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Can XLIFF facilitate localization of OpenOffice.org?

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What is important in Localization?



- The quality of the translation
- Reducing the amount of work
- Simplicity and efficiency of translation maintenance



What is important in Localization?



- The quality of the translations
 - Homogeneous (correct glossary)
 - Technically correct translations (XML, etc.)
 - Correct spelling and grammar

What is important in Localization?



- **Reducing the amount of work**
 - Usage of resources such as TM or Glossaries
 - Usage of translations to third languages
 - Automatic detection of technical and language errors
 - Detection of errors must take place as soon as possible
 - Control of the workflow.
 - Graphic user interfaces for translators, not command-line, CVS, etc.

What is important in Localization?



- **Simplicity and efficiency of translation maintenance**



What is important in Localization?



- The quality of the translation
- Reducing the amount of work
- Simplicity and efficiency of translation maintenance
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- In short, keeping a lot of information and managing it correctly.

A good localization tool...



- Helps with the translation
- Helps with the management



A good localization tool...



- Helps with the translation
- Works always through a GUI, including all conversion processes.
- Can manage glossaries, proposing and enforcing their usage.
- Can effectively use TM and translations to third languages to help the translator, giving multiple qualified options if available.
- Performs technical tests on the translations as soon as they are done, ensuring their quality, avoiding post-processing problems.

A good localization tool...



- Helps with the management
- Allows separation of roles in the localization process (translator, reviewer, approver), and the use of different workflows
- Permits distribution of files that embed all the available information.
- Can follow the state of each message.
- Can perform conversion to and from various formats to its native standard format (PO/XLIFF).

Storage of localization information



- Each computer application has its way of storing localization information. Good tools cannot be developed for only one application (not efficient, not maintained).
- Good tools are developed for standard formats, and localization data is converted to and from those formats.
- PO is a traditional de-facto standard format widely used in Free and Open Source Software
- XLIFF is a much more powerful format which is an OASIS open industry standard.

PO

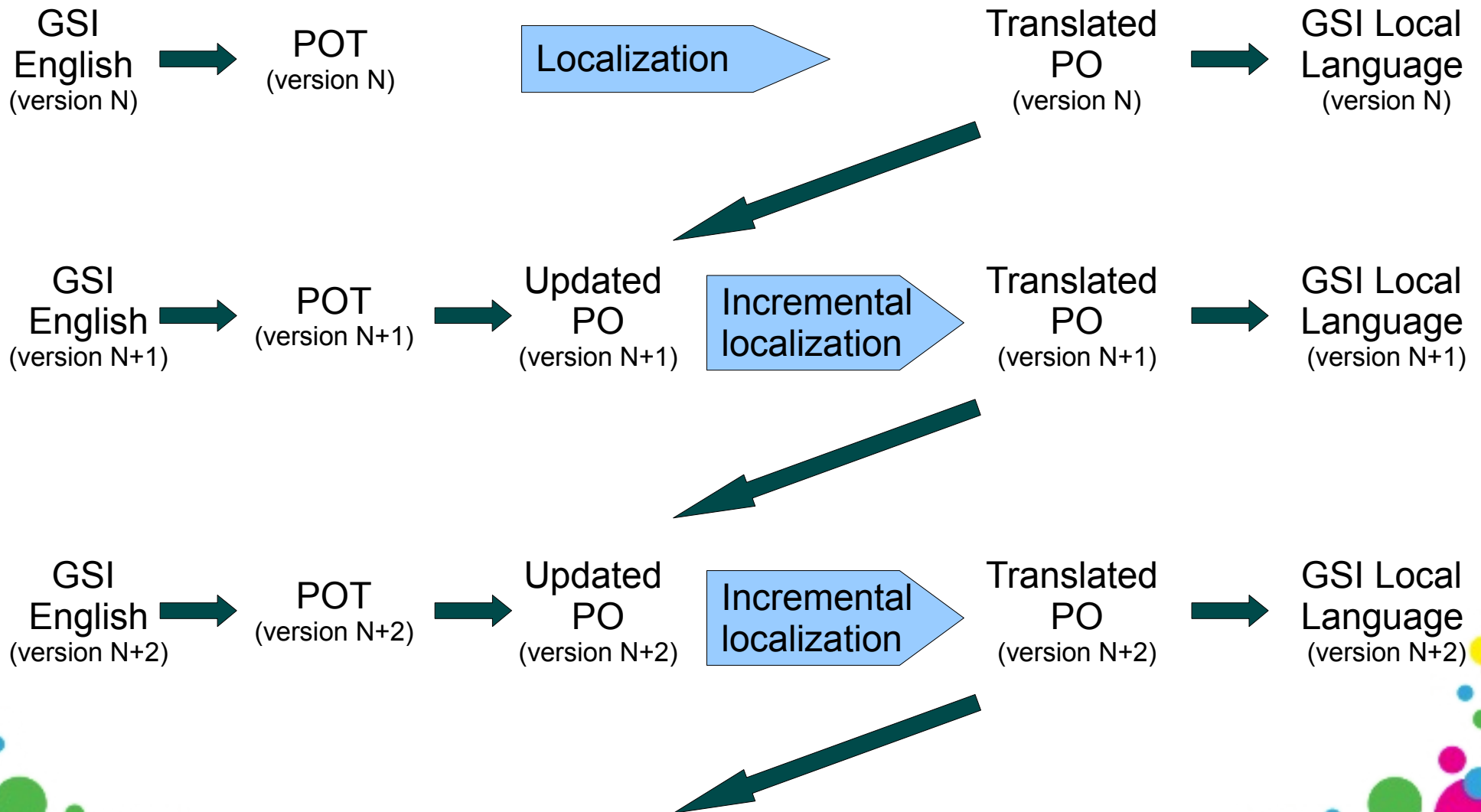
- Closely related to the Gettext library.
- Has been adapting itself to new needs of different programs, such as KDE, through patches to the library.
- Growth is not planned, it responds to specific needs, but localization editors not always follow.
- It is not well prepared to respond to the growing needs of localization, such as better use of information, embedding support data, management of workflow or of test result data.

