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Logos: Working on Front Ends

Logos brings its eponymous MT system a step closer to the PC desktop with the announcement of LogosClient for Windows, a new package due shortly. With LogosClient, users on a LAN can send texts to and retrieve texts from the Unix-based Logos translation system.

In operation, LogosClient works rather like a printer spooler, albeit a bidirectional one. You submit your text to the system from within your wordprocessing software (Word, WordPerfect for Windows, and Ami Pro are supported). A window displays the jobs in the translation queue. After the text is translated, you fetch the text and re-open it in the wordprocessor. According to the company, all document formatting is preserved for the packages supported.

One of the most intriguing features of Logos-Client is the dictionary manager. With this, you can select and prioritize the Logos system's translation dictionaries, obviously an important asset in Logos shops where multiple lexicons are maintained for separate customers, projects, etc. The price of LogosClient has not yet been determined.

Logos has also announced that it has established a strategic partnership with GlobalWare, the developer of the XL8 line of localization tools. The new venture has already born fruit in the form of XL8 for Logos, a special version of XL8 which allows the package to be used as a front-end for Logos. Strings or sentences which are not found in the XL8 bilingual databases will be passed to Logos for translation. While it is not clear how closely the two systems will interact (ie, share data) at this stage, XL8 for Logos, like LogosClient, marks a serious effort on the part of Logos to integrate its powerful translation engine more effectively within the overall translation process.

Logos is revamping its translation engine as well. In a presentation at a recent conference of Oracle users, Claus Gehner, Logos VP of development, outlined a major overhaul of the Logos architecture now underway. Called Logos8, it will bring the largely outdated Logos code base into the 1990s by implementing it on top of the Oracle RDBMS and related Oracle products. According to Gehner, Logos aims to "buy as much of the needed capability as possible (as opposed to make), in order to allow scarce Logos resources to be concentrated on our areas of expertise, namely linguistics."

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