
Translation Guide

Release

Linux Mint

Jan 27, 2018

General Concepts

1	Localization	3
2	POT Templates	5
3	PO files	7
4	Using Launchpad	9
5	Using POEdit	13
6	Verify your translations	17
7	Common mistakes	19

Welcome to the Linux Mint Translation Guide.

Linux Mint is available in more than a hundred languages, but not fully translated in every single one of them.



Note: Non-translated words and sentences are displayed to the user in English.

This guide will help you translate Linux Mint software and documentation in your language.

Note: This chapter explains how translations work. It is useful for getting a better understanding of the workflow and the technology but it isn't required in order to start translating Linux Mint. If you want to skip it, you can go straight to the next chapter.

Software applications and user interfaces are designed in English.

The Linux Mint developers use a library and a set of tools called Gettext to localize them.

If you look at source code, you'll often see an underscore function wrapping English words and sentences. For instance `_("Yes")` instead of `"Yes"`. This underscore refers to Gettext and indicates that the string `"Yes"` is localized.

Here's an example in Python. The code below creates two buttons. They're both labeled `Yes`, but `button2` is localized whereas `button1` isn't.

```
button1 = Gtk.Button()
button2 = Gtk.Button()
button1.set_label("Yes")
button2.set_label(_("Yes"))
```

At runtime, `button2` will be properly translated, whereas `button1` will always show in English.

If you run this code in French, you'll see a `Yes` button, and a `Oui` button. If you run it in Spanish, you'll see a `Yes` button, and a `Sí` button.

Of course, for this to work, French and Spanish translations for `Yes` have to be available. If they aren't, the second button will show in English.

CHAPTER 2

POT Templates

For each project, the Linux Mint developers extract all the English words and sentences and put everything that has to be translated into a `.pot` file called the `PO` template.

They then upload that file to Launchpad, where translators can translate the words and sentences into their own languages.

CHAPTER 3

PO files

The Linux Mint development team then downloads all the translations from Launchpad and packages them into the operating system.

The translations consist of `.po` files that are compiled and installed as `.mo` files on the filesystem, usually in `/usr/share/locale`.

They are packaged in their relevant applications, or sometimes in translation packages such as `mint-translations` (for the Mint tools) or `cinnamon-110n` (for Cinnamon).

4.1 Create a Launchpad account

If you don't have a Launchpad account already, use the [registration page](#) to create a new one.

Edit the languages for your account and add all the languages you are fluent in.

4.2 Join the translation team for your language

To see all the languages and their current status, go to [Translation status by language](#) and click on *View all languages*.

Click on your language and then on the name of the team which is responsible for translations in your language:

Click *Join the team*:

4.3 Translate using Launchpad

Once you've joined the translation team, you can start translating.

Click on your language, choose a project which has missing translations and click on the number of untranslated items.

At the top of the page, make sure that you are in `Reviewer` mode (otherwise your translations won't be approved automatically and they will wait for somebody else to review them).


Linux Mint


Log Out

Overview Code Bugs Blueprints **Translations** Answers

Translation status by language

[Help For translations](#)

Permissions

Linux Mint is translated by Linux Mint with [Structured](#) permissions.

Administration

Translation files that are waiting to be imported are shown in the [import queue](#).
To see all the translation templates in latest, go to the [full list of templates](#).

Sharing Information

This project series is not sharing translations with an Ubuntu source package.

Manual synchronization

If you don't want to use bazaar synchronization, you can still manually [upload](#) or [download](#) translation tarballs.