XLIFF



- An XML OASIS standard specifically designed to cover most of the needs of the localization industry.
- Can embed large amounts of specific information, such as internal glossaries, translation memories or third languages (self-contained CAL files)
- Can manage localization flow, keeping track of the state of individual messages.
- May contain results of tests, and information on quality or conformance of the translations.

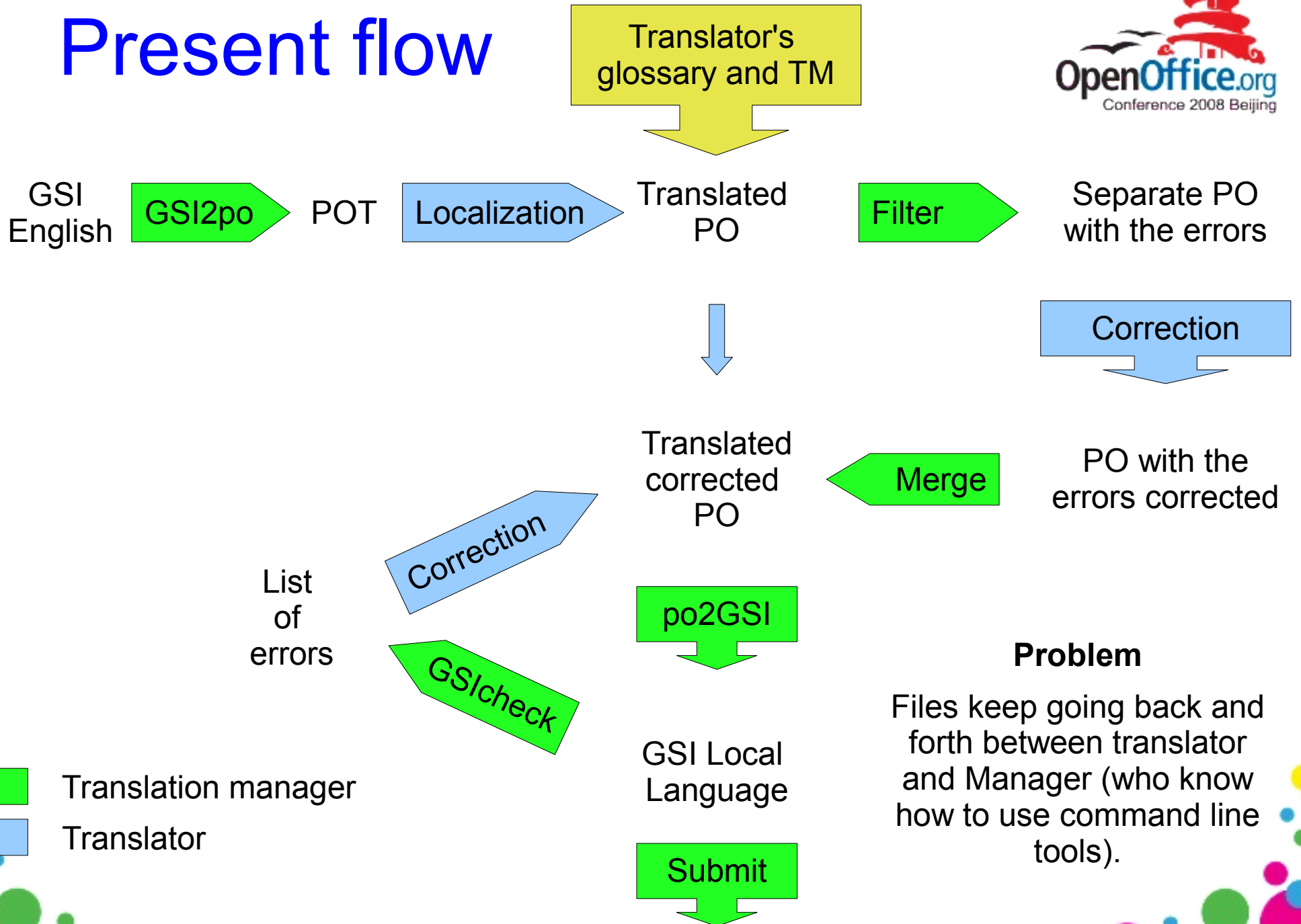
Localization of OpenOffice with PO



Issues

- No centralised use of glossary and Translation memory.
- Only one (non-qualified) TM proposal can be used. Difficult to use third languages.
- Test result information (info about quality) is done too late, and cannot be integrated in the file.
- When updating to new version of the localized software, reviewer does not know which messages were translated in this phase. Must review all.

