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## **Report on** **Analysis of methods to translate Compiere and ways to learn its business** **functions**

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### **1. Introduction**

The aim of this report is to come up with the most convenient solution for the translation of the Compiere application and learning of its business issues.

This report concerns itself with the determination of the following objectives:

- Evaluation of different methods to translate the Compiere application to Turkish.
- Determine ways that can help users understand the Compiere business operations.

### **2.1 Translation**

The Compiere translation process should not be time-consuming and should be executed in a consistent manner. With this in mind, we study different alternatives that can be used to translate the application to turkish. We then come up with a suitable solution that will ensure that translation is done in a continuous, steady, efficient and effective way.

The suggested translation methods are explained and evaluated as follows:

1. A glossary of terms can be created in Excel spreadsheet. They can be grouped under different titles such as form, window, message, process, field, menu, tab and so on. The english terms will be displayed in one column and their corresponding turkish term will be available in the adjacent column. The process starts with the creation of these Excel files which are handed to the translator. The latter, will, in turn fill the column with the appropriate turkish term. Once done, the user will have to enter the translation into the system. This is not a good method as firstly, time is wasted in preparing the file and in typing the data back into the application. Secondly, much effort will be wasted on the translator's side translating repeating words and phrases.
2. A role can be set up which will have access and modification rights only on the "System Translation Check" window of the Compiere application. This role can be given to the translator to carry out the translation. This method is not useful as although it does not involve the creation of a glossary of terms (as discussed in the first proposal), the translator will still be translating repeating words and phrases. Thus there will be duplication of effort.

3. The translations can be exported in xml files, translated using translation tools and the result imported back to the system. The Compiere website<sup>1</sup> recommends Trados<sup>2</sup> and IBM translation software<sup>3</sup> as being a reliable translation tools that can be utilised. But their licenses need to be purchased. As an alternative, free translation tools can be used. Heartsome XLIFF Translator Editor<sup>4</sup> and Multilizer<sup>5</sup> have been tested for the purpose of this project. The former is a freely available software while the latter has an evaluation version that can be downloaded for free and utilised for a period of thirty days.

The Heartsome XLIFF Translation Editor converts the XML file to an XLIFF file. The translation is carried out in that file and the result is converted back to the original XML format. One drawback of this tool is that it needs to be configured in order to recognise the “CompiereTrl” tag. Knowledge regarding CompiereTrl.dtd<sup>6</sup>, public ID and system ID are required. Attempts to configure it have not been successful.

The Multilizer software does not require any pre-configuration. Tags and attributes that need localisation are defined. The target language for the project is specified. The user can navigate the xml string to the corresponding location that needs to be translated. A translation grid edits the translation just like in an Excel spreadsheet. Strings that have been translated previously are automatically updated. The translations can be stored in a local database, DBISAM, provided by this tool or other server databases<sup>7</sup>. They can also be imported from glossaries. The translated project is saved as .mpr file and when that localised item is built it is converted to its corresponding xml file i.e. <name>\_Trl\_tr\_TR.xml.

We see that Multilizer is the solution that will provide results faster and more efficiently compared to the other proposed methods. It considerably eliminates the duplication of time and effort.

## 2.2 Business functions

The best way to understand Compiere's business functions is to study the Compiere User Manual. It is well documented and describes the steps, from the setting up of the new client to the creation of financial reports via the execution of business functions, in much detail. It is hence necessary that users get a latest copy of the user manual<sup>8</sup> and begin reading it for a start. Next, a set of tutorials that list the steps to perform some basic tasks can be prepared and provided to the users for practise. Examples of such exercises can be Initial Client Setup, Business Partner Setup, Product Setup and so on. These will guide them through their learning process and make them become more familiar with the system.

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<sup>1</sup> "Compiere Translation", URL: <http://www.compiere.org/technology/multi/translation.html>

<sup>2</sup> Trados, URL: <http://www.translationzone.com/>

<sup>3</sup> IBM Translation software,

URL: <http://www-306.ibm.com/software/globalization/topics/translationprocess/index.jsp>

<sup>4</sup> Heartsome XLIFF Translator Editor, URL: <http://www.heartsome.net/EN/xlfedit.html>

<sup>5</sup> Multilizer, URL: <http://www.multilizer.com/>

<sup>6</sup> The CompiereTrl.dtd can be viewed at this location <http://www.compiere.org/dtd/CompiereTrl.dtd>

<sup>7</sup> For example SQL server or Oracle.

<sup>8</sup> Compiere User Manual version e

The first Compiere application installed on our company's server was version 2.5.1c. Since then it has evolved and the latest available version is 2.5.1g. Attempts to migrate to version 2.5.1f have not been successful. Some conflicts occurred and need to be resolved. As a result we are still using our old version and are unable work with the newly added functionalities. For example version 2.5.1g is a more stable versions with improvements such as split payments, dunning, purchase requisition and so on. Therefore, it is very important that this problem is solved as soon as possible else we will be lagging behind in the technology and this will be at our own disadvantage.

### 3. Conclusions

Hence we chose the Multilizer translation tool as the most convenient method in terms of cost, speed, accuracy and ease of use. Its only limitation is that it is available for free only as a trial version. But this should not pose as an obstacle to the translation process. Next we recommend reading the user manual and the creation of a set of hands-on exercise for practising the business functions. We also stress the need to install the latest version of the application on our company's server. Migrating to the latest version will help us keep in touch with the latest developments in the Compiere community. As a result we will be able to propose the best solution to meet our client's needs in the future.

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