Automatic synchronization

This project is currently not using any synchronization with bazaar branches.
[Set up branch synchronization](#)



Translation status

Language ▲	Status	Untranslated	Needs review	Last Changed
Abkhazian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	8487	0	2016-02-09
Afrikaans	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	7209	64	2017-09-06
Albanian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	5318	0	2017-09-06
Amharic	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	237	0	2017-12-23
Arabic	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	3832	120	2017-11-03
Aragonese	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9314	0	2017-07-14
Armenian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	8940	7	2017-09-06
Assamese	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	7293	0	2017-09-06
Asturian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	5067	4	2017-09-06
Azerbaijani	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	8368	17	2017-10-20
Balinese	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9641	0	2010-05-06
Basque	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	0	0	16 hours ago
Belarusian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	4126	38	2017-09-06
Bemba	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9623	0	2017-07-14
Bengali	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	6539	229	2017-09-06
Berber (Other)	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9637	0	2015-06-07
Bosnian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	6147	55	2017-09-06
Brazilian Portuguese	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	0	0	2017-12-14
Breton	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	8427	0	2017-09-06
Bulgarian	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	0	0	2017-12-14
Burmese	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9036	0	2017-07-14
Catalan	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	0	0	15 hours ago
Catalan (Valencian)	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	5375	4	2017-09-23
Chechen	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9636	0	2017-07-14
Cherokee	<div style="width: 100%; height: 10px; background: linear-gradient(to right, red, green);"></div>	9639	0	2015-09-14

Overview Code Bugs Blueprints **Translations** Answers

Translatable templates

Series latest » **Esperanto (eo)**

These  Linux Mint translations are managed by  Esperanto-skipo por la tradukado de LinuksoMinto-programaroj.

You can add and review translations. Templates which are more important to translate are listed first.

1 → 37 of 37 results

First • Previous • Next ► • Last

Template Name	Length	Status	Untranslated	Need review	Changed	Last Edited	By
blueberry	34		29	—	—	2015-03-14	Clement Lefebvre
cinnamon	1500		1000	20	—	2016-06-26	Launchpad Translations...
cinnamon-bluetooth	47		23	—	—	2014-05-07	Jon Stevenson
cinnamon-control-center	470		287	—	—	2013-11-26	Clement Lefebvre
cinnamon-screensaver	18		13	—	—	2013-11-26	Jon Stevenson
cinnamon-session	68		9	—	—	2017-09-06	Kristjan SCHMIDT
cinnamon-settings-daemon	291		110	—	—	2017-09-06	Clement Lefebvre
folder-color-switcher	22		22	—	—	—	—
lightdm-settings	57		57	—	—	—	—
linuxmint-installation-guide	257		257	—	—	—	—
live-installer	148		104	7	—	2011-11-18	Michael Moroni
mdm	105		81	—	—	2014-05-07	Jon Stevenson
mint-common	8		5	—	—	2013-11-26	Jon Stevenson
mintbackup	58		49	—	—	2014-05-07	Jon Stevenson
mintdesktop	88		53	—	—	2015-09-14	Launchpad Translations...
mintdrivers	26		26	—	—	—	—
mintinstall	78		31	—	—	2012-12-29	Michael Moroni
mintlocale	41		41	—	—	—	—
mintmenu	120		7	1	—	2014-05-07	Jon Stevenson
mintnanny	10		6	—	—	2011-11-15	Michael Moroni
mintreport	29		29	—	—	—	—
mintsources	99		47	—	—	2014-05-07	Jon Stevenson
mintstick	35		35	9	—	2017-06-22	—
mintupdate	327		275	—	—	2016-04-08	Launchpad Translations...
mintupload	64		4	—	—	2013-11-25	Jon Stevenson
mintwelcome	25		15	—	—	2012-08-16	Michael Moroni
nemo	1226		802	5	—	2013-11-26	Clement Lefebvre
nemo-extensions	303		303	—	—	—	—
pix	1202		792	—	—	2016-06-22	Kristjan SCHMIDT
slick-greeter	47		13	—	—	2017-07-14	Michael Moroni
slideshow-mint	51		19	—	—	2013-11-26	Jon Stevenson
slideshow-mint-kde	45		7	—	—	2012-12-29	Michael Moroni
timexchiff	572		572	—	—	—	—

The screenshot shows the team page for "Esperanto-skipo por la tradukado de LinuksoMinto-programaroj". The page includes a navigation bar with "Overview", "Code", "Bugs", "Blueprints", "Translations", and "Answers". The main content area has a description of the team and instructions for joining. On the right, there are buttons for "Public team", "Contact this team's admins", "Join the team" (circled in red), and "Add one of my teams". Below this, there are sections for "Team details" (including email, owner, and languages), "Mailing list", "Related projects", and "Subteam of".

