A Tale of Language Support

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Wikimedia and MediaWiki

- MediaWiki is the software Wikipedias and sister projects run on

- 800 wikis

- 285 languages

- 23,000,000 content pages

- 500,000,000 readers

- 18,000,000,000 page views

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

[ ] Powered By MediaWiki

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What is language support about

Removing language related barriers

- Internationalisation - Allow localisation

- Localisation - Deliver a native language user experience

- Input - How can content be contributed in MediaWiki

- Output - How do users see content

- Translation - Facilitate making content available in multiple languages

Everyone is involved

- Reader: Report issues

- Translator: Content translation

- Translator: Localisation

- Language team: Describe language properties

- Developer: Use i18n best practices

- i18n developer: Provide i18n frameworks

Translation
Translating documentation and messaging

- Page translation enabled on Meta, mediawiki.org, incubator, …

- Structured multi-user translation

- Review feature

- Workflow states

Message group		Messages	Untranslated	Completion	Outdated	Status
_High priority requests	[expand]	8	0	100%	0%	(unset)
Fundraising 2012	[expand]	103	0	100%	0%	(unset)
Funds Dissemination Committee/Framework for the Creation and Initial Operation of the FDC/Summary		14	14	0%	0%	(unset)
Funds Dissemination Committee/Update on the Funds Dissemination Design Process		9	9	0%	0%	In progress
Global Development/Arabic Language Initiative strategic plan		33	33	0%	0%	(unset)
Grants:Index		82	0	100%	0%	Proofreading
IPv6 initiative/2012 IPv6 Day announcement		15	0	100%	0%	(unset)
Language committee		29	15	48%	0%	(unset)
Mobile Projects/Mobile Gateway/Mobile homepage formatting		30	30	0%	0%	(unset)

Screenshot of [[Special:LanguageStats/nl]] at Meta-Wiki

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Localisation
Translating a product for use in a language

- Translate software in as many languages as possible

- Quality assurance: Review changes

  - Style, patchwork messages, <the things developers do>...

  - Support gender and plural forms

  - Namespace names, magic words, special page URLs

  - Date and time notation, and more

Logo translatewiki.net / © 2008 Danny B.

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Internationalisation
Make software ready for use in multiple languages

- Translatable messages

- Plural forms

- Gender

- Namespaces, magic words, URL of special pages

- Prefix and suffix for grammatical cases, number conversion, toolbar buttons, script conversion

- Many languages look a lot like English. In India that's very far from the truth

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Input
Not every language and user are the same

- No or developing Unicode standards

- No keyboards

- Not always using the same computer

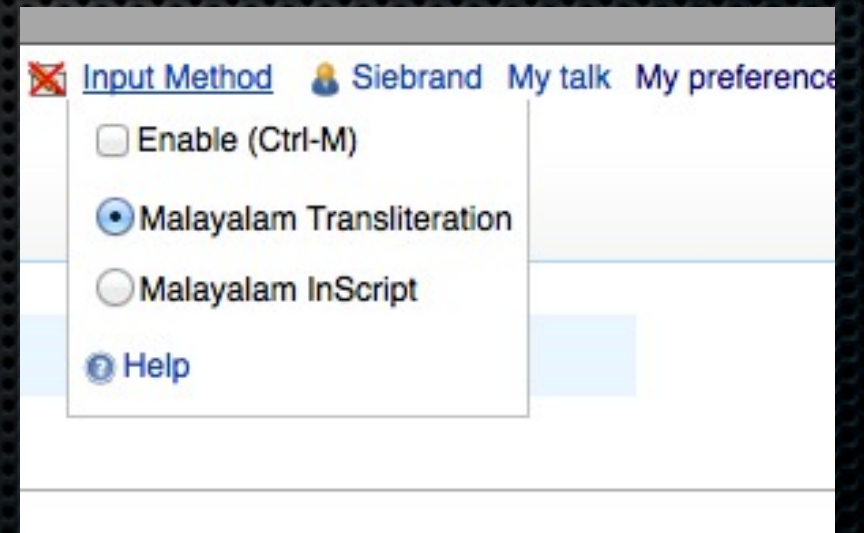Tibetan keyboard / MIT license / [[en:User:EdC]]

