

## ***TM/2 in Practice***

Kranebitter Übersetzungen (Reutlingen) is one of IBM Germany's translation suppliers and, as such, has plenty of experience with TM/2. As part of the contract work, the company was required to licence TM/2 and use it for the translations it does for IBM. IBM supplies Kranebitter with terminology dictionaries derived from its corporate termbase for use within TM/2 together with the files to be translated. Kranebitter's Elisabeth Schnabel points out that IBM's terminology lists are huge – a printout would be many hundred page long – so some form of automated terminology management is indispensable. Schnabel adds that IBM's terminology does, on occasion, change. Translators don't usually look up the terms they are familiar with, but having TM/2 automatically look up and display terminology means translators – and translations – keep up to date.

Partly automating the translation process brings with it interesting economic considerations. For one, IBM maintains ownership over the translation memory files which Kranebitter's translators create while doing IBM jobs. In addition, because TM/2 indicates how much of a text it was able to translate automatically, the translation company only charges IBM for material that was translated “manually.” Both parties, of course, stand to gain through not having to reformat text (for a translation company, that can be a big variable); TM/2's tag protection feature ensures that even neophytes can simply translate without having to worry about deleting formatting codes. In turning to translation technology, suppliers and customers will find themselves grappling with some unfamiliar issues. How much should you charge for a fuzzy match? Half price?