The screenshot shows the translation interface for Esperanto. It includes a navigation bar with "Overview", "Code", "Bugs", "Blueprints", "Translations", and "Answers". The main heading is "Translating into Esperanto". Below this, there is a search bar and a "Reviewer mode (What's this?)" button (circled in red). The interface shows a list of untranslated items, with the first item being "Restore System Configuration". The current Esperanto translation is "(no translation yet)". There are suggestions for the translation, including "Restaŭri sisteman konfiguron". The interface also shows a "New translation" input field and a checkbox for "Someone should review this translation".

If you want to translate faster, you can download the translations as a `.po` file, edit that file with a tool called `poedit` and upload the edited `.po` file back into Launchpad.

5.1 Download the translations

Choose a project and click *Download translation*:

Choose `PO format` as the file format and click *Request Download*.

Wait for Launchpad to send you an email (this can take a little while). In the email you will find a download link to either the `.po` file directly or a compressed archive containing the `.po` file.

5.2 Use POEdit

To install POEdit, open a terminal and type:

```
apt install poedit
```

Open the `.po` file you got from Launchpad with POEdit:

Browse the menus and familiarize yourself with the keyboard shortcuts. If you use these shortcuts and the built-in spell checker, you'll translate much faster with POEdit than with Launchpad.

When finished, click *Save*.

5.3 Upload the translations back into Launchpad

In Launchpad, click *Upload translation*.

Select your `.po` file and click *Upload*.

Overview Code Bugs Blueprints **Translations** Answers

Translating into Esperanto

Series latest » Template "cinnamon" » Esperanto (eo)

Before translating, be sure to go through [Esperanto-skipo por la tradukado de LinuksMin](#)

Download translation Upload translation Translation details Reviewer mode (What's this?)

Translating all items using (nothing selected) as a guide. Change

1 → 10 of 1500 results

1. English: Unknown

Current Esperanto: **Nekonata**

Translated by Wolfram Riedel on 2012-04-15

Reviewed by Michael Moroni on 2012-04-16

Suggestions:

Nekonate

Used in baobab in Ubuntu Bionic package "baobab" by Kristjan SCHMIDT on 2017-10-03

Αγνωστο

Used in guidance in Ubuntu Jaunty package "kde-guidance" by Spiros Georgaras on 2007-08-17

Nesciata

Suggested in baobab in Ubuntu Bionic package "baobab" by Kristjan SCHMIDT on 2015-07-20

Nekonata produktinto

Suggested in okular-tiff in Ubuntu Lucid package "kdegraphics" by Donald Rogers on 2010-10-03

New translation:

Someone should review this translation

Located in src/cinnamon-app.c:433 src/cinnamon-app.c:441 js/ui/notificationDaemon.js:553 files/usr/share/cinnamon/applets/power@cinnamon.org/appl

2. English: Failed to launch '%s'

Current Esperanto: **Lanĉo de '%s' fiaskis**

Translated and reviewed by Michael Moroni on 2012-04-16

New translation:

