Ease interaction with translators

Few principles

Many translators are often non technical

It's one of the easy way to start contributing

By creating a friendly environement, they'll often review your english content and communicate about your software

Friendly translator environment is (by priority):

- Translation platform
- Significative content
- Some communication
- Compatible release cycle

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1. Translation platform

There is plenty of translation platform, some you'll have to self-host, some related to existing communities, some more

- It prevents: git usage for contributor, badly formated content

- If offers: notification, suggestion, history, search, quality checks, discussion place...

- Don't fork a translation platform and don't accept translation patches!

- Most will directly connect to git (Weblate, Pootle, Pontoon, Mojito, ...) , some will let you decide when to push/pull (Zanata, Transifex, ...). You have plenty of choices!

- All of them support gettext and multiple file format support.

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2. Significative content

- Can interface be translated?

- Is content translatable? *think about G-Recipes or G-Software*

- Can application error messages be translated?

- Is the website translatable?

- Is documentation translatable?

- Is manpage translatable?

- If you can't, consider to think about choosing a compatible tool to do it, building a website with a tool that doesn't support l10n means doing it again in the future!

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3. Some communication

- Translators are just like any other user, they use many softwares. When they like one and understand how to contribute it, how to keep them informed?

- Weblate have a notification by rss or email when new content arrives, but posting an email & blog post about translating would be great !

- What do we need to know :

  - When is coming release and the deadline

  - What are major changes in the release

  - Where to translate

  - Bonus : how to test the coming release

- A two weeks notice should be fine for most project

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4. Comptabile release cycle

- If your release cycle is short (≤ 3 months) :

  - You may connect your translation platform directly to your main working branch

- If your release cycle is long (≥ 3 months):

  - Consider providing both stable/unstable branch to translators

  - Consider minor version so new translation get published

- Like a code patch, seeing a new release of a software without your work is demotivating!

- Try not to rewrite your content all the time! ~300 words per Hour

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