

SOFTWARE ROUNDUP

Translation Software

Computer-aided translation can be useful for businesses conducting correspondence internationally. Businesspeople with limited multilingual skills and no access to a human translator might find that CAT tools offer an effective solution. Software programs can never replace professional translators or provide the same level of accuracy, but you can improve your odds of finding the program that best suits your needs.

Consider these factors before choosing a solution: inbound versus outbound translation, business users versus professional translators, and document characteristics.

Inbound translation (translating material already composed from an outside source in another language) is simpler than outbound translation (translating material to a foreign language). When using a program for inbound translation, you're more familiar with the program's strengths and weaknesses and are able to overlook grammatical errors to glean the basic meaning of the document.

Business users will probably want to draw on the software as a way to screen a large amount of text to determine its importance and whether to have it translated professionally. You can communicate simple information or obtain the basic meaning of emails, newsletters, articles, and so forth. Professional translators are primarily interested in using CAT tools to proof documents.

The length and type of documents can also affect the efficiency and precision of the translation process. Technical documents, for example, tend to be concise and straightforward, making the translation easier. If the subject matter is technical with frequent references to industry jargon, it may be necessary to customize the user dictionary (if one is provided).

◀ Source/Language Partneres International

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Product

SYSTRAN PROfessional Premium
SYSTRAN Software
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858.459.6700
www.systransoft.com

Description

SYSTRAN PROfessional Premium supports eight language pairs and is designed for corporate use. Users can translate Webpages, emails, and documents directly onscreen or by grouping several files and sending them to a translation queue. About 150,000 words can be translated per hour with a Pentium processor. The word/ phrase dictionaries contain about 2.5 million entries; topical glossaries and a customer-specific dictionary seek to improve the translation of terms and phrases with multiple meanings and customer-specific terminology, respectively. SYSTRAN can run from several programs, including MS Word, Netscape, and Internet Explorer.

Universal Translator 2000
LanguageForce
www.languageforce.com

LanguageForce's ***Universal Translator 2000*** includes 40 languages that can be converted omnidirectionally—the translation of supported non-English pairs without having to use English as a go-between. Product features include a universal spell checker supporting 35 languages, text-to-speech and speech-to-text capability, full Arabic and Farsi glyphing, and compatibility with Windows 95, 98, and 2000. Users can translate Webpages and emails instantly while maintaining links, graphics, and original formatting. ***Universal Translator 2000*** works with Webpage authoring software such as Adobe *Pagemill* and Microsoft *Front Page* for the creation of foreign language Websites.

L&H Power Translator Pro 7
Lernout & Hauspie
52 Third Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803
www.lhsl.com

This CAT tool can translate English to and from several languages, such as Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, and Japanese. ***Power Translator Pro 7*** adds a menu item to Microsoft Office 2000 products, allowing users to translate directly from Office programs and preserve document format. The software translates text based on the context of the sentence in an effort to improve accuracy. Additional features include the international proofreader, which checks spelling and grammar, and the word look-up utility—a bilingual dictionary for 40 languages. Version 7 features a Web translator for instant translation of foreign Websites.