TRADOS 5: a one-stop shop for translation projects

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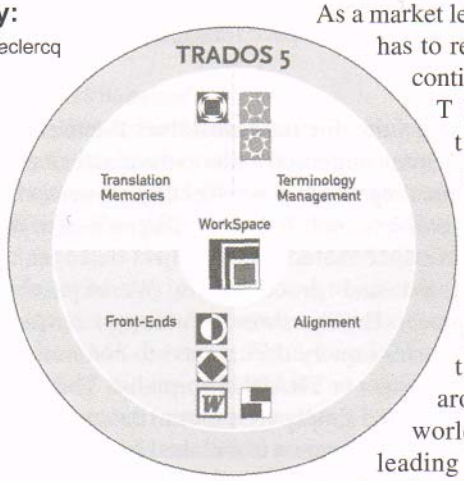


As a market leader, Trados has to reinvent itself continuously. The TRADOS translation technology may offer solutions for large enterprises and translators around the world, their leading position is partly thanks to their foundation into the European Union's institutes, where a large part of the licensees can be found. This leading position enables TRADOS to grow efficiently, adapting to recent developments in multilingual support.

With the release of TRADOS 3 not so long ago, the translation technology leader must have realised the new edition was too much the same compared to previous versions. In order to level with their recent history and to wipe out other translation support suites, TRADOS 5 has been released and the package has improved and enlarged in two ways.

First, the existing row of tools has been adapted to new Windows environments and requirements. All of them, from Workbench to WinAlign have had some various surgeries as well, basic improvements and a step forward in both ease of use and result efficiency. **The Translator's Workbench** improvements include advanced support for format exchange such as TMX level 2, cross-format recycling and an extended API. A range of improvements to **TagEditor** significantly supports various web and other content formats. **WinAlign** has been made more robust, as is **MultiTerm**.And terminology recognition improved drastically. Secondly, several new tools have evolved around the existing ones. One of the next-generation features of TRADOS 5 is its new productivity-focused **WorkSpace**, where role-based design gives users access to all online and offline applications, services and utilities. As an enhancement for the front-end usability of translation memory and alignment technologies, TRADOS 5 has come up with Xtranslate and TradosTag.

XTranslate enables users to automatically replace text with approved or reviewed translations from previous versions. It automates the perfect match-phenomenon and this by using a database-driven tool, which quite resembles Star's. **TRADOStag**, in a way an extended supplement of TagEditor, has more ways of handling several formats and this by means of an XML-enabled open standard. The star tool of the next-generation TRADOS is undoubtedly the terminology extraction tool **ExtraTerm**, which spans a variety of languages and formats. However, ExtraTerm might be paralleled with another already existing terminology extraction tool, Synthema, and does it actually live up to its expectations?

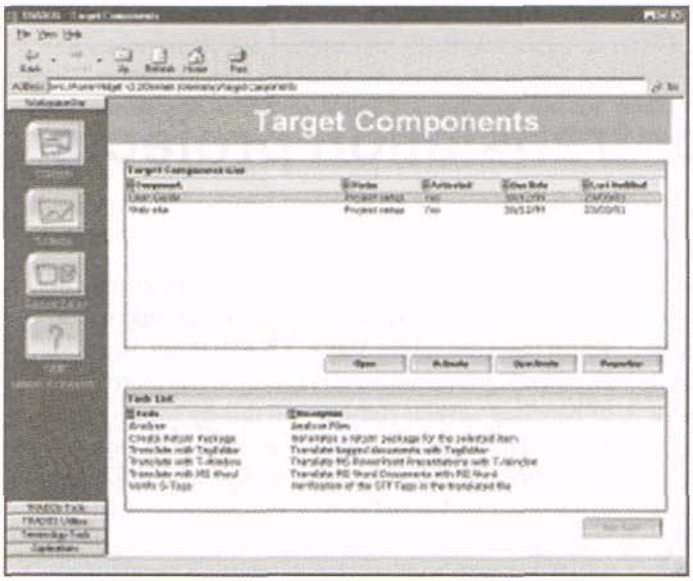
In fact, do all the improvements and innovations answer to the claim they make?

