



BREAKING NEW GROUNDS?

Meeting the challenge of full integration of computer-aided translation and computer translation: the new version of SDLX

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SDLX is the Computer Aided Translation tool from SDL International, which, like other automated multilingual, and translation support, increases translation and translation co-ordination efficiency by allowing the re-use of previously translated phrases and terms. In order to meet new challenges SDL has produced version 4 of SDLX, with a focus on machine-translation compatibility at first sight, but a background of breaking news at second hand.

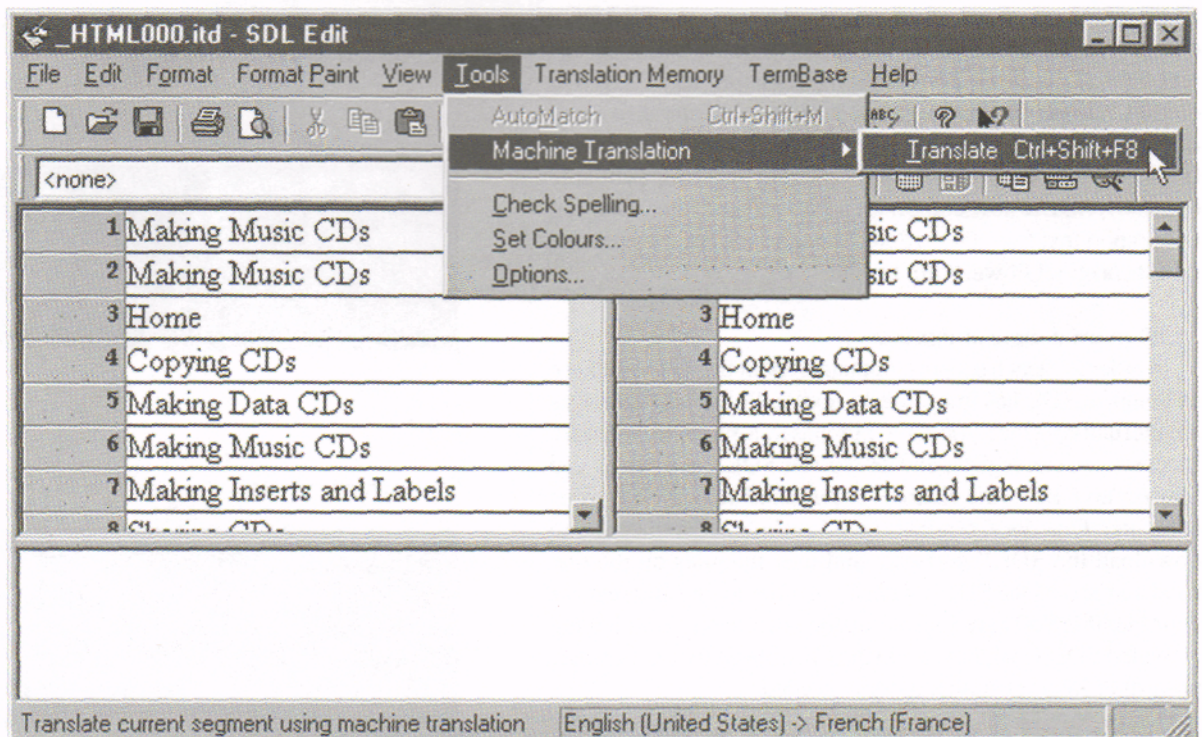
SDLX is being used by companies such as BBC, EIDOS, Disney and Translations.com, thus invading the language technology world with large plusses on its sleeve. This is no surprise, for SDLX was the first CAT tool to support bi-directional languages such as Arabic and Hebrew. Even more, SDLX's project oriented user interface allows easy access to a suite of tools for alignment, editing, analysis etc. SDLX also provides Wizards for common tasks such as project import and export, file analysis, and document translation. The programme has been developed using the latest Microsoft 32-bit development tools and runs on any Windows 32-bit operating system. The industry standard Translation Memory Exchange (TMX), making Translation Memories easily portable between products, is also supported. But that is all what SDLX

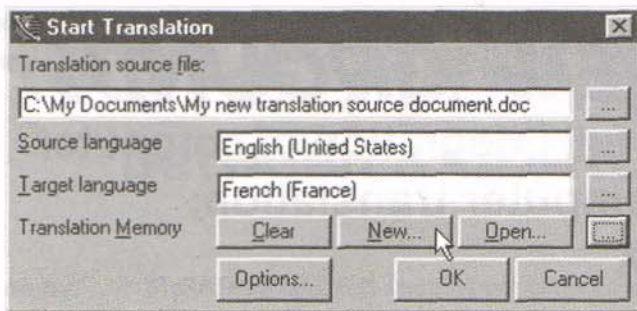
already was. Committed to supporting the fast changing industry trends in Computer Aided Translation, several new features constitute the new version.

