@PROMT Professional 7.0 brings benefits to a freelance translator

1. Summary

Company	Patrick Roye – freelance translator
Country	Germany
Challenges	Fast, high-quality translation of 20+ pages of documentation per week
Solution	@PROMT Professional 7.0 translation software
Conclusion	@PROMT translation software enabled Patrick Roye to benefit from: • Savings in time and resources for everyday translation work • An increase in the number of documents translated each day • Increased revenue.

"My productivity has improved by close to 35% since adopting PROMT"

2. Overview

Patrick Roye works 20 hours a week as a freelance translator, mostly during evenings and weekends. His average throughput is about 20 pages a week, but this varies considerably, as Patrick is still establishing himself in the translation business. His clients are primarily companies who need quick turnaround and good quality of English and German language documents. Both document format and subject matter vary widely. His most important client is a German document management company, COI GmbH (www.coi.com), whose customers include Bayer and Siemens Medical.

3. The Challenge

As a self-employed translator in the process of building a business, Patrick needs to maximize both the quantity and quality of his translation output. To achieve his goal, he needs to overcome the challenge of working with a wide range of subject matter with critical time constraints. Without a specialization in a particular subject, one's productivity can be slowed significantly, as it can be when dealing with multiple document formats.

"Many of my clients prefer to use PDF files because they're quicker and easier to send via email and there's no danger of format incompatibility. But without the right tools, I have to convert PDF files back to their source format to tackle the translation effectively, which takes time and cuts profits," said Patrick.

Accordingly, Patrick was on the lookout for tools that could handle PDF files directly, as well as methods of increasing his efficiency in order to improve his profitability.

4. The Solution

The solution, which Patrick chose to improve his productivity, involved automating as much of the translation process as possible without sacrificing quality.

Patrick understood that machine translation software would not completely replace his own efforts. So, he was careful to not expect too much from his first experiments with MT (Machine Translation). However, he soon became aware that his productivity was improving as his mastery of the tools increased.

> "I started using MT software to create a rough draft of the translation for myself. I find it easier to edit an existing 'picture' than to start with a blank canvas," − said Patrick. "And because I work by myself, I really appreciate anything that will help me do my job faster and better."

Patrick tried several different MT products and finally settled on @PROMT Professional. He was impressed by the quality and speed of @PROMT Professional translations and the product's ability to work effectively with multiple-document formats, including PDF. @PROMT Professional 7.0 translation software efficiently integrates with his Microsoft Office applications and can be customized easily and "trained" to meet individual needs. Consequently, working with multilingual documents is fast, easy and efficient.

"My first experience with @PROMT Professional was when a limited implementation of version 6 was included on a c't magazine cover CD. I was impressed enough, particularly with the almost-real-time translation capability, to purchase the full software," said Patrick.

Patrick uses @PROMT software to translate both Microsoft and non-Microsoft format files. The software is adaptable enough to use easily alongside CAT (Computer-assisted translation), TM (Translation Memory) software or TRADOS.

> "I use @PROMT stand-alone for non-Microsoft document formats and as a Word plug-in for .doc files as I'm working with a CAT software," he says "I use @Promt alongside my CAT software. I open a translation unit, call up @Promt from within Word, check the resulting translation, edit, close the unit and move on to the next one."

To achieve the best results, Patrick uses @PROMT's personal dictionary and lists of unknown and reserved words. This enables him to adjust the program to the needs of the current project, whatever its subject matter.

"@PROMT supplies a draft, a rough cast which I can then refine. It translates the sentence and helps me to not forget the non-standard words or sections. When working in @PROMT's linguistic editor, I can adjust the source text and immediately see the changed output text, which I can edit further to optimize the final product," says Patrick.

As Patrick works with specialized texts in a number of different subject areas (technical, Internet, legal, and general business), he finds the @PROMT dictionary tools to be particularly valuable. "I simply select which dictionary to apply, according to the text subject."

The personal dictionary further improves productivity for Patrick, as it enables him to create and re-use lists of additional terms for any individual project.

> "@PROMT has an almost unlimited memory and learns new words faster than any human. And once it has learned a word, it never forgets it," he says.

When he has finished customizing the program and processed the draft translation, he can focus on the style and feel of the final document. The last step is to save all settings and the personal dictionary so that they're ready for re-use if a similar document comes his way in the future.

5. Conclusion

Implementing @PROMT translation software has helped Patrick Roye to:

- dramatically improve his work capacity in terms of speed and quality;
- increase the number of documents that he can translate in any one week or month;
- complete precise translations rapidly using multiple document formats;
- save time in future translations by creating topic-specific vocabularies
- increase his revenues.

About PROMT

PROMT was founded in 1991 with the goal of creating tools to enable people to communicate easily and effectively, breaking down the language barriers between them. Today, the company is a leading provider of innovative machine translation solutions for web sites, corporate Intranets, PCs and handheld devices under the trademark @promt. The company offers automatic bidirectional translation in seven languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Russian, with a total of 24 translation directions for over 100 specialized domains. Customers include AOL, Siemens AG, NASA, DaimlerChrysler, DHL, and Metro Group. Further information is available at www.e-promt.com.

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