



Microsoft®
Partners in Learning



Local Language Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Microsoft Local Language Program

<http://www.microsoft.com/LLP>

What is the Microsoft Local Language Program (LLP)?

Technology can be a powerful tool to enable communities to sustain and revitalize local language and culture for future generations. Microsoft is committed to helping people worldwide benefit from technology while striving to uphold local language and cultural identity. Representing this commitment, the Local Language Program is a global initiative that provides people access to technology in a familiar language while respecting linguistic and cultural distinctions. Through this program, Microsoft creates collaborative communities of local governments, language authorities, universities, NGOs, and local partners that focus on providing individuals with access to computing in their mother tongue.

With 4.5 billion speakers and more than 108 languages supported, the Local Language Program bridges the gap to technology through language and culture as well as empowers individuals in local communities to create economic opportunities, build IT skills, enhance education outcomes, and sustain their local language and culture for future generations.

What is the focus of the Local Language Program?

The Local Language Program aims to provide depth and breadth of language solutions for software and services to empower individuals in local communities to sustain languages and culture, create economic opportunity, build IT skills, enhance education outcomes, and support language diversity. The program offers communities the ability to:

- Gain Insight
 - Provide credible, research-based information and resources that support native languages
 - Make the wealth of digital knowledge available (internet, digital content, email)
 - Work in partnership with language experts to promote local culture and language
- Build Capacity
 - Bridge the digital divide by providing access to software and services in native languages
 - Make technology available (free solutions/downloads, limitless downloads, no distribution restrictions)
 - Enable indigenous speakers to connect and participate in the global community
 - Enrich the local experience via technology and tools to drive a healthy economy, competition, and consumer choice
- Foster Community
 - Strengthen their community by helping create opportunity
 - Promote software and services in native languages
 - Collaborate with local language communities to help sustain, revitalize and celebrate their languages and culture
 - Empower communities to drive their own success



How does the Microsoft Local Language Program help local communities?

Microsoft works with governments and communities worldwide to help provide people access to technology. The Local Language Program fosters a collaborative community of local governments, language authorities, universities, NGOs, and local partners that focus on providing individuals with access to software *in their local language*. The LLP program enables communities to:

- Access technology
 - Bridge the digital divide
 - Provide software in many languages (partnering with governments, universities, local language experts and NGOs)
 - Provide individuals access to desktop computer software and services in their *native language*
- Create local opportunities and local solutions
 - Strengthen the local IT economy, increase individual productivity, and stimulate activity in local businesses and governments
 - Provide technologies and tools needed to serve local communities and develop a robust local IT economy
 - Create the local language interface needed to foster the societal and economic benefits of the growing IT industry
- Sustain local languages and culture
 - Empower communities to discover, share, and develop IT terminology in their mother tongue
 - Provide collaborative communities, partnerships and services with local governments, language authorities, universities, and local partners to further embrace their local language
 - Respect tradition while helping languages evolve and embrace the 21st century

What are the key benefits of the Local Language Program?

Access to technology – especially in one’s native language – opens up new worlds for education and economic participation for millions of people. Key benefits of the Local Language Program include:

- Expert Insight and Credible Resources
 - Discover local language offerings available to local communities
 - Create and access digital content (internet, content, email, etc.)
 - Access expert insight, knowledge, and research-based information
 - Work with language groups to sustain and promote local culture and language
- Global Community and Collaboration
 - Bridge the digital divide and enabling indigenous speakers to connect and participate in the global community
 - Make technology available to help lower barriers to the digital divide (free solutions/downloads, limitless downloads, no distribution restrictions)
 - Enriching the local experience via technology and tools to drive a healthy economy, competition and consumer choice
- Local Identity and Empowerment
 - Strengthen communities by helping create opportunity
 - Provide access to/promote software and services in native languages
 - Sustain and extend local language and culture

What makes the Local Language Program unique?

The Local Language Program provides individuals access to technology in their native language to help:

- Discover, share, and develop IT terminology in their mother tongue
- Strengthen the local IT economy, increase individual productivity, and stimulate activity in local businesses and governments
- Foster the societal and economic benefits of the growing IT industry
- Provide collaborative communities, partnerships and services with local governments, language authorities, universities, and local partners to further embrace their local language
- Respect tradition while helping languages evolve and embrace the 21st century



What kind of impact has the Local Language Program had on local communities?

- Number of speakers worldwide: 4.5 Billion*
- Number of languages worldwide: 108
- Number of FREE downloads: 610 (LIPs and CLIPs)
- Terms per IT glossary: 2,444
- Translations per month (Microsoft Translator): > 1 Billion
- Speech recognition requests per month: 50 Million

*Data source: Ethnologue.com 9/30/10. Denotes the number of speakers in markets where Microsoft language offerings are available

What are the **Microsoft products** that are promoted through the Local Language Program?

