

Three Degrees of Freedom



OR

**BENEFITS OF THE BTS
PROFILE OF LINPORT**

Linport project



Presenter
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**Chair of the Translation Technology
Committee of FIT (the international
federation of translators)**

**ATA-certified French-to-English
translator**

Who's behind the Linport project?



- Container project and MED project (merged)
- GALA (GALA Standards Initiative)
- Directorate-General for Translation (European Commission) ("institutional collaboration of a technical nature" with the proviso that "these technical opinions do not necessarily represent the opinion of the European Commission")
- FIT (Translation Technology Committee)
- BYU-TRG (Translation Research Group)
- LTAC Global (a non-profit consortium)
- Maybe: Interoperability Now! (in discussions)

Linport

Language Interoperability Portfolio



**DURING LINPORT PROJECT
DISCUSSIONS, EVERYONE
SPEAKS AS AN INDIVIDUAL**



What's in a translation project?

- Source text
- Specifications (translation request)
 - Instructions to the translator
 - Resources for the translator
 - See www.ttt.org/specs for more
- Deliverables
 - The translation and anything else to be delivered at the end of the project

Projects and Tools



- Should the translator be required to use a specific tool, such as Trados Studio 2009?
- Sometimes this is necessary; sometimes flexibility is possible (i.e. allowing a choice of tools for a given project)
- Even if a particular tool must be used, can the project elements be independent of the that tool?

Claim



- All the elements of a translation project should be available in a way that that is tool-vendor neutral
- *Analogies:*
 - An e-mail can be sent and received by any e-mail software on any computer
 - Many products can be transported via ship, airplane, or truck in ISO 668 **containers**

A translation project container



What should it look like?



The Linport answer



Instead of:

a container (physical box)

a **portfolio** (digital package)

One file or

A collection of Web addresses (URLs)

Problem



Current translation packages
use tool-specific formats that
are not interoperable

Solution: BTS



BTS

Bilingual

Translation-project with

Specifications

What is BTS?



- A **profile** (i.e. subset) of the full Linport data model

What is in a BTS instance?



- Portfolio information
 - An identifier and version
- Source text
- Translation (target text) when completed
- Project Specifications (i.e. detailed request)
- Reference material

Are there similar formats to BTS?



- Yes
 - TIPP format from Interoperability Now!
- Interoperability Now! (IN!) is also working on improving XLIFF
 - This is outside the scope of Linport
- Important
 - Avoid competition between Linport and IN!

Technical Information about BTS



- A design document for BTS (“blueprint”)
- Sample BTS instance in Xdossier style
 - Using key-value pairs in plain text
- Sample BTS instance in XML style
- BTS instance builder (Web-based software)
- Comparison with a TIPP instance

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

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 1



- **Structural styles**
 - What structural styles should be used to implement BTS? (e.g. XML vs. key-value pairs in plain text?)
 - ✦ This is not determined by the BTS data model

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 2



- Is the BTS data model
 - Too simple
 - Too complex
 - Just right

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 3



- Which elements of a BTS should be
 - Optional
 - Required

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 4



- **Should a BTS instance be**
 - Machine processable (automatically) by tools?
 - Intelligible to a human using only a browser?
 - Both?

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 5



- **How should BTS relate to TIPPP?**
 - Should they be separate formats
 - ✦ (tool vendors asked to implement both)
 - Should they merge into one format?

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 6



- **How should BTS relate to Content Management Systems?**
 - Should there be many converters, each specific to one CMS?
 - Should there be one converter, to and from CMIS (OASIS)?

Unresolved Questions about BTS: 7



- Under what license should the BTS documents and software be made available to the public?
 - **EUPL?** (<http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/7774.html>)
 - **Eclipse?** (<http://www.eclipse.org/legal/eplfaq.php>)
 - **Creative Commons** (CCo; Attribution)?

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What is the future of Linport (including BTS)?



Blueprint
(LTAC)

**Industry
Standard**
(Oasis + ETSI)

**ISO
Standard**
(via TC 37)

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