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# Linport: Interoperable Translation and Localization Project Containers (A Progress Report)

Alan Melby and Jeremy Coombs



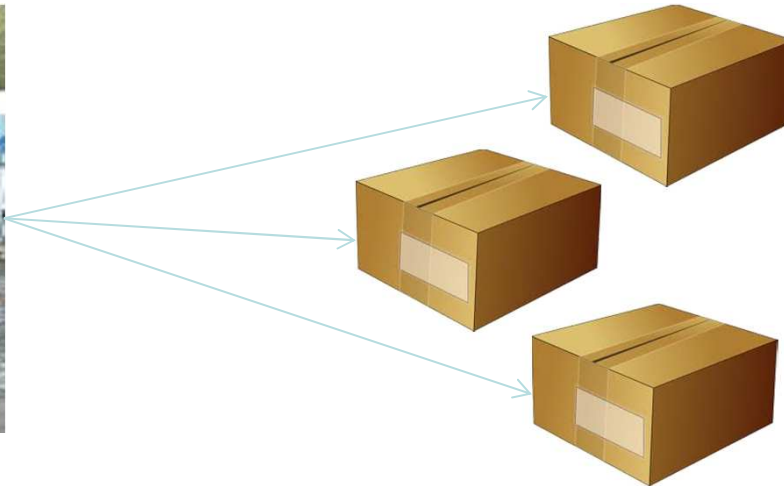
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# What is Linport? (this slide and 2 more)

- An acronym for **L**anguage **I**nteroperability **P**ortfolio
- Complete and interoperable container solution for both:
  - > Translation projects (portfolio, n-lingual)
  - > Tasks within projects (package = 1 project task)



Linport Portfolio



Packages



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an idea whose time has come...



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## and a project

- With one main deliverable: a “blueprint”
  - Blueprint = draft standard to be submitted to an industry standards body
- And secondary deliverables
  - Open-source reference software for proof-of-concept and for implementers
- Hosted by LTAC Global (a non-profit organization)
- Open to all interested parties
- **Not** a competing translation tool

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# Why I am Involved in Linport

- Having worked on various “payload” standards (such as TMX and TBX), it is logical to work on containers to put them in
- To promote Structured Translation Specifications (STS) as part of the payload
  - > 21 parameters for quality translations:
    - Source
    - Target
    - Production
    - Environment
    - Relationships
  - > Found in: [ISO/TS 11669](#)



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## Why is MultiLing involved with Linport?



- As a tool developer, MultiLing sees value in a structured, interchangeable container for both project payload & specifications
- As a large multilingual localization firm, we appreciate the complexity and difficulty in communicating project requirements

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# Source Parameters describe the source text

- [1] textual characteristics
  - (a) source language; (b) text type; (c) audience; (d) purpose
- [2] specialized language
  - (a) subject field; (b) [monolingual] terminology
- [3] volume (words, characters, or other measure)
- [4] complexity (non-native author; graphics; etc)
- [5] origin (where did this source text come from?)

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# Target parameters state linguistic requirements

- [6] target language information
  - (a) target language; (b) [bilingual] terminology
- [7] audience (sometimes differs from source)
- [8] purpose (sometimes difference from source)
- [9] content correspondence
  - (summary/full; overt/covert; etc)
- [10] register (often implied by text type)
- [11] file format
- [12] style
  - (a) style guide; (b) style relevance
- [13] layout

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## Production parameters state tasks to be performed by whom

- [14] typical production tasks
  - (a) preparation
  - (b) initial translation (human or machine)
  - (c) in-process quality assurance
    - self-checking/post-editing; revision; review; final formatting; proofreading
- [15] additional tasks

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# Environment parameters

- [16] technology
  - (any interoperable tool? Particular tools?)
- [17] reference materials
  - Style guides, translation memories , etc
- [18] workplace requirements
  - Anywhere? Designated secure facility?

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# Relationship parameters

- [19] permissions
  - (a) copyright;(b) recognition; (c) restrictions;
- [20] submissions
  - (a) qualifications; (b) deliverables;  
(c) delivery [method]; (d) deadline
- [21] expectations
  - (a) compensation; (b) communication

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Webpage: 21 parameters

[www.ttt.org/specs](http://www.ttt.org/specs)

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## Container contents besides the structured specifications

- Source text(s)
- Target texts when done; or bi-text format
- Resources to carry out translation (per specs)
  - Terminology
  - Translation memory
  - Style guide
  - **What else?**

One group working on **What else**, esp. for MT, is the **MultilingualWeb-LT** Working Group drafting the **ITS 2.0 (Internationalization Tag Set)** standard for submission to **W3C**, the **World Wide Web Consortium**.



