

Hallo.

Я очень рад быть здесь.

کیا آپ نے ہر صفحے کے اوپر دیا گیا —

”تزمیم“ — کا بیٹن دیکھا؟

How to internationalize your code for Wikimedia and beyond

Amir E. Aharoni
Bangalore DevCamp
November 2012

The MediaWiki internationalization guide:

<https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/L10n>

(frequently updated!)

Terminology

i18n

internationalization

Not internationalized:

```
echo 'Please enter the sum:';
```


Internationalized:

MyExtension.i18n.php:

```
$messages['en'] = array(
    'sum' => 'Enter the sum:',
);
$messages['ru'] = array(
    'sum' => 'Введите сумму:',
);
```

MyExtension.php:

```
echo wfMessage( 'sum' );
```

```
// (the software knows the user's language)
```

The translations in i18n files can be edited by hand, but in practice it is done through <https://translatewiki.net>

L10n

localization

Translated, but not localized:

MyExtension.i18n.php:

```
$messages['en'] = array(
    'date' => 'Purchase date: $1',
);
$messages['ja'] = array(
    'date' => '日付を購入 : $1',
);
```

MyExtension.php:

```
$date = "$month/$day/$year";
echo wfMessage( 'date', $date );
// en: Purchase date: 11/10/2012
// ja: 日付を購入 : 11/10/2012
```

Localized:

MyExtension.i18n.php:

```
$messages['en'] = array(
    'date' => 'Purchase date: $1',
);
$messages['ja'] = array(
    'date' => '日付を購入: $1',
);
```

MyExtension.php:

```
$date = dateFormat( $day, $month, $year );
echo wfMessage( 'date', $date );
// en: Purchase date: 11/10/2012
// ja: 日付を購入: 2012-11-10
```

m17n

multilingualization**n**

Not multilingualized:

article.css

```
body {  
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica;  
}
```

article.html

```
<p>Bangalore (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) is a city in  
Karnataka.</p>
```

Possible result:

Bangalore (□□□□□□□□) is a city in Karnataka.

Multilingualized (partly):

article.css:

```
:lang(en) {  
    font-family: Arial, Helvetica;  
}  
:lang(kn) {  
    font-family: Lohit Kannada;  
}
```

article.html:

```
<p lang="en" dir="ltr">Bangalore (<span  
lang="kn" dir="ltr">ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು</span>) is a  
city in Karnataka.</p>
```

Result:

Bangalore (ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು) is a city in Karnataka.

Motivation

Do it now.

It doesn't just help
speakers of other
languages – it helps
uncover bugs early

It gives the translators
time to translate
and to report bugs

*(translators always find bugs,
and you want to hear them)*

Give yourself time
to fix issues

Never say
“It's only for English”

Messages syntax

\$1, \$2, \$3

parameters,
a.k.a. placeholders

{ {PLURAL} }

English, 2 forms:

{ {PLURAL:\$1|hour|hours} }

Russian, 3 forms:

{ {PLURAL:\$1|час|часа|часов} }

{{GENDER}}

\$1 edited {{GENDER:\$1|his|her}}
profile page

{{GRAMMAR}}

English: About {{SITENAME}}.

Gives: About Wikipedia.

Polish?: 0 {{SITENAME}}.

Gives: 0 Wikipedia. :(

Polish!: 0 {{GRAMMAR:MS|{{SITENAME}}}}.

Gives: 0 Wikipedii. :)

If it's hard to translate
something to your
language, it may be
possible to solve it by
programming
a GRAMMAR rule.

Cool!

Can I use it for my program?

PHP:
Only MediaWiki

JavaScript:
Anywhere!

jquery.i18n

A generic library that adds
i18n capabilities to any
website with jQuery

<https://github.com/wikimedia/jquery.i18n>

jquery.i18n usage, part 1

myApp.en.json:

```
{  
  "filecount": "$1 {{PLURAL:$1|File|Files}}"  
}
```

myApp.kn.json:

```
{  
  "filecount": "$1 {{PLURAL:$1|ಫೈಲಿನ|ಫೈಲುಗಳ}}"  
}
```

jquery.i18n usage, part 2

myApp.html:

```
<script src="jquery.js"></script>
<script src="jquery.i18n.js"></script>
...
<span data-i18n="filecount" id="filecount"></span>
```

myApp.js:

```
$( document ).i18n();
...
$( '#filecount' )
    .text( $.i18n( 'filecount', files.length ) );
```

Writing messages in your features and extensions

NO LEGO

Do not concatenate
messages to create
sentences!

Bad:

MyExtension.i18n.php:

```
...  
'deleted' => 'The page was deleted by',  
'on' => 'on',  
...
```

MyExtension.php:

```
$pageDeleted = wfMessage( 'page-deleted' );  
$on = wfMessage( 'on' );  
$logMsg = "$pageDeleted $user $on $date.";
```


Good:

MyExtension.i18n.php:

```
...  
'deleted' => 'The page was deleted by $1 on $2.',  
...
```

MyExtension.php:

```
$logMsg = wfMessage( 'page-deleted', $user, $date );
```

Don't assume the size of
anything, like table
headers, input boxes etc.

Avoid "right"/"left".
Write relatively to other
elements.

Avoid jargon, like
“comps”, “nav”, “CTA”,
“conversion rate” etc.

If you really need it,
you must document it.

Message documentation

qqq

In MediaWiki, it's a pseudo-language code
for storing documentation

Always write qqq
documentation.

(or some other documentation, if it's a different project)

Having a glossary is
awesome.

Good examples:
Wikibase (Wikidata),
FlaggedRevisions

It's safe to assume that
MediaWiki documentation
will mostly be read at
translatewiki.net, so:

Screenshots are great!
Put them on Commons

Use the template
{ {msg-mw|*MESSAGE*} }
to link to other templates

What is this message?

Table header? Tooltip?

Form label? Button?

Something else?

Part of speech!

“Open”

The file is *open*.

Open the file.

You don't have a permission to *open*
this page.

Adjectives!

Please say what they describe: "green" can be masculine or feminine

Verbs!

Please say whether it's
imperative (“*do it!*”),
infinitive (“*to do it*”) or
something else

The Message class

Special pages, API, pagers
\$this->msg()

Elsewhere:
wfMessage()

(There are some other functions, like `wfMsg()`, but they are mostly deprecated.)

plain()

No parsing at all, only
parameters expansion.

Leaves `[[links]]`,
`{{templates}}`,
`{{GENDER}}` etc. as is.

text()

Transforms magic words
in {} – {GENDER},
{PLURAL},
{GRAMMAR}

`escaped()`

Same as `text()`,
but with
`htmlspecialchars`.

parse()

Parse all wikitext to
HTML

`parseAsBlock()`

Same as `parse()` and
wrapped in `<p></p>`

Every method returns a
Message object, so you
can chain them:

```
wfMessage( 'myext-deleted-file' )  
  ->params( $filename )  
  ->rawParams( $link )  
  ->inContentLanguage()  
  ->parse();
```

More Message objects,
less strings

Logging

New logging system

Gender

Flexible word order

Flexible parameters

Many logs yet to be converted (the hardest part is to understand all the legacy parameter formats)

Help!

Bug 38638

Interface messages needing rewording or documentation and other issues with existing messages.

It has links to many easy bugs.

[[Support]] at
translatewiki.net

Recent feature:

Support requests for YOU are tracked at YOUR USER PAGE at translatewiki.net

When committing code
that has any i18n changes,
invite i18n to review:
Nikerabbit, Siebrand,
Amir, Santhosh

ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು?

(Questions?)

!תודה

(Thank you!)