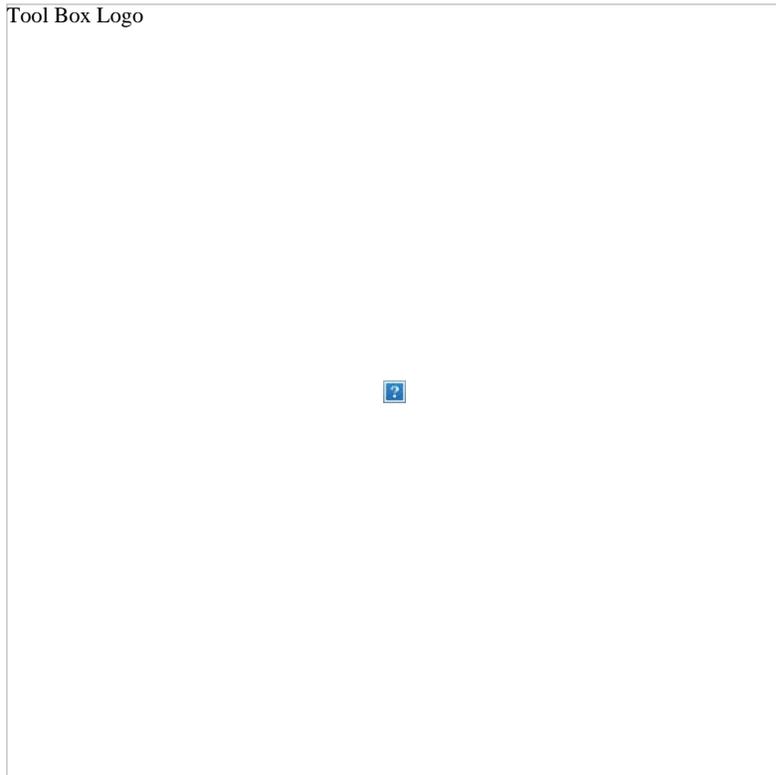


From: [lost.zetzsche](mailto:lost.zetzsche@ameritech.net)
To: comsol@ameritech.net
Subject: The 311th Tool Box Journal - Premium Edition
Date: Monday, April 6, 2020 5:57:52 PM

Tool Box Logo



A computer journal for translation professionals

Issue 20-4-311
(the three hundred eleventh edition)

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Trying Generosity

There is no doubt that these are trying times. I don't even need to explain. No matter where around the globe you're located, you know what I mean. And isn't that so crazy? We're all in this together. True, we have more or less capable leaders who steer our countries, regions, and cities in more or less worrisome ways. (I'm located in the US, so I drew one of the short sticks.) Still, no matter how skilled your leaders or how responsibly your fellow residents respond, we all face the same threat to our health and the health of those we love, along with an increasingly disjointed economic situation.

I have found great comfort in that unspoken unity. Never before has all humanity -- every single one of the almost eight billion people on this planet -- carried the same specific concern in their hearts and minds for their families and maybe themselves.

Of course, this unity is not always unspoken, and I'm grateful for that. I love to receive personal emails these days. They're different. They don't end with "Best wishes" or "Yours"; they are truly personal. They end with wishes to be careful, to look out for those you love, or some other acknowledgement of our shared situation.

As translators and interpreters, we live at the seams that hold things together. Some of us have been inundated with more plentiful and demanding work than ever before; for others, especially those doing work that is in no way connected to COVID-19, work might have dried up. Others, especially interpreters, are fettered by the requirements of social distancing and have to relearn skills by switching to a new way of working as clients become increasingly aware of remote interpreting.

For those with more time on their hands, there is an outpouring of generosity from people with skills many of us might not have. I'm clearly not going to offer an exhaustive list of such resources, but here are some:

- For literary translators and those with such aspirations, Boston University is offering [a host of amazing talks](#).
- On the other side of the spectrum, MT guru Andy Way is offering [a series of talks](#)

about neural networks and translation.

- TAUS has started a collection of COVID-19 related translation data, with the first corpora now offered for free at md.taus.net/corona.
- MasterWord has started to create a series of videos with a professional counselor about [dealing with the stress of interpreting during a pandemic](#).
- InterpretAmerica's Barry Slaughter-Olsen and Katherine Allen organized a two-hour conference with more than a dozen illustrious speakers to address the changes taking place in interpreting right now. The live response was overwhelming, and you can now watch the recording [right here](#).

