

## **XL8: IDOC's Localization Package**

"Some years ago, a software publisher could develop a product for the U.S. market, then focus its efforts on, say, Germany six months later, and roll out the French further down the line," says Claudio Pinkus, president of IDOC. His conclusion: "Those days are gone."

At the Seybold Show earlier this fall, IDOC introduced a package designed specifically for managing and streamlining the software localization process. Called XL8 (read that as *translate*), it is a DOS program which provides a safe and powerful interface for the translation of source files. Essentially, XL8 extracts text strings from the procedural programming code and presents them one by one in a split-screen mode to be translated.

XL8 does a lot more, too, including "propagating" an identical string throughout a file so that it only needs to be translated once. The package can also maintain translations between versions, facilitating both minor and major upgrades. XL8 is comfortable with different character sets, including those used by DOS, the Macintosh, Windows, and UNIX systems, and as such can be used for localizing software packages running on those respective systems.

IDOC is an international documentation and translation company which has specialized in software localization since 1982. Originally established in Los Angeles in 1980, it opened a Dublin office earlier this year to serve the growing number of IT companies, such as Apple, Microsoft, and Lotus, which have established European beachheads in tax-friendly Ireland. XL8 would seem like both an attractive calling card as well as a strategic asset for IDOC; you might wonder why the company is offering it to its competitors. Whatever its motives with XL8, IDOC appears to take translation technology very seriously. It needs to. With international markets having become exceedingly competitive, delays in getting localized versions of new products to market can be fatal.

IDOC USA: 10474 *Santa Monica Blvd.*, Los Angeles, CA 90025, USA; Tel +1 310 446 4666, Fax +1 310 446 4661

IDOC Europe: BIM House, *first floor*, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, Ireland; Tel + 353 284 4223, Fax +1 353 1 284 4220