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Input
[[mw:Extension:Narayam]]
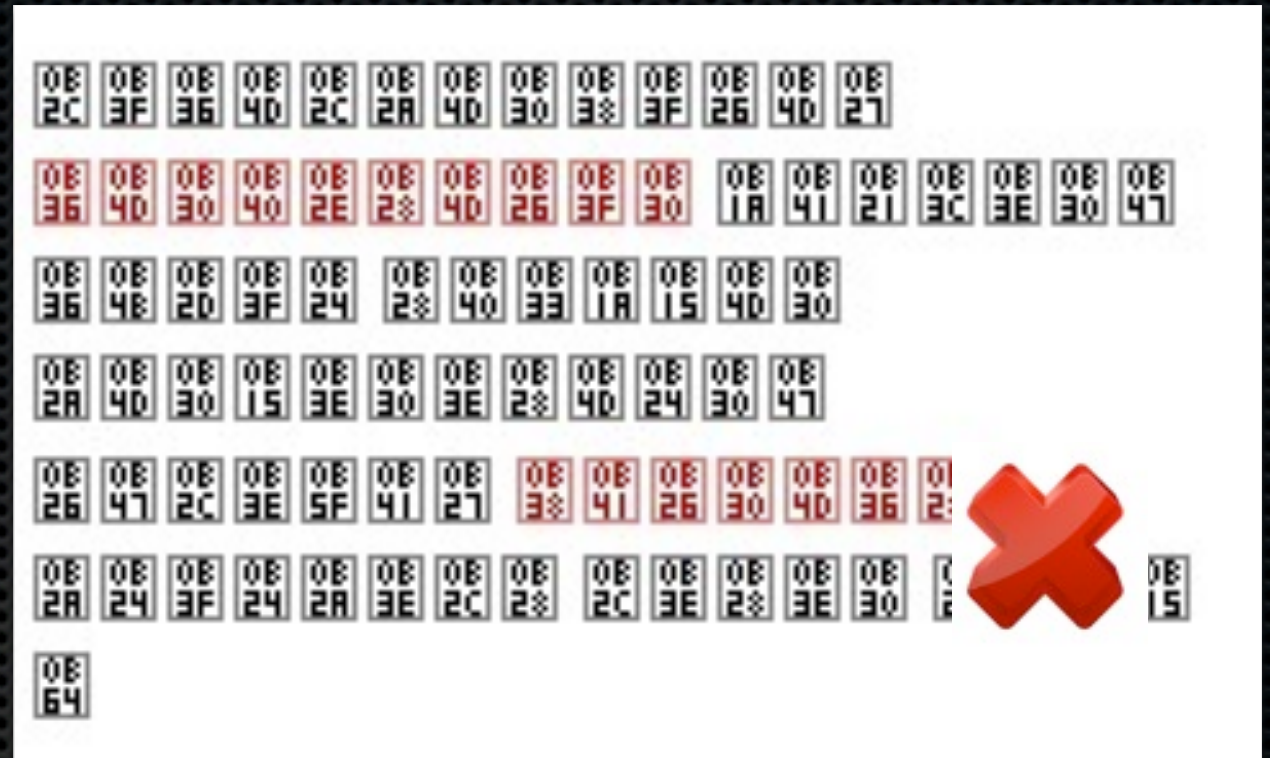
* Choose your keyboard layout in MediaWiki

* Future: on-screen keyboard for even better accessibility

Output
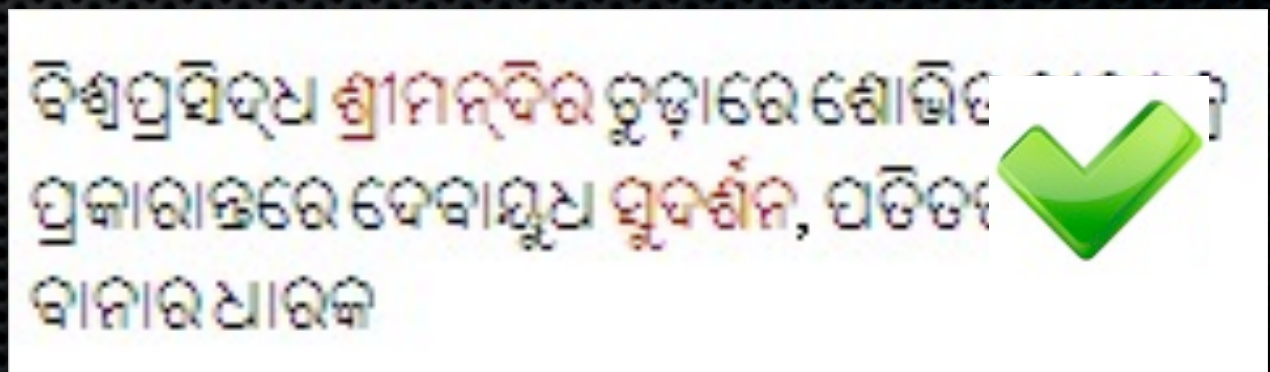## Fonts are key

Text in Odiya script
without a font installed

- [[mw:Extension:WebFonts]]

- Embed fonts

  - The website supplies fonts

Text in Odiya script
with WebFonts installed

Future developments
Adapt and improve

* Universal Language Selector

  * Ease of use

  * Accept language

  * Persistence

Select a language
< Back to display settings

Worldwide   North America   Europe   Asia
Latin America   Middle East   Australia
South America   Africa   Pacific

