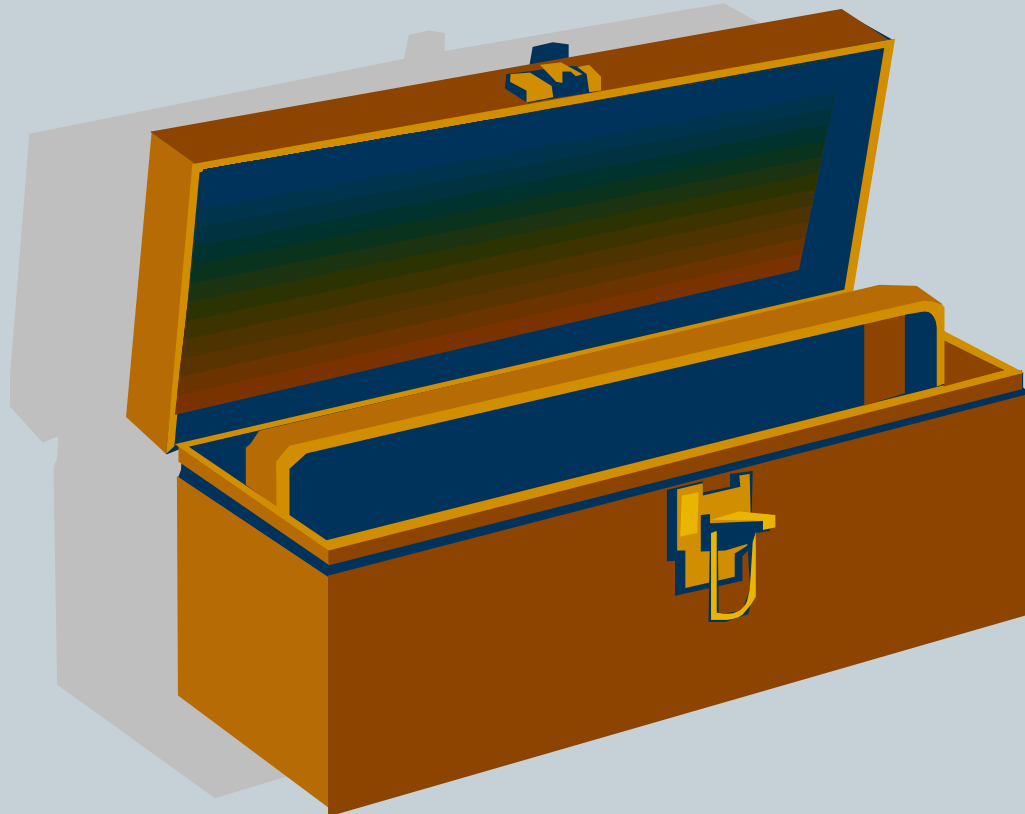
- All the elements of a translation project should be delivered to the translator in a digital package that is tool-vendor neutral
- *Analogy*: an e-mail can be sent and received by any e-mail software on any computer



You



What tools do you use?



# Problem



Current translation packages  
use proprietary formats

Solution



**Linport**



# What **is** a Linport project file?



- A zip file that:
  1. Can be opened on any computer
  2. Allows content links to be viewed using a browser
  3. May be processed by tools that adopt the Linport template
- Source text is in the zip file
- Translation specifications are in the zip file
  - See ISO Technical Specification 11669 (in ballot)
  - Optional: XLIFF, SRX, TMX, TBX
- Other useful information is there, too
- A slot for the target text is provided, so everything about the project stays together

# Who's behind the Linport project?



- Container project and MED project (merged)
- GALA (GALA Standards Initiative)
- Directorate-General for Translation (European Commission) ([disclaimer](#))
- FIT (Translation Technology Committee)
- BYU-TRG (Translation Research Group)
- LTAC Global (a non-profit consortium)
- Maybe: Interoperability Now! (in discussions)

# What is the future of Linport?



**Blueprint**  
(LTAC)

**Industry  
Standard**  
(Oasis + ETSI)

**ISO  
Standard**  
(via TC 37)

# Announcement



- **First Linport Symposium**
  - Tuesday, September 27, 2011
  - European Commission
  - Luxembourg

# Potential Benefits of the Linport format



- **First degree of freedom:**
  - Those requesting translation services are free to select from a larger pool of translators, with a focus on skills and knowledge rather than which tool the translators uses
- **Second degree of freedom:**
  - Translation service providers (project managers and translators) are free to choose tool or tools for project
- **Third degree of freedom:**
  - Tool providers are free compete on a level playing field

# Contact Information



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