A New Heart

At the heart of TRADOS 5 is WorkSpace, a project management engine. WorkSpace is a cross-application platform and the perfect launchpad for individual TRADOS applications. Moreover, WorkSpace filters DTP formats such as Adobe FrameMaker, Interleaf, Adobe PageMaker, Ventura Publisher, QuarkXPress (for PC) into formats that can be translated in Word or TagEditor. WorkSpace offers a unified interface to TRADOS-related tasks, making many of the typical TRADOS tasks (such as document analysis and pre-translation) into one-click operations.

Main reason of existence of WorkSpace is sorting out the complex translation and coordination workflow by means of role- / task-based models. With Work-Space, users access the translation tools through a specific pre-determined role. Functionality and tasks are adapted to the role of the individual users. Consequently, users do not need to lose time on applications and functionalities that are not central to their task. This speeds up the set-up procedure and ensures an environment, which is more adapted to the user's intuition. WorkSpace offers the following roles: Project manager, TRADOS specialist, Translator and Super user.

Except for Super Users, who are assigned multiple roles, the user must always select the role he or she chose when they installed WorkSpace. This, we felt, is a drawback on the flexibility of the system. It becomes harder to shift roles during translation or co-



ordination of the content when tasks and ambitions vary over a very large project. After logging on to WorkSpace, the user selects one of the four roles available. The Task List changes according to the role chosen. In the case of a translator, for example, the tasks displayed include the following: Translate with T-Window, Translate with TagEditor, Translate with Word, Create Return Package, Analyse, and Verify S-Tags.

Grouping tasks

The project manager groups administrative tasks involved in organising, delegating and processing a translation production project. Incorporating several roles into one project management tool might add significant value to the process chain at localisation agencies, where all translation work is outsourced and enterprises that combine in-house with outsourced execution. As such, WorkSpace enables project managers to track and manage projects and translation memories with greater ease and efficiency.

With the help of WorkSpace,
the project manager will be able to:

- organise the files into components
- specify the source and target languages
- hook up any translation memories or term bases that exist
- analyse the files for word counts and percentage matche (using the Analyse function)

Analysis results are simply presented in a report that are easy to comprehend.

Concentration and acceleration of projects

The TRADOS specialist often performs preparatory work on the files and content of a project, preparing material for translation, creating translation memories and batch-populating them, setting up translation memories and general specialist document engineering tasks. The specialist concentrates on simplifying and accelerating the translation process by making the files more translation-friendly. This may involve changing the content or structure of the source files. The specialist may also extract/align data to create a translation memory or termbase and handle mid-project updates. The Trados Specialist becomes the content magician. On completion of the translation, the specialist will validate the quality and integrity of the target document. This quality check however, is incorporated into WorkSpace only formally. The qualitative validation (luckily) remains the task and responsibility of the specialist, not of the application. Advanced cross-application integration in WorkSpace gives the specialist instant access to any of the individual solutions required to set specialised options in the translation memory. In order to have FrameMaker/Interleaf-files (that need to be converted to MIF or IASCII first) fully integrated into WorkSpace for example, the S-tagger has been incorporated.

Adding value for the translators themselves?

WorkSpace might add value to the translation workflow for translators – regardless of whether they are networked or offline, in-house or external. Project packages received (containing files, reference material and project data) are added to the project list and processed in WorkSpace's integrated environment. The Translator has access to standard reports and forms (such as query documents) to communicate with the project manager or TRADOS specialist. The translator opens the package and simply adds files to the project list. However, the translator or linguist is still the language expert, focusing on production of the actual translation, co-ordination of content rather than of the underlying technologies and translation cycle. All improvements in language support and computer-aided translation sometimes have the discussion on workflows and quality metrics shift away from the deed itself.

But WorkSpace actually simplifies the translation production process. To translate an HTML file, for example, the translator selects the Translate with TagEditor task and WorkSpace automatically opens the file in TagEditor, also calling up the associated translation memory and - if present - MultiTerm database. On completion of the translation, the translator changes the file status to "Translated". The user can then generate a status report to see how far the project has progressed. On completion of the project, the translator simply packages the translated material and returns it to the project manager or specialist.

