



5 September 2011

XLIFF Consultation

In March this year TAUS stepped forward as an Interoperability Watchdog for the translation industry. Consultation with the market has highlighted XLIFF as needing urgent attention.

TAUS is liaising with the OASIS XLIFF Technical Committee (TC), with whom it has also undertaken a global market survey to understand adoption, uses and gaps at a high-level.

In this next stage of analysis TAUS is undertaking a detailed consultation with enterprises to help identify gaps in XLIFF and to agree a recommendation on the elements that should be prioritized for upcoming XLIFF 2.0 specifications.

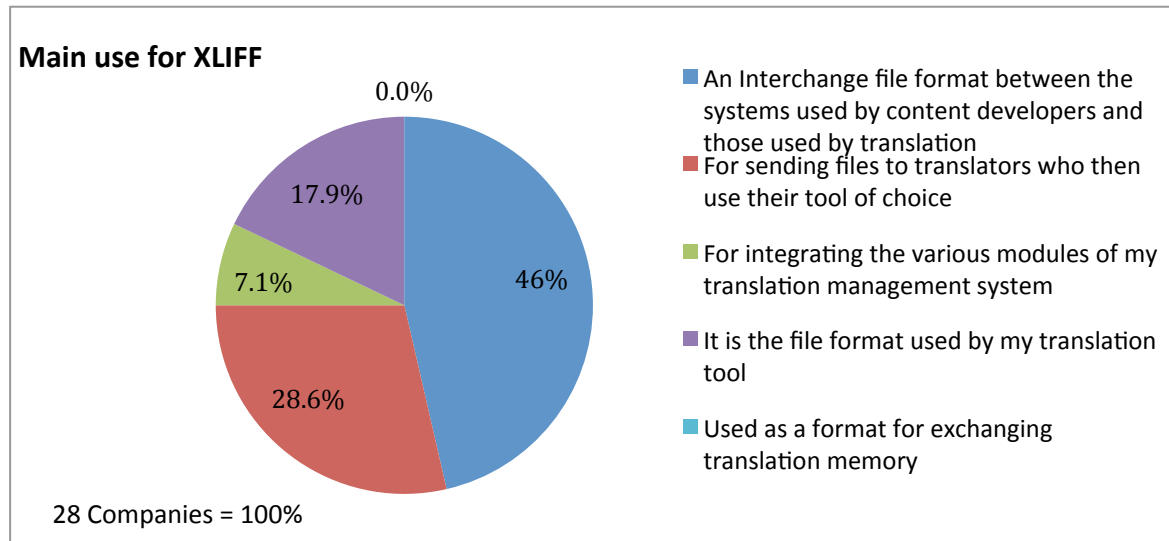
XLIFF 2.0 background

The current version of XLIFF, 1.2, was agreed in 2007. Requirements gathering for 2.0 specifications began formally in May 2009. A decision was soon made to move to a modularized specification. This is intended to make the specifications easier to understand and implement. There is currently a long list of prospective elements for the new specifications. The main sources for this list were participants at the first XLIFF Symposium event in Ireland, September last year. As yet, there has been no decision on which elements of the specifications should be in a core and which should be in separate modules for selective use.

We believe this process can be accelerated and made more robust through consultation with a larger group of stakeholders.

Global market survey

There were 435 responses to the recent XLIFF survey. Results re-confirm that following a modularized approach to specifications for XLIFF 2.0 is the right strategy. Only half of the 50+ translation buyers who responded use XLIFF in their process. Of the 28 that do use XLIFF the main use scenarios are:



Detailed consultation

TAUS is seeking to:

- (1) Agree elements from the current versions of XLIFF that should go in a core specification and logical grouping for modules
- (2) Understand the main weaknesses for specific use scenarios /Requirements for new features that are currently not available with XLIFF

Defining the XLIFF core and modules

Below we take the elements already specified in existing versions of XLIFF and make a recommendation on elements that could go into core and how other existing elements could be logically grouped into modules. We recommend a light core, which would only be useful for the simplest of translation scenarios.

Do you agree with our recommendation? If not, why not?

| Xliff Core | Xliff Reference | Xliff Format | Xliff History | Xliff Segmentation | Xliff Terminology | Xliff Property | Xliff Statistics | General Attributes |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Xliff | Reference | ph | phase-group | seg-source | glossary | group | count-group | Id |
| File | external-file | it | phase | seg-target | | prop-group | count | xml:lang |
| Header | internal-file | ut | tool | | | prop | | |
| Body | Skl | Bpt | | | | note | | |
| trans-unit | | Ept | | | | context-group | | |
| source | | X | | | | context | | |
| target | | Mrk | | | | | | |
| alt-trans | | Bx | | | | | | |
| source | | Ex | | | | | | |
| target | | G | | | | | | |
| | | Sub | | | | | | |
| | | bin-unit | | | | | | |
| | | bin-source | | | | | | |
| | | bin-target | | | | | | |

Additional requirements for XLIFF 2.0

Please outline your use scenario for XLIFF and the new elements required to fill gaps. We ask that you indicate which elements are must haves and briefly explain why.

The longer-term

We recognize that we are not directly addressing larger issues such as the relationship between XLIFF and other standards, or legacy challenges such as variances in tool implementations of XLIFF currently, inter alia. However, at this stage we prefer to jump the simpler hurdles and quickly build traction.

The next deliverables

1. We are asking TAUS enterprise members and other enterprises that responded to the XLIFF survey to provide **your input by close Friday 16 September**.
2. If there is sufficient input by close Friday 23 September we will outline a refined proposal on the modularization of existing elements and detail recommendations for new elements for the 2.0 specifications for your review.
3. The final output of this consultation will be a report summarizing the exercise and making a proposal based on the commonalities and highlighting differences in requirements between enterprises. All reporting will be in anonymous form. We will ask for your review before publication. The target date for publication is end-October.

Note we will report on the results of the global market study and interim findings of the consultation at the 2nd XLIFF Symposium on 28 September in Warsaw, Poland.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Please contact Rahzeb Choudhury (rahzeb@translationautomation.com) with any questions.