

Part 1: XLIFF Generators

Note on scoring: "no support" = ○, "partial support" = ◐, "full support" = ●. Feel free to add notes and caveats, but stick to same pattern. Implementation details are recorded in a separate table.

This includes any tool that creates an xliif from another file(s), whether it is a server-based system, or a desktop-tool. This section concentrates on features of the XLIFF specification that are supported for XLIFF creation (export) and XLIFF import.

XLIFF Element	GlobalSight	Heartsome Translation Suite	SDL/Idiom WorldServer	MemoQ 4.2	Okapi Text Extraction	QT	Trados Studio 2009	Sun Open Language Tools Editor	Swordfish XLIFF Editor	XTM	ONTRAM	GlobalLink	MultiTrans
<alt-trans>	●	●	●	○	◐	○	○	●	●	◐	●	●	○
<bin-source>	○	◐	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bin-target>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bin-unit>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bpt>	●	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●
<bx/>	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
<context-group>	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	○	○
<context>	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	○	○
<count-group>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
<count>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
<ept>	●	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●
<ex/>	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
<external-file>	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	●	●	○	○	●	○
<g>	○	○	○	○	●	○	◐	○	○	●	●	○	○
<glossary>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<group>	○	○	○	○	●	●	◐	○	○	◐	●	●	◐
<internal-file>	○	○	○	◐	○	○	◐	○	●	●	○	●	◐
<it>	●	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
<mrk>	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<note>	●	●	●	●	●	◐	○	●	●	◐	●	●	○
<ph>	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	○	●	●	●
<phase-group>	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<phase>	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<prop-group>	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
<prop>	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
<reference>	○	○	○	○	○	○	◐	○	○	○	○	○	○
<seg-source>	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
<skl>	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	○	●	●
<source>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<sub>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	◐	○
<target>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<tool>	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	○	●	○
<x/>	○	○	○	○	●	○	◐	○	○	●	●	●	○
Total Supported	20	11	10	19	35	11	17	18	22	17	16	35	14