Freelance edition

For Trados 5 Freelance edition, roles such as the project manager, TRADOS specialist and super user are not available (as these are not generally required by freelancers). Similar to Translator's Workbench, freelance users can chose between five languages. The translator can create a bi-lingual project with a source and target language from the five languages selected in Translator's Workbench. The Freelance version is not network-enabled. The Create Project TM task is not available (as this function is not available in Translator's Workbench Freelance). Similarly, the Create Custom Analysis Report task and the Create RFQ Report task are not available.

So then, is the WorkSpace really an improvement and innovation TRADOS users have been waiting for? In a way, yes. The multitask project management becomes more clear for larger projects and for translator teams and/or co-ordinators. Translators have clear access to resources they otherwise usually lack. The fast and efficient retrieval of analysis results (percentages of perfect and fuzzy matches and text material

statistics) are a plus as well. The overall analysis can be sent out in a pdf-format to translators or whomever it may concern. The direct link with an email-system is another time-saving element. The ability to focus down on 'packages' allow to send (parts of the) translation memories along with the task itself.

Good Old Workbenches

Translator's Workbench improvements include greater interoperability through advanced support for industry-standard exchange formats such as TMX level 2, enhanced cross-format recycling and extended API reach. Support for Asian and bi-directional languages is enhanced as well. Translator's Workbench is increasingly committed to interoperability through advanced support for industry-standard exchange formats such as TMX Level 2. TMX Level 2 means that internal formatting and tag information is encapsulated in special tags to preserve formatting and tag integrity during export and re-import of translation memories (also called a roundtrip). Translator's Workbench also enables enhanced cross-format recycling. The analysis function has been optimised for more intelligent results. For instance, tags embedded in an HTML translation no longer impact as negatively on the fuzzy match results of an analysis run on translation memory text without tags.

In addition, all databases created with Translator's Workbench are automatically encrypted to protect your multilingual assets against unauthorised use. Consequently, the contents of your translation memories can no longer be accessed through a regular text editor. Translation memories from Edition 3 users can easily be exported and re-imported. With the help of an enhanced bilingual concordancing scheme, concordance searches can now be performed in both source and target language. The Word 2000 spell check has been linked to as well. Contrary to 2.* versions, all accented characters of whatever exotic alphabet are now represented in the translation memory on a more stable basis and this thanks to the UNICODE support.

Front-End backup and format support

Via a suite of tag editing tools, TagEditor for example, TRADOS 5 offers support for various web formats (HTML/ASP/JSP, XML , XSL) and tagged DTP formats (such as FrameMaker, PageMaker, QuarkXPress and Interleaf/Quicksilver. An important improvement, a revolution in language technology country would be the support for Quark for Mac.

A new tool, TRADOStag, is also introduced as an XML-based open standard unifying the TRADOS-based translation process. For instance, tags are no longer inserted unless they are relevant to the current context. This saves valuable time deleting unnecessary tags. TagEditor gives reviewers more flexibility with offline editing and reviewing functionality, for Translator's Workbench no longer needs to be running in the background to review TagEditor documents. TagEditor offers advanced spell-check functionality for all languages by integrating the Microsoft Word dictionnaries into the spell-checking process. This functionality is available as a new, free plug-in for Microsoft Word 2000 or later. TagEditor capabilities are fully present in the TRADOS 5 Freelance version