Someone should review this translation

Located in src/cinnamon-app.c:701

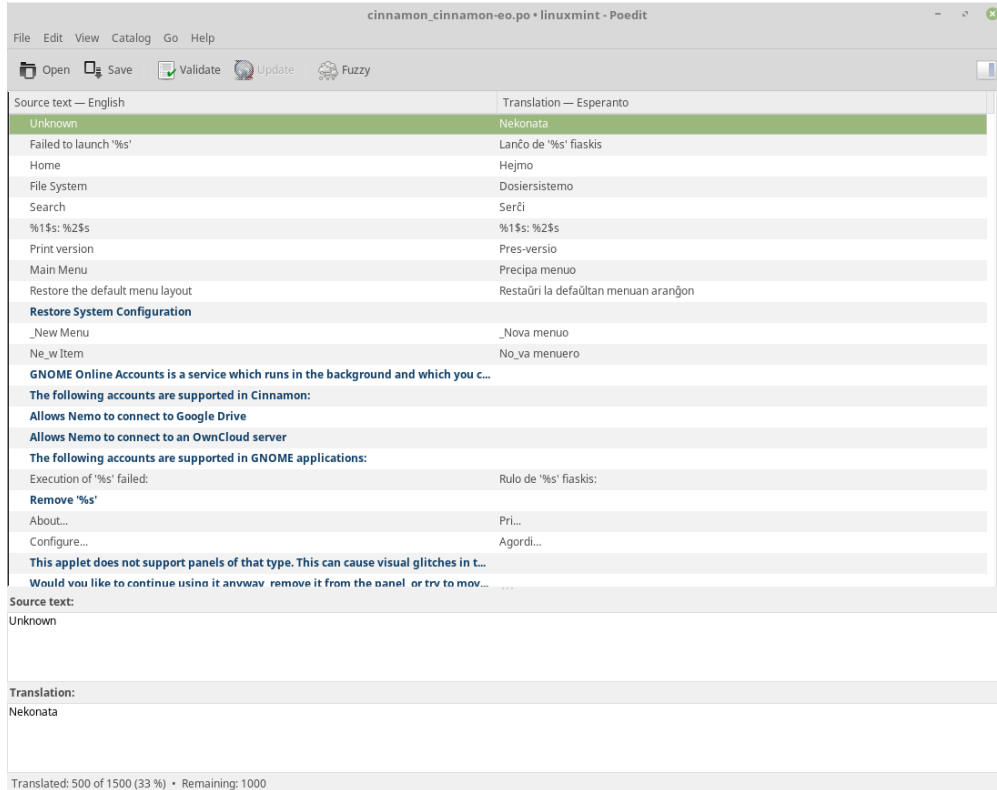
3. English: Home

Current Esperanto: **Hejmo**

Translated and reviewed by Kristjan SCHMIDT on 2013-06-03

Suggestions:

Linikomencen



Click Translation Import Queue to view the [Translation import queue for latest](#). If your upload is marked as Needs Review, click the Edit button (symbolized by a pen symbol), choose the correct template (i.e. project), and click Approve.

Overview Code Bugs Blueprints **Translations** Answers

Translating into Esperanto

Series latest » Template "cinnamon" » Esperanto (eo)

Before translating, be sure to go through [Esperanto-skipo por la tradukado de LinuksMin](#)

[Download translation](#) [Upload translation](#) [Translation details](#) [Reviewer mode \(What's this?\)](#)

Translating **all items** using **(nothing selected)** as a guide. [Change](#)

1 → 10 of 1500 results

1. English: Unknown

Current Esperanto: **Nekonata**

Translated by [Wolfram Riedel](#) on 2012-04-15

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Suggestions:

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Αγνωστο

Used in [guidance](#) in Ubuntu Jaunty package "kde-guidance" by [Spiros Georgaras](#) on 2007-08-17

Nesciata

Suggested in [baobab](#) in Ubuntu Bionic package "baobab" by [Kristjan SCHMIDT](#) on 2015-07-20

Nekonata produktinto

Suggested in [okular-tiff](#) in Ubuntu Lucid package "kdegraphics" by [Donald Rogers](#) on 2010-10-03

New translation:

Someone should review this translation

Located in `src/cinnamon-app.c:433 src/cinnamon-app.c:441 js/ui/notificationDaemon.js:553 files/usr/share/cinnamon/applets/power@cinnamon.org/appl`

2. English: Failed to launch '%s'

Current Esperanto: **Lanĉo de '%s' fiaskis**

Translated and reviewed by [Michael Moroni](#) on 2012-04-16

New translation:

Someone should review this translation

Located in `src/cinnamon-app.c:701`

3. English: Home

Current Esperanto: **Hejmo**

Translated and reviewed by [Kristjan SCHMIDT](#) on 2013-06-03

Suggestions:

Linikomencen

Verify your translations

6.1 Download your PO file

If your translations are on Launchpad, download them as a PO file, as explained in *Download the translations*.