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# Portfolios

- Can be split into bilingual packages
  - Each package is a **TIPP** (from **IN!**)
- A package is associated with one task
  - Initial translation (human or machine)
  - Revision of HT or post-editing of raw MT
  - Review
  - etc.
- After tasks are performed
  - Response packages can be merged back into a revised portfolio

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# Why Linport is important to translation project managers

- No need to “re-package” data as it passes between translation tools
- No lost specifications
- Thus, increased efficiency and quality



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# Linport from the perspective of content owner/originator

- Can send out the same project portfolio when working with multiple translation service providers (internal or external)
- A portfolio with specifications is useful for archiving and assessment even if the translation system is entirely on-line
- A project portfolio is not tied to any particular translation tool



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# Why it is important for translators



- Ensures that you will have access to the project specifications (also STS)
- Increases interoperability between tools
- Easier to use your favorite tool because of data-tool separation



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## Why Linport is important for machine translation developers

- Standardized way for computers to extract the necessary data, perform machine translation, and return results
- Task object for Translation API
- ***Research challenge: MT system someday be able to read the structured specifications and tailor the translation accordingly***



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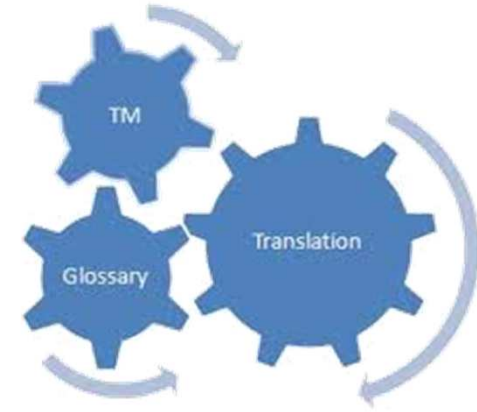
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# Linport and Tool developers



- Some tool developers will be early adopters
  - Some will implement only the TIPP package
  - Others will also implement portfolios
- Most tool developers will wait until Linport is an industry standard
- At some point, customers will require Linport support in the tools they use or consider using

## What about “the Cloud”?

- STS framework can be used as a basis for database structure and the collection of project information online
  - MultiLing’s project management tool will be able to import/export STS
  - Project portal will collect STS information from requester



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## What about “the Cloud”? (continued)

- Not only a tool interchange package, but also a method for users to pull projects from the cloud and push them back
  - MultiLing’s Work Order Bundles (WOB) will be Linport portfolios with “language pair”/TMX/XLIFF payloads
  - Cloud based TMS will accept these portfolios back in as either project updates or TM uploads (memory dumps)



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## What's upcoming for Linport?

- Refine & formalize portfolio data model
  - Later: authoring and publication portfolios
- More testing of STS builder
- Develop Portfolio Builder software
  - ◎ Roundtrip: portfolio, task packages, portfolio
- Submit to standards bodies:
  - OASIS or ETSI or elsewhere (to be decided)
  - ISO (fast track after industry standard)
- Implementation by tool developers



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## What's related

- Quality Translation Launch Pad
  - An EC-funded project
- XLIFF:doc from IN! (automated workflow)
  - A profile of XLIFF version 1.2
- TAUS
  - Translation API
    - For transmission of portfolios and packages



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## How to get involved

- Join the Linport community
  - [www.linport.org](http://www.linport.org)
- Share real translation project data
  - Urgently needed!
  - Must be non-confidential or sanitized
- Help with proof-of-concept software
  - Test apps developed at Brigham Young U.
  - Develop your own reference software
  - Implement portfolios and/or packages in your tool as an early adopter

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# Questions?

Willing to submit project data?  
[info@linport.org](mailto:info@linport.org)



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# Glossary of acronyms used

- **DGT** – Directorate General for Translation
  - A part of the EC; JIAMCATT Partner
  - [ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation)
- **EC** – European Commission
- **ETSI** – European Telecommunications Standards Institute
  - [www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)
- **IN!** – Interoperability Now!
  - group working to improve the interoperability of tools and technology within the localization industry
  - [code.google.com/p/interoperability-now](http://code.google.com/p/interoperability-now)
- **ISO** – International Standards Organization
  - JIAMCATT Partner
  - [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)
- **Linport** – The Language Interoperability Portfolio Project
  - [www.linport.org](http://www.linport.org)
- **LISA** - Localization Industry Standards Association
  - *Ceased to exist March 2011*
- **OASIS** - Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
  - [www.oasis-open.org](http://www.oasis-open.org)
- **QTLP** → **QTLaunchPad** → Quality Translation Launch Pad.
  - EC-CORDIS-PF7-LT project 296347  
<http://www.qt21.eu/launchpad/> (2012-07-01 to 2014-06-30)
- **TAUS** – Translation Automation
  - [www.translationautomation.com](http://www.translationautomation.com)
- **TIPP** – Translation Interoperability Protocol Package – an **IN!** project
- **XLIFF** – XML Localisation Interchange File Format
  - XLIFF 1.2: [docs.oasis-open.org/xliff/xliff-core/xliff-core.html](http://docs.oasis-open.org/xliff/xliff-core/xliff-core.html)