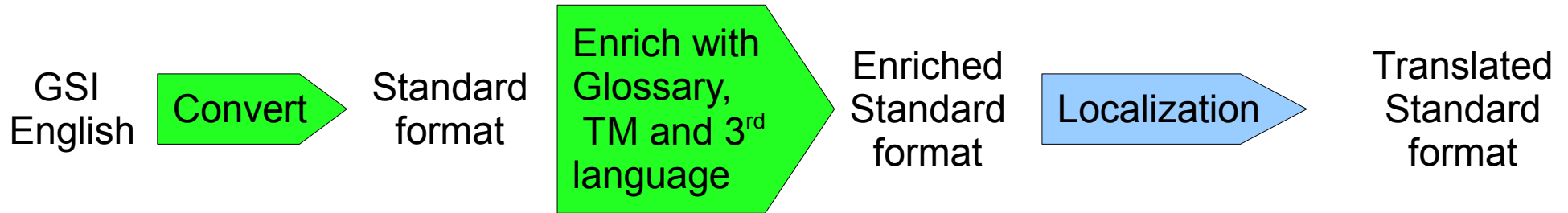
Present flow



- Translation manager
- Translator

Problem
Files keep going back and forth between translator and Manager (who know how to use command line tools).

Ideal flow



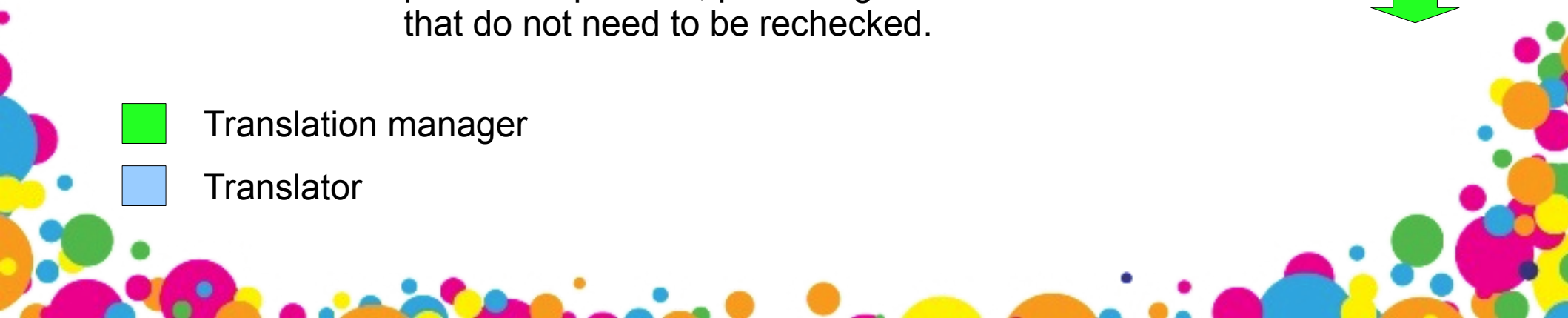
All processes take place through the user interface.

Specific parts of a centralized glossary and TM are embedded on all the files

All testing takes place in the localization part of the process, producing translations that do not need to be rechecked.

 Translation manager

 Translator



Testing of translations



- You can test usage of glossary, technical issues (XML, variables, etc.), and spell-checking.
- Testing can be parametrized for specific languages, applications and users.
- Results can be market into an XLIFF file. The localization editor can filter by errors. Translators, reviewers and approvers can quickly zoom on files that have problems or non-compliance.

WordForge off-line localization Editor



- Version 0.5 (now in RC1)
 - Support of XLIFF (and PO) format
 - Specific glossary proposals for each message
 - Possibility to embed specific glossary, TM and third-language.
 - All conversion filters accessible through the the graphic user interface (including OpenOffice to/from XLIFF, and XLIFF OpenOffice upgrade)
 - Catalog management
 - Compared to Kbabel:
 - Kbabel still has better in catalog management and testing
 - WordForge supports XLIFF, can do embedding, does glossary proposals.

Future of the WordForge Editor



- Version 0.8 (January 2009)
 - Improve catalog management
 - Integrate all tests, running them as soon as each string is finished. They can be parametrized.
 - SNV access.
- Version 1.0 (June 2009)
 - Flow control
 - Different interfaces for different types of users.
 - Feedback on new glossary