Later in this *Tool Box Journal* you'll find testimonies of other acts of generosity. While this is a time of "social distancing," we should probably rename it "physical distancing" since we are all becoming closer and more appreciative of each other than ever before.

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1. Tool Vendors Respond

In light of the current situation, *ATA Chronicle* editor Jeff Sanfacon asked me to write something connecting technology with our all-consuming health crisis (I write regular columns in the *ATA Chronicle* and the *ITI Bulletin* and sometimes publish that content in the *Tool Box Journal* as well).

I really liked Jeff's idea, so I turned around and asked the same question of the technology vendors themselves. (Since I had to limit myself, I asked only translation environment tool providers and developers.) This is the message I sent them:

I am working on an article about what vendors of translation-specific tools are doing to respond to the coronavirus. Clearly, these are very, very difficult times for all of us, personally and professionally. I'm aware that you may see a significant decrease in sales in the next few weeks and maybe months as much translation life slows down. Still, this is a good opportunity to reach out to translators with offers specifically geared toward this crisis, offers of training, digital meetings, and other kinds of engagement. What you are planning in this regard?

You won't be surprised to hear that virtually all vendors replied to outline their efforts. I will list them here in alphabetical order. (I edited the answers to cut text that seemed too promotional or offers that listed special sales of existing products. Also, nearly all respondents mentioned that their staff is working remotely while at the same time ensuring all services and necessary uptimes required -- so I also cut that out of their answers.)

Atril (atril.com)

Atril has been trying to help our customers and partners face this difficult situation. For example, in China, where we partner with a large number of universities, we have equipped the university staff and students with free *Déjà Vu X3 Pro* licenses so they can still study and learn while being at home.

For translators who are already using *DVX3* but who need an additional license for another computer during this crisis, we are also providing them with temporary activation codes.

memoQ (memoQ.com)

- We have [published an e-book to support the switch to home offices](#)
- *memoQ* provides local and international organizations and software developer companies fighting COVID-19 with server licenses during the crisis at no cost
- *memoQ* provides free server licenses for NGOs and life science companies fighting the virus as well as dealing with crisis communication
- *memoQ* aims at building a forum that supports translators to promote their services and be available for LSPs in need of a certain language combination

SDL (sdltrados.com)

The skills of the professional translation community are in higher demand at the moment; therefore we have decided to take the following action:

- Increase the allocation of free machine translation characters to *SDL Trados Studio* users. At this time there may be a greater need for urgent translations. Some businesses may also be suffering from a reduction in people actively at work. Therefore, for our *SDL Trados Studio* customers who are currently on a neural machine translation package, provided by SDL Machine Translation, we are doubling the number of free characters per month for the next two months. This change shall be automatically applied to your account, and should help you cope with any surge in demand.
- We will provide new virtual events and additional educational activities. To ensure we continue to deliver content, virtual networking opportunities, and educational activities that contribute to your continued professional development, we plan to digitize

a number of our in-person events over the next few months. More details will follow on these.

Smartcat (smartcat.ai)

Smartcat has always provided its core technology stack for free to freelancers. This will not change -- Smartcat's tech stack will remain free for you, always, along with our marketplace.

The issue that most concerns our freelance users during this economic downturn is confidence in timely payments.

Here is what we have to offer:

- Payment Insurance by Smartcat for projects contracted through and carried out on the Smartcat platform.
- Prioritized Payment. Guaranteed payment within 30 days of project completion regardless of the standard payment schedule of an end buyer.
- Enhanced Support -- answers to your support request within 12 business hours.
- For those of you who have issues working with customers because of AB5, we will have you covered as well.

You can find more information here: smartcat.ai/freelancer-offer.

For language service providers, Smartcat is eliminating per-user licenses, together with our payment and vendor-sourcing components.

Text United (textunited.com)

Some of our clients are from industries that are suffering major effects (hospitality, travel, and automotive). We are trying to ease the financial aspect to them by delaying their payments by two to three months. Also, we are offering these clients free use of our TMS until the end of April (for now).

To those outside our client base, we will provide media channels support in translation of articles and video subtitles to help them reach a wider and international audience, making sure many people understand the situation and the precautions they need to take.

Translated (matecat.com, modernmt.com)

To help our community of customers and translators, we decided to offer our best adaptive machine translation service, *ModernMT*, for free until May 30. We will not limit usage; the only limit will be the capacity of our infrastructure (hundreds of GPUs).