Create a `translations` directory in your home directory and put your PO file in it.

6.2 Install mint-dev-tools

To verify your translations you need a tool called `mint-check-translations`, which is part of `mint-dev-tools`.

Open a terminal and type:

```
apt install mint-dev-tools
```

6.3 Verify your PO file with mint-check-translations

To check your translations, open a terminal and type:

```
mint-check-translations ~/translations
```

This opens the translation checking tool and highlights errors in your PO file:

This tool won't highlight translation mistakes you might make (grammar, spelling, etc.), but it will ensure your translations are properly structured and won't affect the software you're translating. Among other things, this tool checks that special meaningful characters are preserved, that variables are still there, etc.

Translation Checker				
Project	Language	MsgId	MsgStr	Issue
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Most BIOS have a special key you can press to select the boot device and all of them have a special key to enter the BIOS configuration screen (from which you can define the boot order). Depending on the BIOS, these special keys can be <code><kbd>Escape</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F1</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F2</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F8</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F10</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F11</kbd></code> , <code><kbd>F12</kbd></code> , or <code><kbd>Delete</kbd></code> . That information is usually briefly written on the screen during the boot sequence.	De meeste BIOS'en gebruiken een speciale toets waarmee u het opstartmedium kan kiezen, en waarmee u het BIOS-configuratiescherm kan kiezen (waarin u de opstartvolgorde kan selecteren). Afhankelijk van het BIOS zijn deze toetsen: 'Esc', 'F1', 'F2', 'F8', 'F10', 'F11', 'F12', 'Delete'. Gewoonlijk wordt deze informatie kort getoond tijdens het opstarten.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	On Macs, keep your finger pressed on the <code><kbd>Alt</kbd></code> or <code><kbd>Option</kbd></code> key after hearing the boot sound.	Bij Macintosh, houd de 'Alt' - of 'Option' - toets ingedrukt nadat het opstartgeluid weerklonk.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	From one of these menu, press <code><kbd>Enter</kbd></code> to start Linux Mint from your USB stick (or DVD).	Druk op de 'Enter' - toets bij één van deze menu's om Linux Mint te starten vanaf USB-staafje (of DVD).	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Right-click the ISO file and select <code>menuselection: 'Make Bootable USB Stick'</code> , or launch <code>menuselection: 'Menu -> Accessories -> USB Image Writer'</code> .	Selecteer het ISO-bestand, klik op de rechtermuisknop en selecteer in het menu 'Open met Schijfkopieschrijver', of klik op -> Menu -> Hulpmiddelen -> Schijfkopieschrijver voor USB	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Select your USB device and click <code>glabel: 'Write'</code> .	Kies uw USB-medium en klik op 'Schrijven'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Click <code>glabel: 'Select image'</code> and select your ISO file.	Klik op 'Kies beeldbestand' en kies uw ISO-bestand.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Click <code>glabel: 'Select drive'</code> and select your USB stick.	Klik op 'Kies station' en kies uw USB-staafje.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Click <code>glabel: 'Flash'</code> .	Klik 'Leegmaken'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Burn the content of the ISO onto the DVD, not the ISO file itself. When finished, your DVD should contain directories such as <code>'boot'</code> and <code>'casper'</code> , it shouldn't be an empty DVD containing an ISO file.	Brand de inhoud van het ISO-bestand op de DVD, niet het ISO-bestand zelf. Wanneer dit gereed is, zouden er mappen op de DVD moeten staan als 'boot' en 'casper'. Het mag geen DVD zijn waarop enkel het ISO-bestand staat.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Install and use <code>'xfburn'</code> .	Installeer en gebruik 'xfburn'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Right-click the ISO file and select <code>menuselection: 'Burn disk image'</code> .	Rechtsklik het ISO-bestand en kies het menu-element 'Brand ISO-bestand'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	To make sure the ISO was burned without any errors, select <code>menuselection: 'Verify disc after burning'</code> .	Om zeker te maken dat het ISO-bestand zonder fouten werd gebrand, kies menu-element 'Verifieer schijf na branden'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Right-click the ISO file and select <code>menuselection: 'Burn Disk Image to Disc'</code> .	Rechtsklik het ISO-bestand en kies het menu-element 'Brand ISO-bestand'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	You can download Linux Mint from the 'Linux Mint website' <code><https://linuxmint.com/download.php></code> .	U kunt Linux Mint binnenhalen vanaf de 'Linux Mint' website <code><https://linuxmint.com/download.php></code> .	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	If you have an old computer and you are unsure whether or not it can run in 64-bit, read 'X86 Chronology' <code><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86Chronology></code> .	Als u in het bezit bent van een oude computer, en u twijfelt of die in 64-bit kan draaien, lees dan 'X86 Chronology' <code><https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X86Chronology></code> . (in het Engels).	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Launch <code>menuselection: 'Menu -> Sound & Video -> Install Multimedia Codecs'</code> .	Kies: 'Menu' -> 'Geluid & Beeld' -> 'Installeer Multimedia Codecs'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Click <code>glabel: 'Install'</code> .	Klik op 'Installeer'.	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Launch <code>menuselection: 'Menu -> Administration -> Driver Manager'</code> .	Kies 'Menu -> Systeem -> Stuurprogramma-beheer'	Mismatch in RST special chars
linuxmint-installation-guide	nl	Insert your bootable Linux Mint USB stick (or DVD), wait for it to be mounted,	Steek uw opstartbare Linux Mint USB-staafje in (of DVD), wacht tot het	Mismatch in RST special chars

