

Translation memory systems: MadCap Lingo

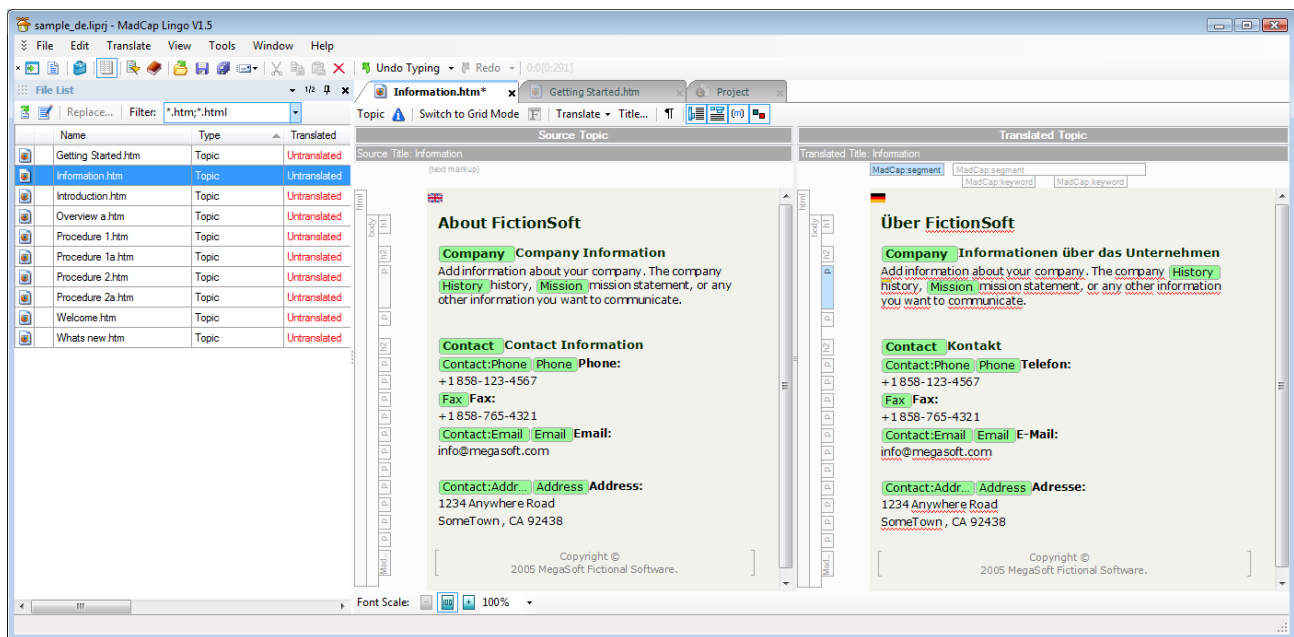
# Translation made easier

Translation memory systems (TMS) are usually all-rounders used for the software-supported translation of common file formats. With Lingo, MadCap software has recently launched a specialized TMS.

To date, MadCap has especially made a name for itself with its core product Flare, an XML-based content management system. Blaze, an XML-based content management system to generate manuals is another highlight. Lingo can be used exclusively to translate Blaze and Flare projects. What appears to be a disadvantage at first soon proves to be an invaluable advantage, because if Flare or Blaze XML files are translated with a different TMS, this TMS needs to be modified. This is

## Data exchange using TMX

Lingo is equipped with key characteristics featured in traditional TMS's. File contents are segmented and the sentence pairs are archived in a database for future re-use. The program runs on Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express by default. It can be connected to the TMS of third-party providers via an interface. The TMX export/import (Translation Memory eXchange) enables the data exchange with other TMS's.



## Side by side editor

due to the flexibility of XML. Depending on the TMS, these modifications are more or less time-consuming and cost-intensive. This is different for Lingo where the translation processes - from the reading in of the file to the translation and output - are proportionately simple. No modifications to accommodate XML files generated by Flare or Blaze are required.

When setting up translation projects, the respective source and target languages are specified; corresponding dictionaries are provided and translation suggestions made based on these settings. During the actual translation process, the topics to be translated are either displayed as a true WYSIWYG view or the contents are translated at sentence level in a multilingual editor. Keyboard shortcuts additionally speed up the process. The integrated Google translation service al-

lows the semi-automatic translation of simple contents.

What is the procedure if you wish to make changes to an existing, previously translated source project and delete or add topics? The renewed translation without a TMS requires the time-consuming highlighting of the changes, the potential transfer into Excel lists and mailing of the assignment to the linguist. Later, the translated contents need to be re-integrated by means of the Copy & Paste function. When using Lingo, the projects are read in; unchanged contents are pre-translated and modified contents will be marked accordingly. Now only the delta needs to be translated. The translated project is subsequently exported as a Blaze/Flare project and can simply be output as online help or printed document.

### Prepared for the future

In principle, Lingo is suitable for any Blaze/Flare users who wish to reduce translation costs, avoid redundant contents and ensure consistent text quality. The objection that other products offered by third-party providers have the same features does not hit the mark. Because, according to experience, many companies are not using TMS's at all or only in rare cases. Uniform solutions used across an entire company are the exception. In this respect too, it makes sense to use Lingo for the translation of Blaze/Flare projects. If you wish to use a different TMS for the translation of other file types, the contents collected in Lingo can be transferred via `TMX` export.

Author: **Jörg Ertelt**, Certified Flare Trainer



**Company**

HelpDesign  
technische & elektronische dokumentation

**web**

[www.helpdesign.eu](http://www.helpdesign.eu)

**email**

[joerg.ertelt@helpdesign.eu](mailto:joerg.ertelt@helpdesign.eu)