🔍 Language search

America

Albaamo innaafiilka	Français cadien	Patois	ᏣᎳᎩ
Araona	Guadeloupean Creole	Português do Brasil	ᐃᓄᒃᑎᑐᑦ
Avañe'ẽ	French	Runa shimi	
Aymar aru	Hawaiʻi	Runa Simi	
Canadian English	Inuktitut	Sranantongo	
Deitsch	Kalaallisut		
Diné bizaad	Kreyòl ayisyen		
English	Mapudungun		
Español	Miʼkmaq		
Español de America La-	Nāhuatl		
tina	Papiamentu		

Europe

Åarjelsaemien	British English	Emiliàn e rumagnòl	Gàidhlig	Italiano

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Future developments
Adapt and improve

- Project Milkshake

  - Imagine a world in which every single open source project can freely have great internationalisation

  - Dual licensed

  - Non-MediaWiki dependent

  - Reusable

  - Setting standards
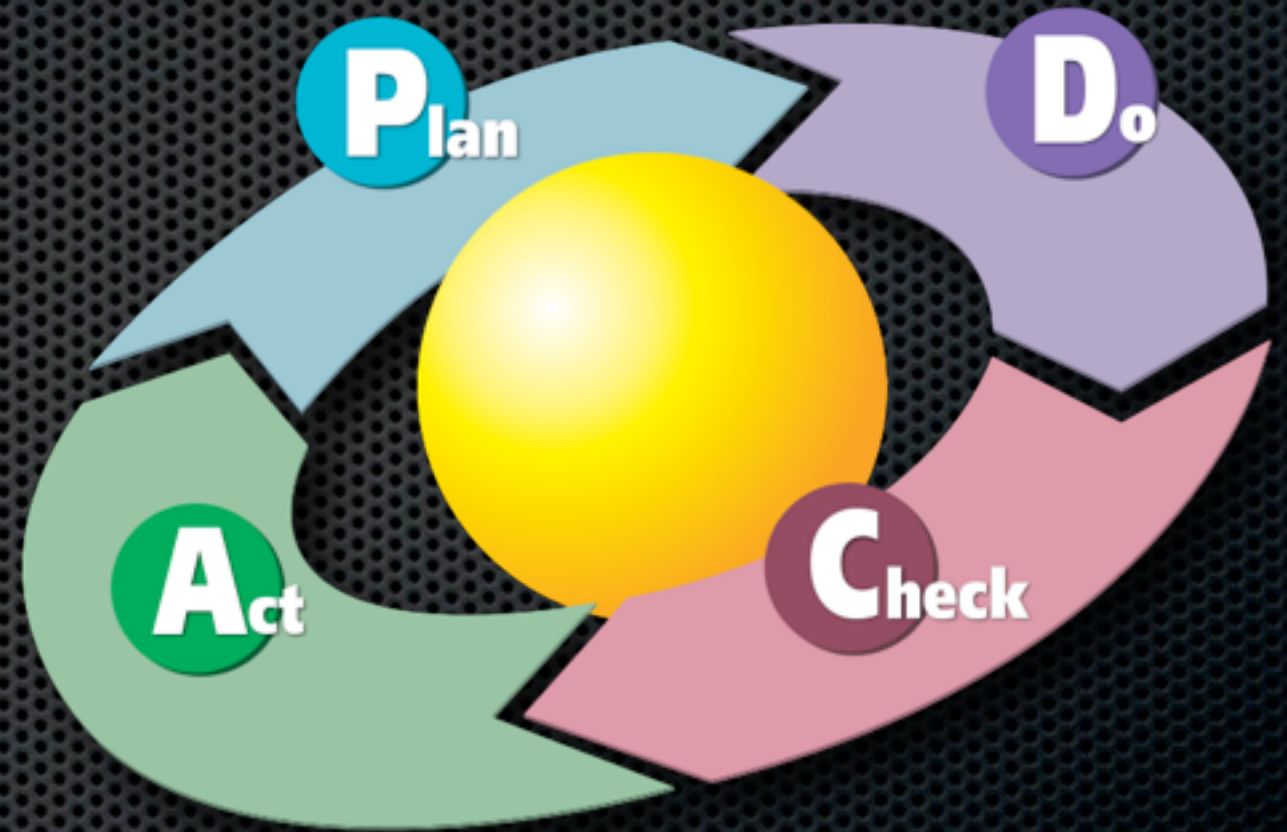
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Future developments
Streamline

- Project Milkshake modules

  - Feature rich internationalisation

  - Language selector

  - Input methods

  - Web fonts

Future developments
Streamline

- i18n awareness with developers

- i18n/L10n code review mandatory

- i18n for mobile

- i18n for visual editor

Questions and answers

E-mail address: siebrand@wikimedia.org

- Help with translations?
  translatewiki.net

- Volunteer dev?
  mediawiki.org/wiki/Development

- We need help
  changing the world!
  jobs.wikimedia.org

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