Lessons Learnt As A Translator

FOSDEM
Hi there 👋🏼

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Long time open source contributor
Contributing as a volunteer to Mattermost for about 4y

🌐 Translations
📝 Documentation
🔰 QA
🚀 Some programming
Mattermost

Open source, remote-first, communities-centered company

Accelerate mission critical work in complex environments with a customizable, self-sovereign collaboration hub.

21 languages / 1.6 million+ words translated

9500+ Strings
65,000+ Words
### What’s this talk about?

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<th>How devs impact translations</th>
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Our translator community
Stats and good practices
Our Translator Community

680
# active translators in the past 3y

15%
# translators making 75% of the translations

High turnaround of translators

Small group long term contributors
Motive To Translate

85% Translators

• Fixing an annoying error
• Just giving it a try
• I love 🤗 and I want to contribute to it

15 % Translators

• My peers are using Mattermost
• I want to keep the translations up to date
• I get to know new features or features I don’t use by translating
• I love 🤗 and I want to contribute to it
What Scares Translators Away

- Not seeing results of their efforts/
  Things that are broken
- Feeling too much pressure to keep contributing
- Not feeling welcome in the community
# How Do We Nurture Our Community?

**Our i18n-channel**

## Warm welcome

Amy Blais 15:07

A warm welcome to the newest members of our Mattermost translation community who joined Weblate and contributed in December 2023! 🍀

- caotanduc99
- Dev-A-Line
- gabsfrancis
- cyberjam
- pgteekens
- andrius

## Questions? Remarks?

## Ongoing issues

## Notifications

## Weekly updates

## Swag
How Do We Nurture Our Community?

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Questions? Remarks?

ThrRip 12:00
Hi there, I wonder if the unique emojis in the new strings added recently is the same as custom emojis? I can't seem to find anything in the docs yet.

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Jesse Hallam 21:05

So, this is another fun one. We have a merge conflict again...

Err PR: https://api.github.com/repos/mattermost/mattermost/pulls/25671/merge: 405 This branch can’t be rebase [ ]

mattermost-build removed the Do Not Merge/Mattermod label 2 hours ago

Add more commits by pushing to the weblate-mattermost-server branch on weblate/mattermost-server.

Changes approved

2 approving reviews by reviewers with write access. Learn more about pull request reviews.
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weblate  BOT  12:16
Shipped Languages mattermost/webapp is locked now in Weblate cc: @Tom De Moor

weblate  BOT  12:24
Shipped Languages mattermost/mattermost-mobile-v2 is unlocked now in Weblate cc: @Tom De Moor
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Weekly Update December 4th

- The deadline for the 9.4-release is probably Monday January 1st!
- The workload is still low
- Thanks to @Sharuru and @ThrRip we can promote Chinese Simplified from Alpha back to Beta! Thank you for your contributions!
- We moved everybody to the new permission scheme. If you would encounter any problems, reach out and we will solve them as fast as possible

Tom De Moor 17:00
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How Do We Nurture Our Community?

Contributors

MVP
Most Valued Professional

Reaching out

Virtual meetup
How Can Devs Help Translators?

Good practices
Use {variables} for everything that doesn't need to be translated

Reorganising our documentation site =

Risk of severe impact on the translation workload
How Can Devs Help Translators

Don’t Split Sentences Across Multiple Strings

Like Yoda Sound Will The Translation
Does everything need to be translated?

Feedback from an API?
Strings not visible for the end user?
Plugins?
Provide context

Jan-Peter Rusch  11:58

In other languages translating "at" without context is also a problem. Could be "um", "auf" or "bei" in German... DeepL even suggest "unter" (under) as first choice.
Prepare for the unexpected

Language variants (Australian-English, Brazilian-Portuguese)

Right-to-left languages

Some languages are more verbose than others

Languages that don’t use spaces
Some people are evil

Check your translations <script>alert(“hello world”);</script>

Our permission scheme
Increasing the quality of translations
Good practices
Don’t Translate Product Names

Calls, Channels, Playbooks
Keeping Consistency In Your Translations

Using a style guide to keep the translations consistent
Translators are language experts
Embrace Cultural Differences
Q&A
Thank you.

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