WizTom for Cognos

Quick Overview

Abstract

WizTom for Cognos is a complete internationalisation management tool for Business Intelligence applications built upon the advanced technology of Cognos BI solution. Not only the user interface but also data inside reports can be translated if required.

Companies wishing to set up a global presence must provide up-to-date, changing reports in multiple languages to their collaborators worldwide, while keeping up with the technology: database system and web server management, security issues and high availability.

WizTom for Cognos relieves the development and administration teams from the burden of internationalisation. It provides all the tools a translator needs in a user-friendly interface as well as a workflow module, making the internationalisation project management even easier.
DESCRIPTION

WizTom for Cognos consists of two main components:

- a client-side component called WizTom Studio;
- a server-side component called WizTom Web Proxy Server.

WizTom Studio is the software used to prepare the translations for the target Cognos portal. It enables translators to quickly view and translate Web content, and provides a workflow module to help managing the internationalisation process.

Dictionaries created by WizTom are called thesauruses. This file format consists of two parts: a plain dictionary (original texts and translations), and an administrative part containing information such as the host name and port of the original Web site, location of target files, and so on.

WizTom Web Proxy Server is in charge of dynamically translating the reports generated by Cognos when they are sent to the end-user. It may be installed on the original Web server or on another front-end computer. It is completely transparent to the end-user.

WizTom Web Proxy Server should simply be considered an additional layer that acts as a content translator; WizTom Studio is the multilingual content management software.

WizTom Studio

WizTom Studio for the Web runs on Windows NT4 (sp3/IE5 minimum), Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

It provides several tools to easily gather the texts and translate them:

- **Texts extractors**: extractors are used to automatically read and extract texts from all the Web site’s files and reports.
- **Dictionaries**: dictionaries allow pre-translating some of the extracted texts. WizTom Studio comes with a standard dictionary, but dictionaries may be customized.
- **Translation Editor**: translators can type in the translations directly with WizTom Studio, using the Translation Editor. It provides a WYSIWYG interface to preview the translations and interfaces to several productivity tools are also included: MS Word spell-checker, Trados...
- **Import/Export**: texts may be exported to a file for off-site translation. Supported formats include MS Excel (tab or comma separated value formats (TSV/CSV), WizTom Translation Pad files). After translators have finished their job, translations may be imported back into the thesaurus.
WizTom Translation Pad: this is a stand-alone version of the Translation Editor. This program can be sent to translators along with the texts that must be translated. This enables translators across the globe to be part of the translation process.

WizTom Web Translation Pad: this is the online version of the Translation Editor. Translators access the thesaurus remotely with their favourite browser, and can add translations directly into the system!

These tools can be driven from the Workflow module to ease the internationalisation process. It includes an address book of translators and a predefined list of required steps: extraction, export, translation, import and deployment.

With this tool, texts may be extracted automatically, sent to translators by email in one of the supported export format, then re-integrated into the thesaurus. Custom steps can be added such as Quality Assessment or Legal review for example.

Because WizTom thesauruses support Ansi, MBCS and Unicode encoding, WizTom supports all languages, from English and other West European languages, to East European languages and Cyrillic, to Arabic and Hebrew, to Japanese and Chinese.

WizTom Web Proxy Server

WizTom Web Proxy Server enables dynamic translation of the Web site. This is the component that does the actual translation depending on the user’s preferred language.
Technically speaking, WizTom Web Proxy Server is a reverse proxy server: it is installed server-side, and acts as a Web server for the clients connecting to it, while playing the role of a client to Cognos.

In production, the translation process is as follow:

1. **Request**: Users wishing to access reports in their language connect to WizTom Web Proxy Server, specifying the language and the address via a “Virtual URL”.

2. **Forward**: WizTom Web Proxy Server forwards the request for the document to the original Cognos server.

3. **Process**: Cognos processes the request, and sends the report back to WizTom Web Proxy Server. Prepared reports as well as ad-hoc queries are supported.

4. **Translate**: WizTom Web Proxy Server receives the original document sent by Cognos and translates it with the thesaurus created with WizTom Studio.

5. **Reply**: The translated report is finally sent to the user that has requested it.

WizTom Web Proxy Server is completely transparent to the end user: they connect to it with their usual Internet browser, and WizTom Web Proxy Server acts as a Web server. It only retrieves the original report and translates it before passing it on to the client.

WizTom Web Proxy Server runs as a Windows NT service (Windows NT4/2000/XP/2003) and relies on standard, open protocols and specifications:

- HTTP protocol versions 1.0 and 1.1
- HTTPS secure protocol (HTTP over SSL)
- HTML 4.0, DHTML, JavaScript and VBScript
- JDK 1.1, - 1.5 including JavaBeans

Because it is a front-end to the original Cognos server, WizTom Web Proxy Server is completely independent from the architecture that was chosen for the Web site. WizTom works with any kind of Web resources (static and dynamic HTML, JavaScript, Java servlets and applets, XML, PDF Reports, etc.); the back-end software (database system, other application servers, etc) does not matter.