Visit modernmt.com to see the range of APIs plans we have for enterprises and professional translators. Pick the plan that best fits your needs and add a credit card (only to avoid spam, you will not be charged).

Wordbee (wordbee.com)

It is important, now more than ever, that health-related information is available to all our co-citizens in as many languages as needed. To assist the healthcare industry in its efforts, Wordbee is instantly launching a support initiative by offering *Wordbee Translator*, our cloud-based translation management system, for free for two months.

It includes everything you need to translate, revise, and manage your projects. Five users can work simultaneously. These users can be in-house managers, editors, and external freelance translators.

On top of that, the Wordbee team will offer a free-of-charge online training to help you kick-start your translation efforts.

These conditions will apply for those of you working in hospitals, scientific or diagnostic laboratories, pathology clinics, residential health facilities, nursing homes, companies that produce biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and other scientific services.

Eligible are also medical device manufacturers and NGOs that help support the delivery and financing of health care services among large segments of the population.

Wordfast (wordfast.net)

- We implemented, early in the pandemic, a measure for employed translators who must comply with containment measures and work from home. We amended our EULA's terms to move in-company licenses to translators' personal computers for free.

We remain committed,

as has been
the case for
20 years, to
grant free
technology
to
humanitarian

and relief
efforts.

During the
COVID-19
emergency,
our offer is
extended to

government- backed efforts, not just NGOs.

- We are working on a Project Management extension for our online translation environment (*Wordfast Anywhere*) that would greatly help translation workforces get up and running overnight.

We appeal to Machine Translation providers, such as Google, Microsoft, and DeepL, to grant free access during the COVID-19 crisis for translators working from home.

I have also summarized the offers into [these tweets](#).

And since it didn't make sense to prod others to be generous but not do it myself, I will be sending out my *Tool Box Journal* Premium edition to everyone for the duration of this crisis, including access to the journal archive going all the way back to 2007.

Enjoy.

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New! Free terminology management best practice training from SDL Trados

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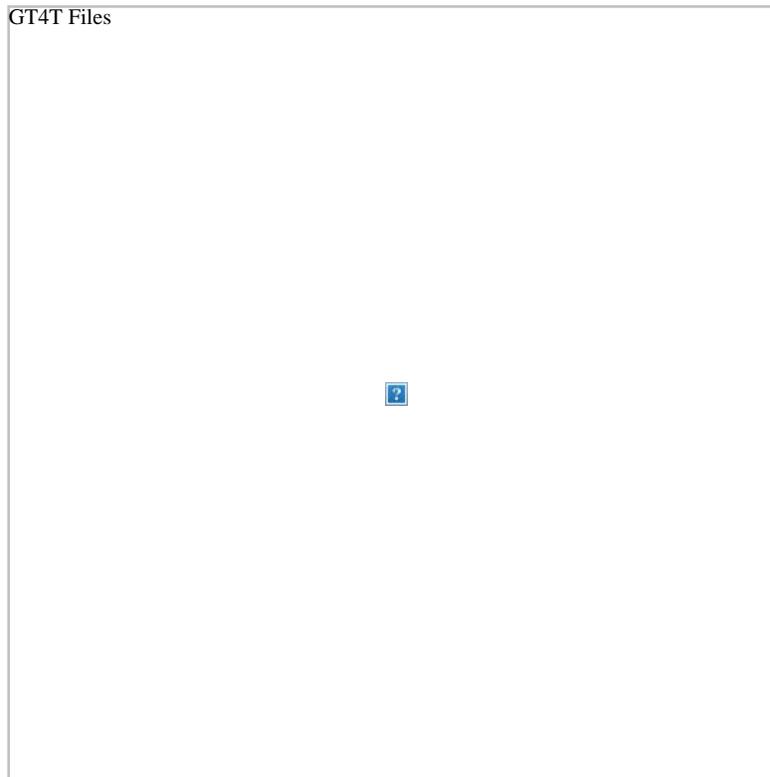
This easy-to-follow training is available in several languages.

[REGISTER](#)

2. GT4T's File Translator

I have written about *GT4T* in the past (see [here](#)) as a little tool for *Windows* and *Mac* that connects you to a large variety of machine translation engines via a single mouse click. The presently available MT engines are *DeepL Pro*, *Google Translate*, *Microsoft Translator*, *NiuTrans*, *Yandex*, *Systran*, *Baidu*, *Youdao*, *Tencent*, and *Sogou*. You can call up translation suggestions from one or several at the same time; you can use your own API key (with a minimum extra fee) or you can pay *GT4T* to use their API connection; you can replace words in the suggestions with words from your own dictionary; and you can exclude words from translation, look up dictionaries and glossaries, etc., etc.