Note: This tool can scan multiple PO files and recurse through sub-directories. It is used by the Linux Mint team to check all translations.

7.1 In software applications

The most commonly made mistake when translating source code is not respecting variables.

Here are a few examples of wrong translations:

Original	Translation	Error
The file %s could not be found	Le fichier % s est introuvable	% s instead of %s
The file %s could not be found	Le fichier %d est introuvable	%d instead of %s
The file %s could not be found	Le fichier est introuvable	Missing variable
The file %(file)s could not be found	Le fichier %(fichier)s est introuvable	Missing variable %(file)s

If variables are malformed, missing, or if their name doesn't match the original source code, the application you are translating could crash when run in your language.

7.2 In documentation written in RST

The most commonly made mistake when translating RST documentation is not respecting double quotes, arrows or RST directives.

Here are a few examples of wrong translations:

Original	Translation	Error
Open a terminal and type <code>“ls”</code>	Ouvrez un terminal et tapez “ls”	” instead of “
Click :guilabel:‘Save’	Cliquez sur :guilabel:’Save’	‘ instead of ’
Click :guilabel:‘Save’	Cliquez sur :guilabel:‘Save	Missing one ’
Click :guilabel:‘Save’	Cliquez sur :guilabel:‘Save‘	Missing one :
Click :menuselection:‘Menu -> Save’	Cliquez sur :menuselection:‘Menu -> Save’	-> instead of ->

Special characters such as ```, `-->`, directives such as `:guilabel:`, `:menuselection:`, and links using `<` and `>` are important because they define the structure and the look of the document.

Make sure to respect them and translate content accurately.

If you think the original sentence is missing something, then propose a modification to the original documentation. You cannot deviate or add content to your translation which isn't present in the original.

7.3 Other mistakes

7.3.1 Politics

When translating content, your main worry should be the user.

The user experience is what matters the most.

Software and documentation should be easy to use and any text you translate should be easy to read and to understand.

The user experience is more important than any other consideration, including official language definitions, language preservation policies or politics in general.

If the official translation for a given word isn't commonly known or used by users, you should not use it. Prefer the terms used by most people instead. The goal isn't to educate users or to enforce anything. Correctness and exactitude are important but not as much as user experience.

If everyone around you says A and your government and/or dictionary says B, whether you agree with one side or the other isn't relevant, go for A.

7.3.2 Translating content which shouldn't be translated

If something is in English on the screen, refer to it in English as well.

For instance, the boot menu for Linux Mint says `Start Linux Mint`, no matter what language the user uses. So it should be referred to as `Start Linux Mint` in any documentation, whether that documentation is in English or not.