WizTom Web Proxy Server is implemented in C/C++. It processes requests in a multi-threaded environment and relies on Microsoft Windows overlapped I/O, thus ensuring the quickest translation possible. WizTom remains transparent to end-users as translation time is practically imperceptible.
Because the translation process becomes independent from the development process, companies using WizTom benefit from many advantages.

Maintaining and testing a multilingual Cognos portal can soon become a burden, especially when translating to more than two languages.

With WizTom, maintenance and testing become much simpler: only the original version of the portal needs testing and maintenance. You only need one version of Cubes and there is only one set of reports: WizTom takes care of the translation.

WizTom’s translation engine guarantees the best translation quality. WizTom’s translation engine is not a Machine Translation tool, which produces poor quality translations even today. WizTom intercepts the information and translates it with the thesaurus, which was completed by human translators. Furthermore, WizTom’s translation engine is paragraph- and cell-oriented; it is not based on words or HTML tags to break down the text of the pages into translation units.

The powerful translation server enables translation of dynamic pages, regardless of the information source: the translation engine implements a mechanism to translate dynamically generated sentences that include variable parts. WizTom can translate all sorts of reports, from the simplest table to the more complicated ad-hoc report.

WizTom’s translation editors have been designed with the translators in mind so they can work fast and be effective. The tools translators are used to work with are integrated in WizTom Studio and WizTom Translation Pad: Translation Memory system such as Trados, spell checker from Microsoft Word, WYSIWYG component for typing in translations of the texts.

Even translation costs and time decrease as WizTom can make use of other thesauruses, e.g. thesauruses that have been created for other projects. For example, a company switching their reporting and BI software from yesterday’s client-server technology to today’s Web environment can benefit from their old thesaurus. Companies can centralise and capitalise on past translation efforts.
EXAMPLE WITH COGNOS

The Internet site of the NASA is made with the help of Cognos. Here is some example of WizTom use. The original site can be found on the URL:

http://naade02.msfc.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/ppdscgi.exe?XT=status_current. For this test “All Occupations” has been selected in the ComboBox, below left. The WizTom Proxy Server in this test was installed on the Server “Italia” in WizArt’s Milan office. So the URL that allows to get the site, while the HTML flow passes through WizTom proxy server was:

http://Italia:8080/cgi-bin/ppdscgi.exe?XT=status_current and by choosing the original English language (ENU) we got:

http://Italia:8080/language/ENU/cgi-bin/ppdscgi.exe?XT=status_current:

After translation into German (DEU) of the elements we got:

http://Italia:8080/language/DEU/cgi-bin/ppdscgi.exe?XT=status_current:

As you can see, the non-translated entries as “Prof’l Admin” and “Clerical” remain in the original language.
EXAMPLE 2 WITH COGNOS

Also in the following example you see a Cognos Upfront translated from English into French:

![Cognos Upfront screenshot]

With the help of the (stand-alone) Translation Editor you can translate the text entries of a thesaurus:

![Translation Editor screenshot]

Non-translated texts (empty) remain in the original language.
WIZART: THE COMPANY

WizArt has been a provider of localisation management tools since 1995 when they started as CATS. WizArt localisation products are based on a very simple idea: make the translation process independent of the development cycle, and rely on a robust technology.

WizTom is available for several platforms:

- **WizTom for Windows**: for traditional Client/Server applications on Windows platforms (from Windows 3.11 to Windows Me, 2000 and XP);
- **WizTom for the Web**: for Internet, Intranet and Extranet Web sites;
- **WizTom for Java**: for Java applications, and large applets.

**WizTom Studio** is the common translation management interface, and provides translators and localisation managers with productivity tools packaged in a user-friendly interface. Only the runtime components used in production are different.

**WizArt has a customer-base of more than 135 and still growing.** Customers include global companies such as Dun & Bradstreet (UK), Baxter Healthcare (USA), banks as Bank Bruxelles Lambert (Belgium), administrations such as the Basque Government (Spain), industry as FIAT Auto (Italy), Insurances as Allianz (Switzerland) and Gerling (Germany), Distribution as Nestlé (Switzerland) and software houses such as Unisys (UK) and Safege (France).

Throughout the years, WizTom was proved a powerful tool in a wide range of platforms and languages, and is now used on all continents:

- **Platforms**: Windows (PowerBuilder, Visual Basic, Delphi, Developer 2000, ADVANTAGE:Gen, NSDK/NatStar and most 4GL for Windows, as well as third-party applications such as Vantive), Web (MS-IIS, Oracle OAS, NatWeb, BO WebIntelligence), Java (Sun JDK up to 1.1.3, Oracle J-Initiator).
- **Languages**: English, French, Dutch, German etc, Polish, Russian, Arabic, Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, and even Ethiopian!
For additional information on WizArt and WizTom for Cognos, please refer to WizArt Web site at http://www.wizart.com.

If you need further details on commercial or technical issues, please contact Mr Roijakkers at rroijakk@wizart.com.