WordForge
Localisation infrastructure for everyone

Dwayne Bailey
Co-Director

Izixhobo kufeneke zisebenzele abantu, hayi abantu izixhobo. Isoftware sisixhobo ngoko ke kumele sisebenzele abantu ngolwimi lwabo lwasemzini.

Dwayne Bailey, badly pronounced, OpenOffice.org launch South Africa 2004, OOoConf 2006

WordForge

African language reality

Over 200 languages with more then 1 million mother tongue speakers

WordForge

Africa and the digital divide

- Connectivity (currently horrible)
- Low cost computers (refurbs, OLPC, PDAs, cellphones)
- Low cost software (Linux of course)
- Localised software (done ;))

WordForge

WordForge

Imagine a Hippo...

empowering digitally endangered languages

WordForge

What is a DEL?

- Small languages

- Unsophisticated languages communities

- Languages that will get swallowed through globalisation and other forces.

- Localise or be localised

WordForge

DEL realities

- Unskilled in computers

- One or two volunteers

- Bad connectivity

- No formal standardisation of language

- DEL has the worst of everything

WordForge

!DEL realities

- Poorly standardised terminology

- Labour intensive management process

- Geek driven solutions

- But at least they have cheap connectivity :)

WordForge

Current localisation realities

- Won't scale
- Silos of knowledge
- Not strategic but product focused
- Communication/Information overload

WordForge

What is WordForge developing?

Process driven and standards based tools for localisation. With a focus on DEL but of benefit to everyone.

Why standards?

- Standard formats:
  - XLIFF (Localisation Interchange)
  - TMX (Translation Memory)
  - TBX (Terminology)
- Allows us to share information
- Create tools to focus on the standards, not the anomalies if each new piece of localisation
- Put more information into offline files: TM, glossaries, etc

WordForge

Why is good process important?

- Good process leads to better translations
- Good process focuses the right work on the right applications
- Good process allows small teams to deliver strategic results
- Good process makes the job of everyone easier, allowing us to scale

WordForge

Glossaries are important because...

- They guide translations
  - Influence new translators
  - Remind old translators
  - Disambiguate confusing terms
- They prevent the lookup delay, but then must be integrated
- Help to standardise the terminology of DELs

WordForge

Translation Memory

- Can act as a good guide and influencer

- Encourages the reuse of good translations

- With good matching it is very useful

WordForge

WordForge tools

- Translation Toolkit – OOo to PO, Mozilla to PO, checkers, filters, etc

- Pootle – translation management system (TMS), goals, glossary, translations memory, standards based

