Subject: Translation Problems (German)
Posted by Werner on Sun, 25 Jun 2006 09:38:36 GMT

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I am adding the German language to a dede2.tr file (LANGUAGE "DE-DE windows-1252") which I will make available to the community (if somebody is interested in).

The peculiarities of the German language lead to problems when parameterized strings are to be translated. For example,

enUS: "Do you really want to delete the selected %s ?"

needs 4 different translations depending on what "%s" means:

1) %s = "Bereich" (area)

2) %s = "Zeile" (row)

3) %s = "Objekt" (object)

4) %s = "Bereiche" (areas), "Zeilen" (rows), "Objekte" (objects)

Actually, the translation depends on the linguistic gender (masculine/feminine/neuter) and the number of what will be substituted for %s. "Bereich", "Zeile", etc. are just examples.

This brings up the following questions:

Is it possible to create universally usable context-dependent translations? (As far as I understand " t_("XXX\vYYY")" needs to know beforehand what "XXX" means in the individual case.)

Is it ok to add only bilingual translations even though the other entries already contain more languages?

Werner