

Real-time Operating Systems and Systems Programming

Localization

I18n and L10n

- Internationalization – enabling translation support for a program
- Localization – translation and modifying a program to suit local idioms and customs

ASCII

- ♦ Time before ASCII luckily outside of our scope
- ♦ ASCII standard: characters with value of less than 32 are non-printable (bell sound or feeding a new paper into the printer)
- ♦ Characters above 127 free for anyone to use

IBM PC codepage (437)

- ASCII compatible
- For some European languages é and è letters
- Horizontal and vertical table-drawing characters
- Remember the older cashier screens
 - (For those you can use the curses library)
- What about Hebrew, Asian languages, Russian?



Code pages

- ♦ ASCII provides the base, upper characters different
- ♦ Support for several languages in parallel
- ♦ Asia uses two-byte codepage
- ♦ Result: the same computer can not display some languages in parallel (unless you create bitmap fonts for that specific purpose)
- ♦ IBM and Microsoft code-tables split after the end of their co-operation around 1990
- ♦ ANSI standard comes along too

Unicode to the rescue

- Unicode is a collection of *Code Points*
- Every *Code Point* refers to a symbol which sometimes is a character in some language like A or Õ, or something else like ffi (U+FB03)
- They exist in a rather plentiful manner (cat faces etc)
- You can refer to the *Code Points* using some specific encoding

Functionality

- ♦ Combining of letters
- ♦ ~ and o > ã combinations
- ♦ test
- ♦ Sign to swap text direction for right-to-left languages

Example

- ♦ test
- ♦ 74 65 73 74
- ♦ 2 byte : 00 74 00 65 00 73 00 74 (UCS-2 / UTF-16)
- ♦ Or? : 74 00 65 00 73 00 74 00
- ♦ FE FF : byte order mark
 - someone in Microsoft thought that it would be a good idea to put it before files and strings; Avoid in Unix world
- ♦ UCS-4 means 4-byte characters

Coding: UTF-8

- ♦ A specific coding
- ♦ Lower 127 characters are ASCII compatible
- ♦ Further bytes represent multibyte characters
- ♦ Linux has mostly completed standardization to UTF-8; Use of anything other than this should be considered problematic

Conclusions

- ♦ "Plain text" does not exist
- ♦ We are always interested in the encoding of the aforementioned "plain text"
 - Our Huffman encoder is also essentially a translation program from one encoding to another

In practice

- ♦ GNU library: libiconv
<http://www.gnu.org/software/libiconv/>
- ♦ `fopen("file.txt", "r, ccs=UTF-8");`
- ♦ `wchar_t` data-type
- ♦ `fgetc()` >> `wint_t fgetwc(FILE * stream)`
- ♦ `EOF` >> `WEOF`

Linux support

- ♦ The input from the keyboard (what you get from terminal stdin) is converted to UTF-8 stream (console driver does this work)
- ♦ The output to console is decoded using a UTF-8 decoder and is presented using a 16-bit font
- ♦ BOM does not exist (the FE FF)

Two approaches

- ♦ Keep internal data in UTF-8
- ♦ Keep data in its decoded form and convert only upon outputting it
 - A character would be an object in memory in this case

Problems of internal UTF-8

- ♦ `strlen()` does not tell how many positions the cursor would move
- ♦ `mbstowcs(NULL,s,0)` returns the character count according to its coding

Usage

- ♦ Define locale in environment:
LANG=et_EE (for output in ISO 8859-1)
LANG=et_EE.UTF-8 (for output in UTF-8)
- ♦ #include <locale.h>
- ♦ setlocale() - LC_CTYPE or LC_ALL arguments
- ♦ command:
locale -a shows the locales installed into system

Gettext

- ♦ Solution from Sun Microsystems
- ♦ Copied by GNU project
- ♦ Quite standard and widely used

Workflow

- ♦ Write your program using `gettext()` function and locale registration
- ♦ Use `xgettext` program to gather your strings into `.pot` file
- ♦ Create translation files for your target language using `msginit` command
- ♦ Translate
- ♦ Convert translation into binary using `msgfmt` program
- ♦ Put the result into `/usr/share/locale/XX/LC_MESSAGES` (XX is language; `et` or `de`, for example)

Hello.c

```
1  #include <libintl.h>
2  #include <locale.h>
3  #include <stdio.h>
4  #include <stdlib.h>
5  int main(void)
6  {
7      setlocale( LC_ALL, "" );
8      bindtextdomain( "hello", "/usr/share/locale" );
9      textdomain( "hello" );
10     printf( gettext( "Hello, world!\n" ) );
11     exit(0);
12 }
```

Source: http://oriya.sarovar.org/docs/gettext_single.html

Explanation

- ♦ `setlocale()` gathers the users preferences for language and its customs (date formats, week starting date, currency, etc)
- ♦ `bindtextdomain()` tells that „hello“ program can find its translation under `/usr/share/locale` (this is the default and could be skipped)
- ♦ `textdomain()` tells that language set is named "hello" in all of the languages
- ♦ **`gettext()`** should wrap all the strings; alias `_`

Tools

- ◆ gtranslator