An undo-button's absence undone

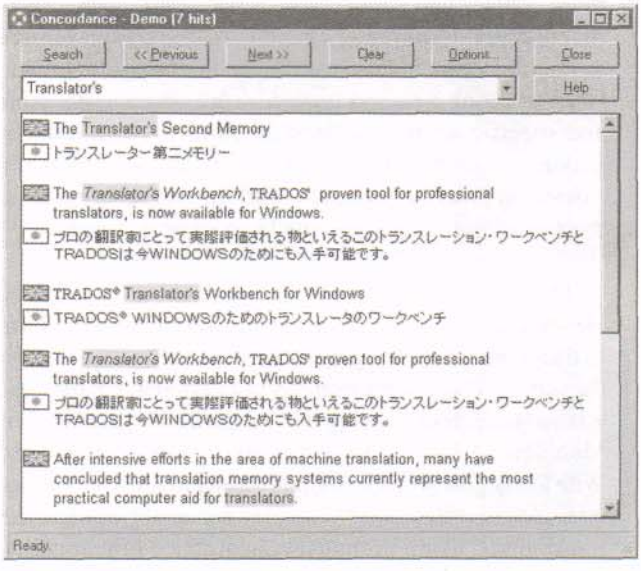
WinAlign has also been refined. To streamline the alignment process for DTP formats and extend the pool of potential recycling material, TradosTag support is built-in. WinAlign has made more robust. Users can now convert tagged PageMaker, QuarkXPress or Ventura documents to TRADOStag in WorkSpace and then align them in WinAlign. For TRADOS Freelance users, alignment projects are restricted to a maximum of ten file pairs with up to five source and target languages