- Pootle editor – online translation editor

- Editor – offline XLIFF editor

WordForge
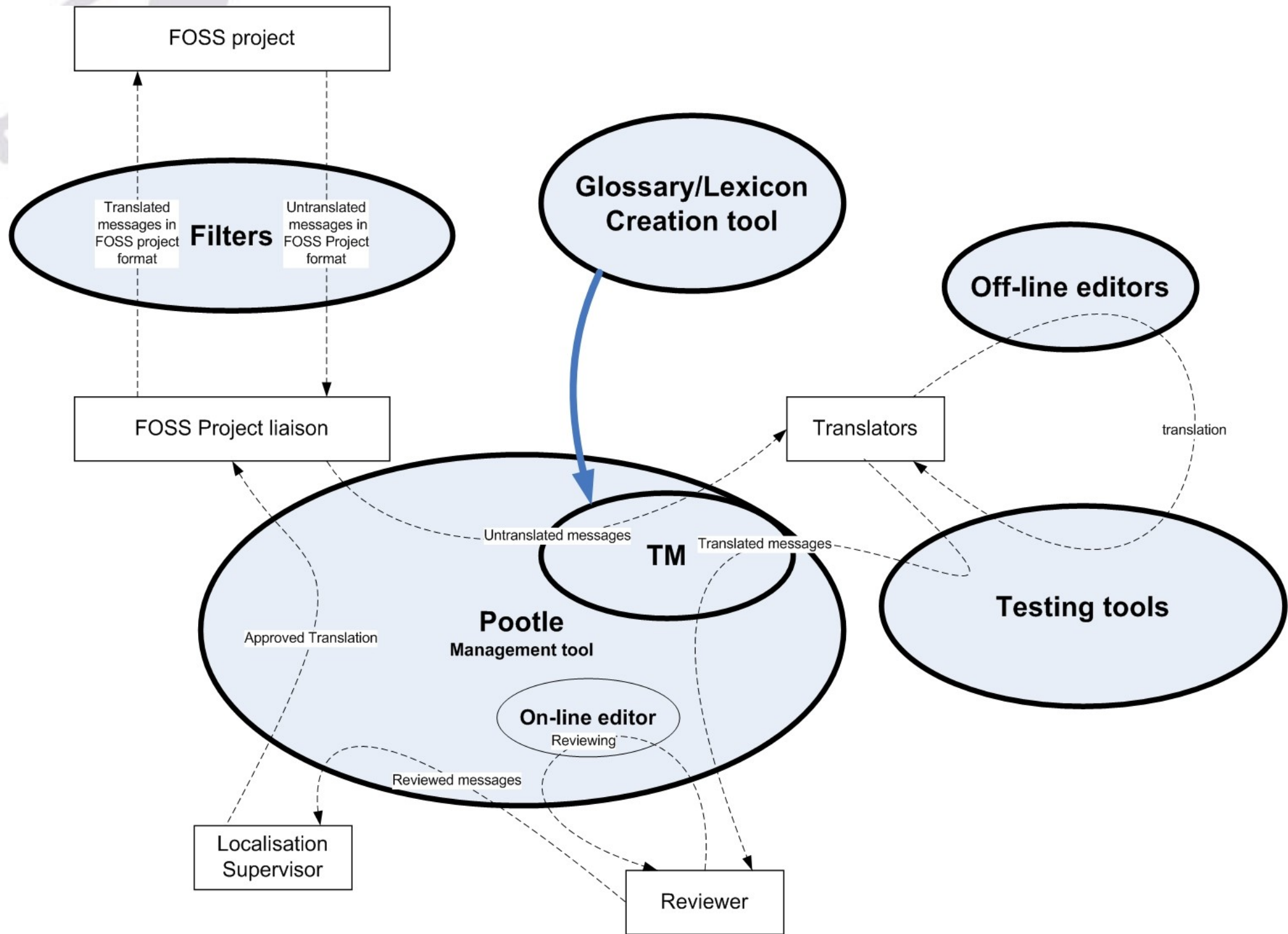
The ultimate vision...

- Pootle fits the needs of teams
    - Zulu Pootle
    - OpenOffice.org Pootle
- Pootle shares
    - Shared terminology development
    - Shared translation memory
- Pootle is adaptable
    - It matches the process needs of the project or team

WordForge

Status of WordForge

- Toolkit is mature and in production

- Pootle is now very usable: glossaries, TM, goals

- Toolkit has all the functionality for XLIFF, TMX and TBX

WordForge

Status of WordForge: Pootle

- Pootle is now our major focus area
    - Migrating to XLIFF
    - Refactoring
    - Integrating Debian SoC DB backend
    - Improving user experience
    - Creating the hooks for process management

WordForge

Relationships

- WordForge is OSS

- Who is using it?
  - Knowingly or unknowingly all OOo community localisers
  - Almost all new languages in Mozilla
  - Rosetta use oo2po for OOo localisations

- Which communities use it
  - Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Georgian, etc
  - Translate.org.za, KhmerOS
  - Creative Commons

WordForge

Code Contributors

- Debian through SoC
  - DB backend and integration of the same into Pootle
- Community driven glossary
- Arabic team RTL language fixes

WordForge

Support

- Open Society Institute (OSI)
- IDRC

WordForge

WordForge and you

- Coders
    - Localisers who can code are very hard to find
        - So if you can code join us
    - If you can't code help but know someone who can
        - Bribe them
        - Convince them
        - Bundle them into cars late at night
        - Tickle them
- Non coders

WordForge

Questions comments?

No Xhosa demo's :) Well maybe one!

WordForge