Recently, Dallas Cao, *GT4T*'s developer, has been working on an additional feature: the possibility to add complete files and pretranslate them. This works for *Excel*, *PowerPoint*, *Word*, and PDF files (the latter's conversion routine is not particularly impressive, so I would not encourage you to use that). But maybe more interestingly, it also works for bilingual files in *SDL Trados*, *memoQ*, *Wordfast*, *Cafetran*, *Memsources*, and *Déjà Vu X* formats.



I've often confessed that I don't really like post-editing MT suggestions from a single MT source (I prefer working with multiple engines and use more of a fragment-based approach rather than pretranslating whole segments -- if, in fact, the text I'm translating lends itself to the employment of an MT engine in the first place), but I know many of you do. And while many of those engines can be called up via their API directly within a translation environment tool, some cannot and some, such as *DeepL*, can be used only with a lump sum fee-per-month that has to be paid with a European payment option. In contrast, with *GT4T* you pay just a [character-based license](#), no matter where you're from.

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3. This 'n' That

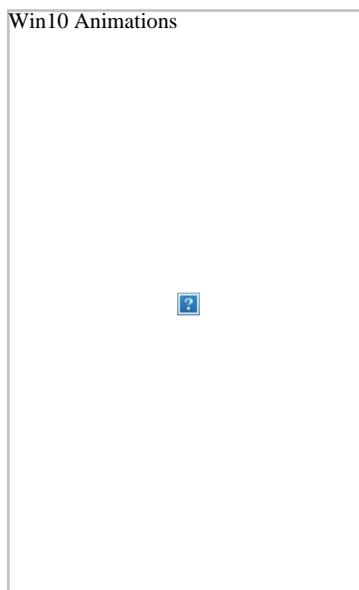
Do you remember when *Windows 95* or *98* computers tended to be super-sluggish if the available animation options were enabled? Oh, many of you don't remember that? OK, then, maybe I am old, but I'm cool with that! (See how "young" I can still talk?) All right, let's just drop it!

Gosh!

Anyway...

With my recent computer problems that I described in the last *Tool Box Journal*, I was forced to look at all kinds of things I had never expected to research in the age of *Windows 10* and speedy computers. One of them -- believe it or not -- was animations. There are indeed animation settings in *Windows 10*, and they do make a difference if you don't mind exchanging speed for silly animations.

To go there, you'll need to open the **System Properties** dialog by pressing the **WINDOWS KEY + R**, entering `sysdm.cpl` into the ensuing dialog, and then clicking **OK** (or you can right-click **My PC** in the **File Explorer** and select **Advanced**). Under **Performance**, click the **Settings** button. The **Performance Options** dialog that opens up should display **Visual Effects**. If not, select that tab. And right in there you can either disable everything (by selecting **Adjust for best performance**) or selectively disable all these options you didn't know existed in the first place.



You're welcome.

And since we're talking about the **WINDOWS KEY**, Microsoft just enabled a new keyboard shortcut on the latest version of *Windows 10* that originally was limited to the *Microsoft Surface* (methinks). **WINKEY+W** opens links to two things: the **Microsoft Whiteboard**, a collaborative space you can use for freehand markings or typed text (very easy to share with others -- just click the person icon and enable the creation of a shared URL); and **Fullscreen snip**, a new way to take a screenshot of your current screen and immediately start marking it up. (For other ways to take screenshots, check [here](#).)

Oh, and I imagine you will have already read about this elsewhere if these languages are relevant to you, but *DeepL* has added [Chinese](#), [Japanese](#), and [Brazilian Portuguese](#) to its supported languages.

Just before I was going to send this, Serge Gladkoff from Logrus contacted me, asking me to mention a new release of the free TBX and TMX editing tool *Goldpan*. I have not actually tested it, but many of you will have much more time these days, so why not clean your translation memories and termbases (and, by the way, test *ModernMT* while it's still free -- see above).

Stay strong.

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4. New Password for the Tool Box Archive

As a subscriber to the Premium version of this journal you have access to an archive of Premium journals going back to 2007.

You can access the archive [right here](#). This month the user name is toolbox and the password is begenerous.

New user names and passwords will be announced in future journals.

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The Last Word on the Tool Box Journal

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