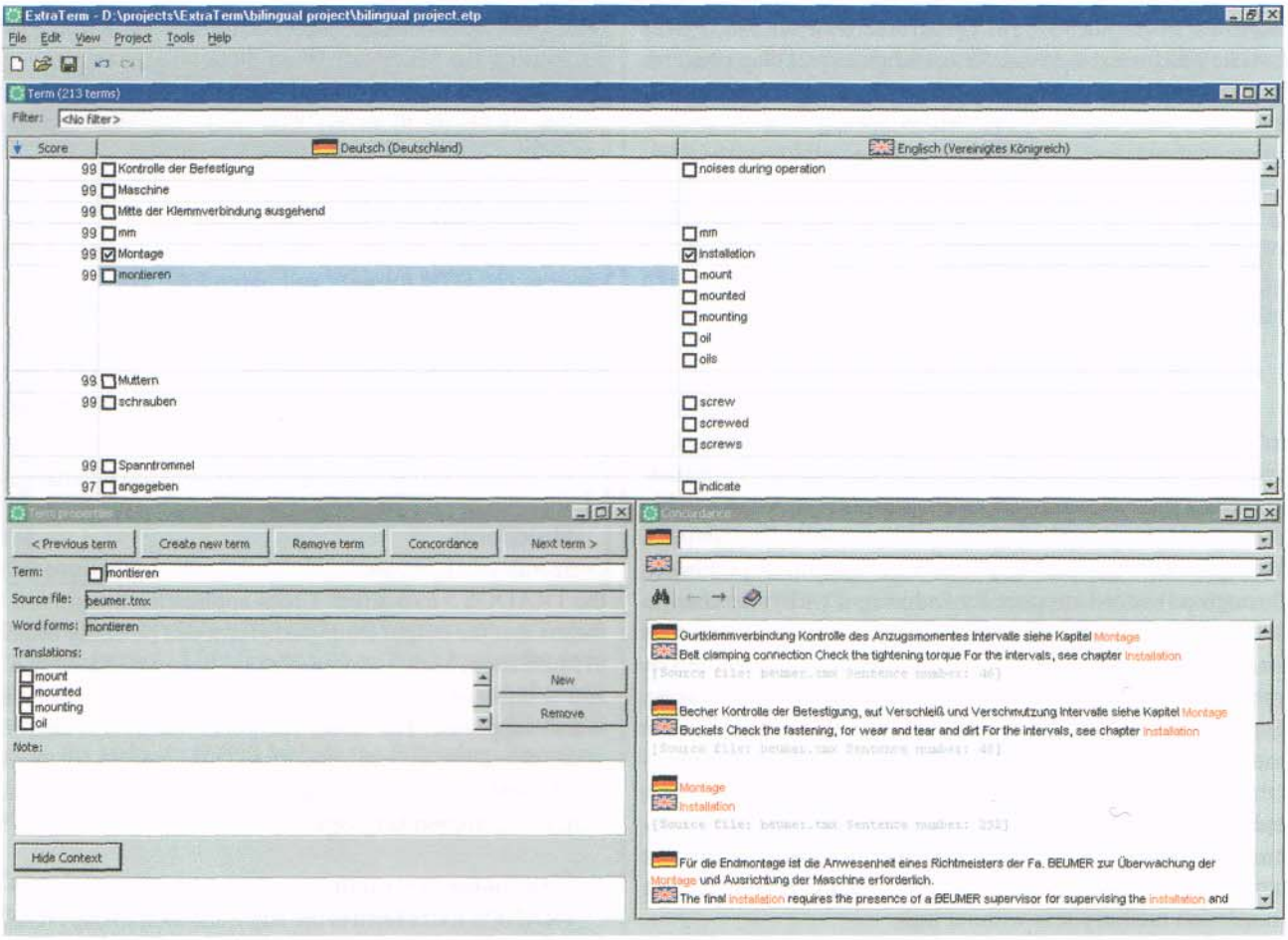
MultiTerm

Seamlessly integrated with WorkSpace, MultiTerm reflects the TRADOS 5 look&feel. Cross-application integration also means that the output from ExtraTerm can be easily imported to MultiTerm. MultiTerm support has been extended for Asian and bi-directional languages. A wider range of graphic formats is also supported. The 32-bit version of MultiTerm also offers wider operating system support so that users no longer need to run localised versions of the operating system when working with less common languages.

Terminology extraction

TRADOS ExtraTerm is the latest addition to the TRADOS suite of next-generation terminology products. ExtraTerm automates what was traditionally a highly labour and cost-intensive activity. To compile terminology lists in the past, terminologists had to identify terms individually, paste them to a termlist, and then search for the corresponding foreign-language equivalents. ExtraTerm cuts the effort involved by automatically extracting a list of candidate terms and probable translations. It enables candidate terms to be easily edited and validated. Context sentences can be included if required. The output from ExtraTerm can be easily imported to MultiTerm. ExtraTerm automatically extracts terms from existing texts and documents on the basis of statistical information. The end result is a list that can be verified afterwards by a terminologist





and/or a domain expert. ExtraTerm not only extracts a list of candidate terms from the source text, it also identifies probable translations in the target text (provided parallel source and target texts are provided, via bilingual formats such as TMX. ExtraTerm also offers a dictionary compilation feature. This focuses on the extraction of all words rather than specific terms. Compound terms tend to be a negelected minority.

The automatic candidate extraction process can be accompanied by manual extraction. This gives the user control over the process, enhancing the quality and value of the overall results. The user selects one of three project types: monolingual terminology candidate extraction, bilingual terminology candidate extraction or dictionary compilation. After selecting a project type, files are added to the project and specific settings defined, such as the minimum and maximum number of words in a term. On completion of the extraction process, the results (all the extracted terms and their word forms) are presented in a separate window.

The user validates correct terms by ticking the check box. He/she can look at the extracted terms (or their word forms) in their context by using the concordance function and filter the results. Once validation has been completed, the export wizard facilitates importing the extracted terms to MultiTerm, MultiTerm XML format and/or Excel (tab-delimited text). With a bilingual project, possible translations for the extracted terms are also displayed. The user can again validate these translations, using bilingual concordance functionality if required. Take for instance our Trados Specialist, the content magician. If ExtraTerm is used to extract terminology from new material, already existing terminological material can be imported in an exclusion list, thus extracting new terms only. He/she can also extract a bilingual termlist on the basis of a translation memory export. ExtraTerm is not available with the Freelance version of TRADOS 5. The resultsof lists created using ExtraTerm can, however, be imported into MultiTerm Freelance databases.

XTranslate

Our translation memory offering has been extended to include Xtranslate. Integrated into WorkSpace as a Project Update feature, it enables project managers to automatically transfer text with approved or reviewed translations from previous versions of bilingual reference documents into new source documents. XTranslate addresses in particular the uncertainty that may accompany translation memory matches. For example, can the user be sure that even 100% matches from the translation memory database are fully reliable? Do they fit the new context? And how does a translation memory algorithm reacts internally if there is more than one 100% match? Considerable costs are often incurred reviewing all 100% matches. Through the reference file approach, XTranslate eliminates these unnecessary costs. XTranslate is especially suited to the following types of scenario:

- A new translation project largely based on a fully reviewed earlier version of the same project. This is the "classic" update situation. XTranslate automatically transfers

translations from the previous approved version to the new source documents.