Integrated Machine Translation

Even using Translation Memory it is not always possible to get a 100% match and although fuzzy matching can be used to speed up the process of translating, there are occasions when the fuzzy match is just too fuzzy, or when there is no match at all. With version 4.0, SDLX calls upon Machine Translation to help where Translation Memory cannot provide an answer to a translation equivalent need.

Machine Translation, incorporated within SDLX, adds an extra tool to increase your translation efficiency. It comes complete with a standard dictionary and a dictionary editing function that enables you to customise your own. The machine translation add-on must be purchased and supports the following translational directions: English to French / French to English, English to German / German to English, English to Spanish / Spanish to English, English to Portuguese / Portuguese to English and the mono-directional English to Italian. When there is no available match from Translation Memory or the fuzzy match is unacceptable





the user can ask SDLX to provide you with a Machine Translation for the required segment.

New Quick-Start translate

Working with any complex tool for the first time can be a daunting experience. SDLX incorporates into version 4.0 a quick start user interface to get you up and running with a single file simply by right clicking on it from Windows Explorer. Right click on your file, designate your languages and you are immediately translating. To save your work on completion simply view the file in its original format and save it in the normal manner. SDLX Quick-Start has been designed to allow the functionality of SDLX to be utilized for single files only, without the need for a complex process of file conversion. By using SDLX Quick-Start for single files you can start translating a document in seconds. Document types supported by this function are: RTF, MIF (Framemaker), TXT, DOC, HTML and PowerPoint. Simply select "Translate with SDLX" and you will be presented with the following screen. The first time you use the Quick-Start option for SDLX you must select your source and target languages. SDLX will default to these languages after the first time of use. You can also select a Translation Memory at this point, or even create a new one. Once you have completed your selections click OK. SDL Edit will open, allowing you to start your translation immediately.

TRADOS Export filter

In order to meet frequent questions on TRADOS compatibility, SDLX 4.0 allows work to be performed in SDLX and be delivered via TRADOS by choosing the TRADOS default rules at the start of your project. You can also work directly on uncleaned TRADOS files using SDLX. Following the TRADOS tool for PowerPoint and meeting probable demands, SDLX now comprises a PowerPoint filter. One can now export text from PowerPoint to translate it before replacing it in its original PowerPoint format.

No more dongle obligations !

In order to meet frequent complaints about the inconvenience of dongles, SDL has introduced Flexible Software License as an alternative. Once you have purchased a Flexible Software License, you can register and de-register SDLX as often as you like on any PC - the license is personal to you, not your computer. One does, however, need an Internet connection to download the SDLX software and user manuals on the one hand and access the SDLX website in order to buy and register your Flexible Software License on the other hand. After having activated SDLX, wherever, via the Flexible Software License, no further Internet connectivity is needed.

Source File segment splitting

SDLX now allows you to define how you want to segment your source files when preparing them for translation. This gives the translator a more flexible approach to file preparation and provides flexibility and efficiency to the more experienced user. It also anticipates meeting conversion problems or system requirement difficulties for large projects.

Some other innovative features

Wizards for common tasks

Wizards are used to automate tasks and save time. SDLX has Wizards for common tasks such as importing and exporting projects, analysing files, translating documents and importing and exporting translation memories.

HTML gluing, validation and repair

HTML files are often small, and a single project may contain hundreds of such files. To make translation simpler, the files can be collected into a single large file. This one file can be translated, and then, when the file is exported, it can be unglued, i.e. the individual target files can be generated. HTML gluing reduces the tedious task of translating multiple small files. HTML validation and repair checks html files for common errors such as missing end tags and repairs those files before translation.

SDLX is available in two versions. SDLX Standard is designed for freelance and in-house translators and includes all features and tools necessary for the translation process. With its integrated editing suite, SDLX Freelancer can be used without the need for additional Word Processing software. SDLX Professional is designed for translators and project managers who require an additional analysis tool for project preparation and estimation, and a batch file translation tool for multiple files. SDL Analyze and SDL Apply are extra modules. The following file types are handled by both SDLX Standard and SDLX Professional: DOC / RTF / MIF / HTM/HTML / ASP / SGML / XML / RC / CPP/H /FRM/BAS / CSV/TSV / TXT/PPT. SDLX is also fully compatible with Windows 2000, Office 2000 and XML/SGML. ■



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