Part 1: XLIFF Generators

XLIFF Creation Tool	Implementation Details
GlobalSight	Project meta data is included as text, in a <note> element of the <header> Uses <phase-group> to denote phase = translation, etc. Neither original file nor file skeleton are embedded or linked from the XLIFF. Extensive use of "type" attribute in inline formatting tags ("bold", "uined", etc.)
Heartsome Translation Suite	Uses <ph> element for all in-line markup
SDL/Idiom WorldServer	Uses <ph> element for all in-line markup
MemoQ 4.2	Includes source skl data in undocumented binary format Uses <bpt><ept> tags for in-line markup. Embeds a great deal of info in mq: extension space Developer: <context> and <context-group> are used/supported: memoQ uses these elements to store the string ID (if the source format is Java properties, XLIFF from other tools, XML, Excel XLS, etc.).
Okapi Text Extraction	Developer: There is an option to choose between <bpt><ept><ph><it> and <bx/><ex/><g><x/> output. Developer: Pre-segmented (<seg-source>) and non-segmented is also an option Developer: <alt-trans> is used only for 'proposal' MB: I marked alt-trans as partial, as requested, but not sure what else alt-trans would be used for other than as proposal. This should maybe be marked "full support".
Trados Studio 2009	Uses <g> and <x> for all inline markup. Does not contain any information on what the g and x refer to. Some custom filter/etc information is stored as pkzip'ed base64 data in <reference> elements. 3rd Party Editors would need to understand these files to have full compatibility. Original file is stored as pkzip'ed base64 data in <reference> element. Does not contain any tagging that would allow a 3rd party editor to create a target version. Uses <mrk> tags extensively. Original file skl is not stored or referenced in the XLIFF namespace; references to original file, in undetermined format, are included in the SDL namespace. <group> element is used, but it is not clear how it is used; or how it benefits the user.
Sun Open Language Tools Editor Swordfish XLIFF Editor	Does not support inline formatting of any kind (it leaves formatting in the body of the text exposed to the user). Uses <ph> element for all in-line markup. Developer: Skeletons can be embedded in the XLIFF document or stored as separate files. If the skeleton is embedded, it is encoded in base64.
XTM	Uses <g> and <x> for all inline markup. Does not contain any information on what the g and x refer to. A file is included in the xlf <internal> element for the <skl>; it is base64 encoded; and encrypted or compressed beyond that. No information available on how to access the skl file. XTM will put online notes into the <note> element, but will not import notes it finds in the XLIFF. <group> element is used to control which TUs in a file can be merged safely. <alt-trans> provides source info, but no target text. Unclear what the point of ithe alt-trans is without the target text. Update: XTM cloud includes target text, but no source text, making it difficult to evaluate TM matches provided via alt-trans.
ONTRAM	Reference to original file is stored in ONTRAM namespace; not in XLIFF space Uses <x> tag in alt-trans to show difference to XLIFF source; sample provided did not include any inline formatting. Developer (paraphrased): The only information saved in an ONTRAM namespace is the diff-visualization used for the offline word packages (the system generates the XLIFF first, then generates a simple Word file from the XLIFF, to support resources who do not have access to a translation editor. The difference in question is the source text vs the embedded TM match).
GlobalLink	Extensive use of <group> element. For example, in a word document, progressive groups from Page > Table > Row > Cell > Paragraph No example of alt-trans provided, so score is based on Developer's statement.
MultiTrans	Includes <group>, but not clear from sample file provided if it provides any benefit. Developer: We use both <ph> and <bpt><ept> elements, depending on the (original) type of the document. <ph> elements are used for formats that don't have corresponding open/close elements (MIF, MS Word, etc), because they just have "change of style" elements. Developer: We use the <internal-file> element for every format, but for some formats we do not have the entire document in the skeleton (<skl>), we only place those parts that will be modified. For document types containing the entire skeleton (such as html, resx, etc), we do not need the source document to export the target. For those formats for which we do not keep the entire document in the skeleton (MS Office, OpenOffice, INX), we do need the original file to do the export. We've based the decision on the potential file sizes – INX is a great example, because it can contain any number of huge untranslatable elements like images, so we do not keep those in the skeleton. Developer: Partial support for enabling 3rd party tools to generate translated files in their original format. For those original file types where the full skeleton is embedded, any other XLIFF Editor should be able to create the translated file correctly. Developer: APIs are available to analyze and pre-translate XLIFF files as well as a variety of other formats (RESX, INX, MIF, DITA, etc) via the auto-creation of an XLIFF file. As well, XLIFF files can be added to MultiTrans TextBases (full context translation memories) via an API.

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Feature	GlobalSight	Heartsome Translation Suite	SDL/Idiom WorldServer	MemoQ 4.2	Okapi Text Extraction	QT	Trados Studio 2009	Sun Open Language Tools Editor	Swordfish XLIFF Editor	XTM	ONTRAM	GlobalLink	MultiTrans
Enables 3rd party tools to generate translated files in orig. format	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Can embed multiple source files into one xlf via <file> element	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
String ID-based exact, in-context matching	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Text/structure-based exact, in-context matching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Machine Translation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
API	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reads/Writes Revision History to/from XLIFF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Puts all relevant information into the xlf namespace, not into extensions or other means	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Part 2: XLIFF Editors

This includes any tool that can open an XLIFF file, allow you to edit it, and then save it in XLIFF format. For the sake of the document, "export as XLIFF" counts as saving as XLIFF. Online (web) editors that work in conjunction with a server to get data are not included, even if that data may be in XLIFF format. For example: the XTM web-based editor may well be using XLIFF in the background, but the user can't open the web editor, browse to a file on their local drive (etc), and open it with the web-based editor. Note that translation tools which "filter" XLIFF files into the tool's native format are not included. For example, you can translate XLIFFs with any tool that supports custom XML filters, but you generally will need to copy source to target first, alt-translations will be ignored, etc.