- The review cycle of a translation project has already been partly or fully completed (at least some of the bilingual files have been signed off). The project is complicated by a last-minute update, however. Rather than retranslating the reviewed documents through Workbench (which would require a second review cycle to eliminate uncertainty),

XTranslate can be used to re-generate the new translated documents based on the reviewed earlier versions. XTranslate supports all tagged documents from SGML/HTML/XML to FrameMaker, FrameMaker+SGML, Interleaf/Quicksilver, Ventura and QuarkXPress. For TRADOS 5 Freelance WorkSpace users, the Project Update feature is not available The Freelance version fully supports this function, however. Freelance users can work on XTranslated documents received from their customers/localisation agencies (in TagEditor featuring "greyed out" XTranslated units).

XConvert

Tag component to the whole TRADOS 5 suite is Xconvert, which converts all these formats to TTX. It is used by Workbench during batch-processing and by WorkSpace to convert STF to TRADOStag, for instance. TTX supports all tagged formats (SGML/HTML/XML, FrameMaker, Interleaf, QuarkXPress, Ventura, etc.).

Using TRADOStag

When opening files in WorkSpace, Translator's Workbench, TagEditor or ExtraTerm, users can now select PageMaker, QuarkXPress or Ventura files (in addition to the usual SGML/HTML/XML options) directly from the File Type list. The documents are converted automatically to TRADOStag. TRADOStag capabilities are fully present in the Freelance version.

Improvements and innovations?

Driven by breakthroughs in translation technologies, TRADOS 5 has brought simplification, integration and automation to translation production processes. TRADOS 5 is built around the productivity-focused WorkSpace giving users access to all the online and offline applications, services and utilities they need to do their job more quickly and efficiently. Based on a database engine and translation memory technology, the newest TRADOS offspring brings usability and functional enhancements to many stages of the translation cycle. ■

Edition:

TRADOS 5 Corporate

- WorkSpace
- Translator's Workbench
- TagEditor
- T-Window for PowerPoint
- WinAlign
- MultiTerm
- MultiTerm Migration Tool
- ExtraTerm
- Story Collector for PageMaker
- Story Collector for QuarkXpress
- Font Mapper for Framemaker
- Font Mapper for Interleaf

TRADOS 5 Freelance

- WorkSpace (restricted usage)
- Translator's Workbench (restricted usage)
- TagEditor
- T-Window for PowerPoint
- WinAlign (restricted usage)
- MultiTerm
- Story Collector for PageMaker
- Story Collector for QuarkXpress
- Font Mapper for Framemaker
- Font Mapper for Interleaf

System requirements:

TRADOS 5 runs under Windows 95 (only support for Windows 95 OEM Service Release, versions 2.0, 2.1, 2.5), Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows NT and Windows 2000. Windows NT and Windows 2000 are recommended for optimum performance. According to the product information, TRADOS 5 requires a PC with Pentium processor (Pentium II or higher recommended) with 64 MB RAM or more, MultiTerm and Translator's Workbench support all common networks. A PC with Pentium III, 666 Mhz, 1228 MB Ram, however, did experience lack of RAM capacity problems when all TRADOS 5 applications are fully used.

Note: TRADOS 5 currently offers no Office XP support.

Prices:

Edition - Price in US$

- **Standard Localization Environment V3.1** - US$ 499
- **Select Edition V3.1** - US$ 899
- **Advanced Localisation Environment V3.1** - US$ 2,499
- **Enterprise Edition V3.1** - US$ 4,999
- **Quickship Edition V3.1** - FREE

Ease of Us	✪✪✪✪✪
Aesthetic Appeal	✪✪✪✪✪
Speed	✪✪✪✪✪
Claims vs Reality	✪✪✪✪✪