- [Microsoft Windows](#)
- [Microsoft Office](#)
- [Microsoft Translator](#)
- [Microsoft Language Portal](#)

What are the **Microsoft services** that are promoted through the Local Language Program?

- [Microsoft Translator](#) Provides a powerful set of web service APIs that developers can use to take advantage of its best-of-breed Machine Translation technology in their own applications, services or web sites.
- [Microsoft Translator Widget](#) Bring real-time, in-place translation to your web site. Users can see your pages in their own language, without having to go to a separate translation web site, and share your page with friends in multiple languages.
- [Bing Translator](#) Free translation service for online automatic translation of text and web pages.
- [Microsoft Language Portal](#) A single point for IT professionals, language professionals and language enthusiasts to access the Microsoft terminology collection, product translations and explore other language resources.
- [Microsoft Collaborative Glossary](#) Public download of thousands of IT terms in TBX format for 100+ languages.
- [Microsoft DreamSpark](#): [Giving students Microsoft professional tools at no charge.](#)
- [Microsoft Translator Hub](#) Empowering communities and businesses to own, build, and deploy custom language translation models to help them keep their languages alive and easily expand translation coverage.

Where can I look to find out if the Local Language Program supports my language?

For more information on the languages supported in local communities go to: <http://www.microsoft.com/LLP>

- **Local Language Program Coverage Map** Global map of showing commercially-available languages as well as languages supported by the Local Language Program.
- **Language Offering List** Determine what language support exists for your region.

Where can I look to find more information about the Microsoft Local Language Program?

For more information on the Local Language Program go to:

- Microsoft Local Language Program: <http://www.microsoft.com/LLP>
- Microsoft Language Portal: <http://www.microsoft.com/language>
- Microsoft Translator: <http://www.microsoft.com/translator>

Windows and Office – Language Interface Packs

What is a LIP? Language Interface Pack (LIP): Downloaded free of charge, a Windows or Office LIP enables you to install a local language version as a "skin" on top of an existing installation of the Windows operating system and/or standard Microsoft Office system applications. The LIP provides translation of the most commonly used UI, dialogs, menus and application features. Installation and use of a LIP enables use of technology in a language that is familiar and that honors native linguistic and cultural distinctions.

What is in a LIP?

A LIP provides translation of the most commonly used dialogs, menus, applications, and Windows help files. Because the LIP is not a fully translated product, the end user will see both the LIP language and the original operating system or application language even after the LIP is installed. Local solutions such as spelling checkers, translation dictionaries, screen savers, collaboration tools and online services are also available for some languages.



What is NOT covered by a LIP?

- User Assistance (Help) files are: partially translated for Windows; available as an additional download for Office for some languages
- Additional add-ins (SmartTags, Macros, etc.)
- Bitmaps and images are not localized in Windows LIPs

How does the LIP work?

LIPs work by utilizing Multilingual User Interface (MUI) technology to display resources which are visible to the end user in the user's language of choice. LIPs and Language Packs both rely on MUI technology, though LIPs provide less localized UI than a language pack, which is either a fully or partially full localized product. With both LIPs and Language Packs, UI that is not localized into the LIP or Language Pack language, will display in the base (or parent) language.

How many words are in a LIP?

A LIP language has translations for up to 300,000 words in Windows and for 600,000 Office.

Will the base language be defined, or can the LIP be installed over any language?

Office LIPs can be installed on top of a specified base full language edition of Office. Windows LIPs install over a limited set of "parent" languages. For example, the Vietnamese Windows LIP must be installed over any genuine English edition of the Windows. To see more information on base language requirements, see the [Download Languages](#) pages on Windows web site and the [Windows 8 language page](#).

For both Office and Windows LIPs, the version of the LIP and the version of the full product must match. For example, you must install a Windows 8 LIP over Windows 8.

Can multiple Windows LIPs be installed on the same PC?

There is no limit to the number of LIP languages that can be installed as long as the parent language requirement is satisfied, and the edition of Windows is genuine. For more information on how to switch UI language after installing a LIP, see the Windows Help and How-To site: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/language#1TC=t1>

For Office, will the LIP install over standalone base applications or suites only?

Office LIP setup will install over any set of Microsoft Office applications; however, it is only designed to support Word®, Excel®, PowerPoint®, Outlook®, and OneNote® applications. The user interface for standalone applications such as Visio® or Project® are not translated into LIP languages. In addition, there are some LIPs that have been created for SharePoint® as separate downloads.

