



Documentation Working Group

New PO translation system

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Background

- FreeBSD translation projects translate EN_US docs
- Mostly manual work, comparing diffs
- no tool support
- Translation projects seriously lacking behind current state of docs
- Little new translators joining the project because of tedious work



New PO translation system

- Gettext-based translation system
- Warren Block integrated it into doc build system
- Some lose ends, but works quite well for new document translations
- Extracts strings from documents to translate into a po file
- Po file editor helps to edit string by making suggestions from previous translated strings (translation memory)
- Afterwards, po file is merged back into document



Benefits of the new system

- no need for translators to deal with markup and formatting
- Po file editor helps to edit string by making suggestions from previous translated strings (translation memory)
 - Translation memory gets better over time
 - Some strings don't need to be translated like names, devices, program listings, etc.



Demo



Further Information

- More information with a quickstart guide available in the FreeBSD Documentation Project Primer:

http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/fdp-primer/po-translations.html

- Detailed information about the PO format:

http://pology.nedohodnik.net/doc/user/en_US/ch-po-format.html



Open Issues

- Web-based Pootle translation server port needed:
<https://reviews.freebsd.org/D1234>
- More testing from different languages
- rene@'s experiences:
<https://svnweb.freebsd.org/changeset/doc/47453>
- Only tested on freshly translated docs
 - What happens with translation when en_US doc gets updated ?
 - Keeping the po-file around (committing it) ?
 - Create a cross translation project translation memory with common strings