

Best Practices: Windows & Office Localization in Nepali

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Unlimited

How It Started

- 2003 AFIT & SEISA AP/IT: Mongolia
- Credit & Thanks to CICC
- November: Microsoft to Nepal to check our capabilities
- March: Signing of Agreement
- April: Start Localization work
- October: Keyboard, Fonts, Locale, Windows, Speller development complete. Testing Underway.
- March 05: Entire project over with Windows XP, Office 2003 and Nepali Proofing Tools.

Convincing Microsoft

- Nepal: non-existing market-size
- Locale: Non-existing
- India: Wants to own the language
- Skills are available in the country
- IPR Act in the country
- Support & endorsement by the government
- Support & endorsement by the linguists
- Past experiences of partnering with Microsoft
- Past experiences of local language S/W development

In-Country Convincing

- In globalization Age: Why localization is required.
- Fear of Microsoft owning all IPR in Nepali Language Computing
- For Economic Reasons FOSS should be encouraged
- Why XP & Office 2003: why not Windows 98
- Conversion of Legacy Data Into Newer Unicode Compliant Formats
- Local Language Computing: Second-class citizens
- Target Market: Existing Users or New users in Rural: Unclear

Requisites to Localization

- Character-Code Standardized
- Input Method Standardized
- Glossary Standardized
- Locale Standardized
- Corpus/Corpora
- Collation Sequence

Experience

- Team=Uniformity
- User Interface: Normally Longer
- Writing Nepali and English on the same line:
English normally bigger in size
- Nepali O/S is for less educated people
- Expectations: Quick delivery. Same time
- Continuous development process