Can multiple Office LIPs be installed?

Office allows for the installation of multiple LIPs and the switching of languages through Office Language Settings. All versions of Microsoft Windows LIPs are under Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) and require validation of the installed base language.

Can a LIP be uninstalled?

Yes. A LIP can be uninstalled through the Control Panel.

What kind of support is available for LIPs?

LIPs get support like any other Windows add-on. Support will be limited however to install/uninstall scenarios. Note that General Windows support requests will be handled in the language in which the operating system was purchased in (base language).



Who will release or distribute the LIP?

Each LIP will be available as a free download from the Microsoft download center, preinstalled by the PC OEM (Dell, HP etc.) or from your local government website. For Windows 8 you can visit this website for installation instructions:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-US/windows-8/language#1TC=t1>. You may check with your local Microsoft Sales office for additional information. A list of Microsoft Sales offices is available at www.microsoft.com/worldwide

Can anyone create a LIP?

No. Creating a LIP requires a request be made, usually by the local government, and a specific process followed within Microsoft. Requests can be made by contacting a Microsoft Sales office in the local market.

Microsoft Translator

<http://www.microsoft.com/translator>

What is Microsoft Translator?

Microsoft Translator delivers state-of-the-art automatic machine translation of text from any of the supported 40+ languages to any other of the supported languages. End users, developers, webmasters or enthusiasts can check out prototypes as well as new features still under development on the Microsoft Translator site.

- Highlights include:
 - Over 5+ billion translations per day in 40+ languages
 - Accessible in: Microsoft Office, Bing, SharePoint, Visual Studio, Windows Phone, Lync, and Internet Explorer, and third-party applications
 - Flexible APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) used by thousands of developers/businesses
 - Innovative collaborative features tailor translations to best fit content
- Key audiences: Consumers/Citizens, Developers, Corporations, Linguists/Language Experts, Government, Education

What is the purpose of the Microsoft Translator?

Breaking the language barrier for users, developers, webmasters and businesses, the Microsoft Translator brings the power of instant translation and language technologies anywhere, anytime. Key focus areas include:

- Innovation
 - Built on Microsoft Research's world-class research
 - Continuous improvement of quality and language coverage
 - Translations at your finger tips
- Developer Community
 - Deliver developer-friendly platform
 - Provide flexibility, choice and value
- Partnerships
 - Partner with developers, businesses and communities to continually improve the technology to best fit their needs
- Microsoft Translator Hub
 - Empowering communities and businesses to own, build and deploy custom language translation models to help them keep their languages alive and easily expand translation coverage

How does Microsoft Translator work?

Microsoft Translator technology is built on over a decade of natural language research at Microsoft. Rather than writing hand-crafted rules to translate between languages, modern translation systems approach translation as a problem of learning the transformation of text between languages from existing human translations and leveraging recent advances in applied statistics and machine learning. So-called "parallel corpora" act as modern Rosetta Stones in massive proportions providing word, phrase, and idiomatic translations in context for many language pairs and domains. Statistical modeling techniques and



efficient algorithms help the computer attack the problem of decipherment (detecting the correspondences between source and target language in the training data) and decoding (finding the best translation of a new input sentence). The Microsoft Translator system, which provides translations to millions of users of Microsoft Office, Bing and other products, unites the power of statistical methods with linguistic information to produce models that generalize better and lead to more comprehensible translations.

These translations are delivered via a flexible set of web services for developers and webmasters as well as a broad set of end user scenarios. The [Bing Translator](#) site helps users translate web pages or snippets of text into their language. The Microsoft Translator web service can be used in web or client applications to perform language translation and other language related operations. The service supports users who are not familiar with the language of a page, document, application or those desiring to communicate with people speaking a different language.

What benefits and value comes from using Microsoft Translator?

Users are able to get a quick translation of text while developers and webmasters are able to provide translation and language services as part of their applications, websites or services. Additional functionality available via the Translator API includes collaborative translation, language detection and text-to-speech conversion (speech synthesis).

If I'm a developer, how do I begin using Microsoft Translator?

Visit the Windows Azure Marketplace at <https://datamarket.azure.com/> and sign up for the Microsoft Translator API. You can sign up for free service up to 2 million characters a month and to higher volumes for a fee.

What is the Microsoft Translator Widget?

The free Microsoft Translator Widget allows you to bring real-time, in-place translation to your web pages. Users can see your pages in their own language, without having to go to a separate translation website, and share your page in multiple languages. You can customize a widget for your site at www.microsofttranslator.com/widget/

To learn more about using the widget, get help, or interact with other website owners, visit the Microsoft Translator forums at <http://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Forums/en-US/category/translation>.