XLIFF Element	Heartsome XLIFF Editor	Medtronic TM Tool	MemoQ 4.2	MultiTrans XLIFF Editor	QT Linguist	SDL/Trados 2009	Sun Open Language Tools Editor	Swordfish XLIFF Editor	WorldServer Offline Desktop
<alt-trans>	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	●
<bin-source>	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bin-target>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bin-unit>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<bpt>	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
<bx/>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<context-group>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
<context>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
<count-group>	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
<count>	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
<ept>	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
<ex/>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<external-file>	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	○
<g>	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<glossary>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<group>	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
<internal-file>	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	●	○
<it>	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<mrk>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<note>	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●
<ph>	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●
<phase-group>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<phase>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<prop-group>	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
<prop>	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
<reference>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<seg-source>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
<skl>	●	○	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
<source>	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●
<sub>	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○
<target>	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●
<tool>	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
<x/>	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	○
Total	23	24	36	14	0	0	18	38	10

Part 2: XLIFF Editors

Feature	Heartsome XLIFF Editor	Medtronic TM Tool	MemoQ 4.2	MultiTrans XLIFF Editor	QT Linguist	SDL/Trados 2009	Sun Open Language Tools Editor	Swordfish XLIFF Editor	WorldServer Offline Desktop
Generate target from xliiff (without needing connection to server)	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○
Generate target (via online connection)	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○
Apply Stylesheet to target	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○
“Live” Preview (in context, formatted preview)	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	○
TM lookup via network or local TM as well as via alt-trans	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Concordance lookup via network or local TM	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Works with XLIFFs from other sources	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
Spellchecking	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●
Other QA Checking	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○
Export as TMX	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●	○
Live Terminology Lookup	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●
String ID-based matching	○	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	●
Machine Translation	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	●	○
Plugins/API	○	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
Correctly handles XLIFF with multiple <file> elements	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	●
Revision History	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

XLIFF Editor	Implementation Details
Heartsome XLIFF Editor	Target file generation only available if xlf was originally created by Heartsome.
Medtronic TM Tool	Target file generation currently only available if xlf was originally created by WorldServer. Machine translation uses Google online translation service. Limited API. Only TM match proposals are supported via <alt-trans> (no revision history, rejected, etc.)
MemoQ 4.2	Target generation: (Developer:) If the source of the XLIFF file was memoQ (or memoQ server), you can enable [editor users] to export to the original format (docx etc). If the XLIFF file was originally a Word doc for example, which was imported into XLIFF in some other tool, then memoQ won't export it back to [the original] format.
QT Linguist	Free, designed to be used with .TS and .XLF files generated as part of a QT application development process.
SDL/Trados 2009	Only works with .sdlxliiff files generated by SDL Trados 2009.
Sun Open Language Tools Editor	Largely inactive since 2005, but recent activity on the develop forum. Supports only XLIFF 1.0.
Swordfish XLIFF Editor	Target file generation only available if xlf was originally created by Swordfish Developer: Swordfish creates TTX files from its own XLIFF documents for compatibility with users of Trados 2007 and older.
WorldServer Offline Desktop	Free, but only works with XLIFFs generated from Idiom WorldServer. On opening an XLF, it imports it into a local DB format, then exports again to XLF on command.

Tool	Link	Comment
Transolution	http://transolution.python-hosting.com/	Defunct as open source project; alive as commercial tool from LionBridge
LocFactory Editor	http://www.triplespin.com/en/products/locfactoryeditor.html	
Heartsome	http://www.heartsome.net/EN/xfedit.html	
Swordfish	http://www.maxprograms.com/products/swordfish.html	
SDL/Trados 2009	http://www.sdl.com/en/sites/sdl-trados-solutions/desktop-products/sdl-trados/	
Idiom WorldServer	http://www.sdl.com	
Sun Open Language Tools Editor	https://open-language-tools.dev.java.net/	
Flash Extensions Xliff Editor	http://www.flashextension.net/xliffeditor/xliffedit.php	
G11NToolKit XLIFF Editor	http://g11ntoolkit.sourceforge.net/userguides/XLIFFEditorUserGuide.html	
MultiTrans XLIFF Editor	http://www.multicorpora.com/products/xliff/	
KBabel	http://kbabel.kde.org/features.php	
Okapi Framework	http://okapi.opentag.com/	
GlobalSight	http://www.globalsight.com/	
Translate Toolkit & Pootle	http://translate.sourceforge.net/wiki/toolkit/index	
Virtaal	http://translate.sourceforge.net/wiki/virtaal/index	
MemoQ 4.2	http://en.kilgray.com/	
XLIFF Round Trip Tool	http://sourceforge.net/projects/xliffroundtrip/	
ONTRAM	http://www.ontram.com	