Does Microsoft incorporate the Microsoft Translator into their products?

Yes, this translation technology can be used within a number of Microsoft products like Microsoft Office, SharePoint, Windows Phone, Bing, Windows Phone, Lync, and Internet Explorer. You can learn about these features at www.microsoft.com/translator.

How are your partners using Microsoft Translator?

Partnerships are a key aspect of helping more people bridge language barriers. Thousands of Microsoft Translator partners have taken advantage of the translation service, and there are many interesting and creative examples of translation use. For example, Facebook is utilizing the service to translate status updates, eBay uses the service within their mobile application to translate item descriptions, and Lake Washington School District incorporates the widget in their website which makes it easier to involve volunteers and communicate with their diverse school community and volunteers.

What languages does Microsoft Translator support and how is a language added to the list?

The current list of supported languages is located here: <http://www.microsofttranslator.com/help/>. We add new languages periodically. In the process of adding a new language to the machine translation system, the most important learning material is existing high-quality translations, the same text in two languages. A significant amount, typically one million words of this type of text is needed to build a reasonable quality machine translation system for that language pair.

If you have access to large amounts of parallel data or are engaged in language automation for a particular language, please contact mtcont@microsoft.com to explore opportunities of working together.



What is the Microsoft Translator Hub?

Microsoft Translator Hub enables the development of custom language translation models between any language for language communities and businesses via cloud and web services. Opening doors to a broader number of languages, reducing the barriers to translation by empowering communities and businesses to own, build and deploy custom translation models to help keep languages alive.

Where can I find more information about Microsoft Translator?

For more information on Microsoft Translator, go to:

- Microsoft Translator: <http://www.microsoft.com/translator> and <http://www.microsofttranslator.com>
- Language Labs: <http://labs.microsofttranslator.com>
- Translator Blog: <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9690486>
- Translator Forum: <http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=9691460>
- Microsoft Translator Hub: <http://hub.microsofttranslator.com>

Microsoft Language Portal

<http://www.microsoft.com/language>

What is the Microsoft Language Portal?

The portal provides online search for international terminology and product translation, and the download of translation style guidelines to help developers and partners get local language products to market faster and in a consistent manner. The portal is a one-stop landing site for finding Microsoft internationalization material:

- 30,000 terms in 100+ languages (IT dictionary)
- 100+ languages (translation style guides)
- Exact translations used in dialogs, menus, and messages in hundreds of Microsoft products
- Pointers to globalization and internationalization sites, including Microsoft Machine Translation

What is the purpose of the Microsoft Language Portal?

The portal helps partners and users to build and employ services and software in their local language

- **This is my language** – Terminology and translations in 100+ languages
 - Helps develop products in the local language
 - Provides guidance for translations to partners/local language communities who are building local language software solutions
- **Open sharing** – Free downloads of Microsoft terminology collection that can be imported to local terminology databases to build a national corpus of IT terminology in the local language
- **Spread knowledge** – Best practices for the right style and tone in local language software and services

For whom is the Language Portal designed?

The Language Portal is for anyone developing or translating international products. The ability to find the right translation in multiple languages without having to install the software can be a great timesaver; which is what the Microsoft Language Portal provides. For example, if your product says “In Windows Control Panel, select View network status and tasks”, you will find the translation on the Language Portal without having to install numerous/different language versions of Windows.

Target audiences include: international developers, authors of international technical publications, partners, government, education, consumers/citizens, and linguists/language experts.

Why does Microsoft provide the Language Portal?

To provide the target audiences access to established terminology as part of their everyday work. Microsoft offers the portal to help the target audiences effectively and accurately develop local language software and services to ensure end-user experience the same language quality, tone and style as in Microsoft products.



Where do the terms originate from?

The terminology data on the portal come from well-known Microsoft products, such as Windows, Office, SQL Server, Windows Phone, Visual Studio and the Microsoft Dynamics suite of products. Featured terms include:

- User interface words like “file”, “save”, “multi-touch” or “wireless connection”
- Domain-specific terminology such as ERP terminology (i.e. Microsoft Dynamics)

In addition to the Terminology Collection database, the Language Portal contains the translated strings as they appear in Microsoft products.

How many terms does product strings does each language have?

Some languages are more widely available in Microsoft products than others – so the number of terms and strings will vary. The English list includes approximately 30,000 terms, where languages such as Japanese or German have around 25,000 terms. At minimum, all languages contain a translated base glossary of around 2500 terms that define key IT concepts such as “web”, “internet”, “touch”, “printer” and so on.

How often are the terms updated?

The content on the portal is updates with new additions approximately every 3 months.

How can I use the terms?

Terms and other materials on the Language Portal can be used to develop localized versions of software or in authoring publications. See Terms of Use <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/legal/intellectualproperty/copyright/default.aspx>. You may also import the contents of the Terminology Collection into your own terminology database with the appropriate attribution to Microsoft as described in the terms of use located at <http://www.microsoft.com/Language/en-US/LicenseAgreement.aspx>.

What can I do if I find errors in the material?

Microsoft welcomes feedback from users to help improve the quality. The Language Portal contains a feedback page at <https://www.microsoft.com/Language/en-US/Feedback.aspx> where users can report errors in the terminology and/or definitions as well as suggestions on improvements to the terminology or translations.

What is the Terminology Collection?

Developed in partnerships with governments, universities, and local language experts, the Microsoft Terminology Collection is a set of international IT terminology that is used in Microsoft products, services and documentation that covers terminology in more than 100 languages. The Terminology Collection is a valuable resource for:

- Developers who create products on a Microsoft platform
- Local language communities who need a high-quality dictionary of IT terminology in their language

The Terminology Collection provides translators, terminologists, students and IT professionals access to established terminology as part of their everyday work. By sharing thousands of fully-defined IT terms via public download, Microsoft provides IT professionals with the resources they need to develop localized versions of applications that integrate with Microsoft products. The Microsoft Terminology Collection can also serve as a base for IT glossary for language development.

In which format is the Terminology Collection provided?

Terminology Collections download is provided in the TBX (TermBase eXchange) format, which is an industry-recognized ISO format for exchanging terminology data.

What are “style guides”?

In addition to the terminology, the Language Portal also contains localization “style guides” for up to 100 languages. A style guide is a set of language standards that can be used to ensure localized products employ the same uniform style, tone and writing standards as Microsoft products. For example, a style guide will describe what level of formality to use when addressing the user, how names of product features should be capitalized, or how acronyms should be abbreviated.



What is the Microsoft Terminology Forum?

The Microsoft Terminology Forum is a community tool that allows our users and partners to get involved in defining terminology and translations for their language. It is designed to give all language communities a voice in our products by inviting communities who are passionate about their languages to work together on defining key software terminology – either by translating from scratch or by voting on the translations. The tool is an offering on the Microsoft Language Portal: www.microsoft.com/language.

Where can I find more information about the Microsoft Language Portal?

For more information on the Language Portal go to <http://www.microsoft.com/language>

Microsoft Partners in Learning

<http://www.partnersinlearning.com>

<http://www.pil-network.com>

What is Microsoft Partners in Learning (PIL)?

- A \$500M global initiative that helps schools and educators use technology to help every student receive an excellent education and gain the skills they need in work and life.
- PIL delivers a portfolio of professional development, curricula, tools and resources designed to advance 21st century teaching, learning and digital inclusion that improve learning outcomes for every student. Partners in Learning also helps motivate and inspire teachers, giving schools and teachers content and ideas that help them use technology creatively.
- With governments, academic institutions and NGOs, Partners in Learning has invested in a comprehensive research program, the creation of vibrant community of education stakeholders, and specific Educator and Schools programs to improve teaching and learning and optimize the use of technology within pedagogy.
- Announced in 2003, the program has trained more than 9 million educators and reached more than 200 million students in 114 countries.

How are Microsoft Partners in Learning and the Local Language Program connected?

Children live in a world where technology is a part of everyday life. When children encounter technology in their local language it empowers their indigenous community and helps validate its relevance in the modern world. As one of many offerings within Partners in Learning, the Local Language Program focuses on enabling children to foster their language and empower them in the essential role they play in the future of their own language.

Students learn better in their own language – as language is the key to communication and understanding in the classroom. The ability to access technology in one’s native language helps sustain the local language and culture as well as create an environment that fosters innovative teaching practices and the development of 21st century skills children need to be successful for work and life today.

What are the key focus areas for overall PIL program?

To improve learning experiences through ICT and help students build 21st century skills by collaborating, sharing, and scaling best practices that support governments, schools, and teachers to be the education leaders of today and tomorrow.

- Insight: Create research-driven policy and practices to advance teaching and learning through research as well as provide validated and scalable teaching and learning improvements.
- Community: Grow Learning Communities worldwide by empowering educators and school leaders around the world to connect, share, and co-create together.
- Capacity: Build Capacity by connecting innovation, professional development, content, curriculum, and tools to transform teaching and learning at scale.

Where can I find more information about Partners in Learning?

- Visit the Partners in Learning Web site at: www.partnersinlearning.com
- Visit the Partners in Learning Education Network Web site at: www.pil-network.com