Translate Files with AI

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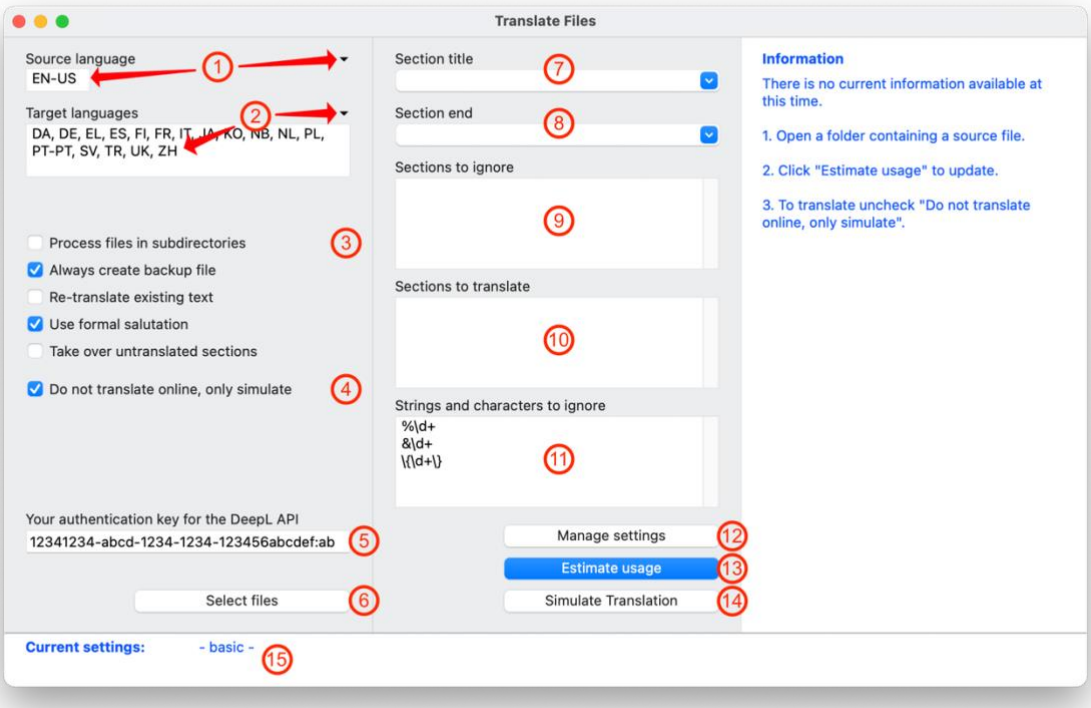
Important notes

- The latest version of this manual can be found at this link in the download section: translate.tomsidee.de.
- Some screenshots are not translated yet. This will be made up for. However, the app itself is already fully translated into your language.
- Make sure you always have a backup copy of your data.
- **Interesting use cases and examples can be found on my blog at translate.tomsidee.de.**

The program window



The markings refer to the annotations in the text.

General and preparations

Translate Files with AI is an app for automated translation of text in text files into one or more languages. This software uses DeepL to translate the texts. DeepL is currently the world's best translation service and provides meaningful, understandable translations.

It is important to know that the software (the app) itself does not perform translation. The software serves as an interface between the texts in your text files and DeepL. The translation itself is done by DeepL on their servers.

Therefore, you need an account at DeepL. When you register in the developer area of deepl.com, you need to make sure that you get a new API key. This is the key that allows this software to use the services of DeepL for translation. Without this key, no text can be translated.

When you first open an account on DeepL, you can get a free API key that allows you to translate up to 500,000 characters per month. If you want to translate more characters within a month, you need to purchase another key and a certain number of characters to translate. This key must be entered into this app instead of the free key.

A free key is easy to recognize because it ends with ":fx". For more information and to get a free and/or paid API key, click the following link:

www.deepl.com/en/pro#developer

Enter the key in the corresponding field of the app (5).

Quick start

This section is intended for those who want to use the app quickly without having to read long explanations.

1. Select the code of the language to be translated (1) and the code of the target language(s) (2) using the two drop-down menus. You can reach these menus by clicking on the small triangle or by right-clicking on the corresponding field (1), (2).
2. In the target language selection field (2), you can select multiple target languages by holding down the ⌘ key on MacOS or the control key on Windows if you want to translate your texts into multiple languages. You can also select a single language by double-clicking on it.
   You exit the selection field by clicking on an area outside the input field or by pressing the Enter key or the Tab key.
3. If your source file(s) are in the same folder as the destination files, do not select the **Edit files in subdirectories** (3) check box. However, if you use a separate subfolder for each language, the **Edit files in subdirectories** (3) check box must be selected.
4. Select the folder that contains the source file(s) you want to translate from the **Open** menu or by pressing ⌘+O (macOS) or ^+O (Windows). The file names must contain the language code of the source language, such as **mytext-de.txt** for a German text file. If you use a separate folder for each language, the same applies to the name of the folder below the selected folder that contains the source file(s). Alternatively, you can drag an output folder onto the app.
5. The number of characters to be translated is estimated with the button (13).
6. You can use the button (14) to display a simulation of the translation without burdening your character contingent at DeepL.
7. Two steps are required for the translation itself: First, deactivate the **Do not translate online, simulate only** check box (4). Then start the translation with the button (14).

It is best to try a translation with a short text first to minimize your quota at DeepL. If you don't know the meaning of the other program options yet, just ignore them the first time. They will be explained on the following pages.

Languages

The following languages are supported:

BG, CS, DA, DE, EL, EN, EN-GB, EN-US, ES, ET, FI, FR, HU, ID, IT, JA, KO, LT, LV, NB, NL, PL, PT, PT-BR, PT-PT, RO, RU, SK, SL, SV, TR, UK, ZH

Selection of source and destination files

The source and destination files can be organized in two ways:

- All files are located in one folder. This folder is selected via the **Open File** menu. In this case, the name of the source text file(s) must contain a language code for the source language, e.g. **text-en-us.txt** or simply **de.txt**. The translated files will also be created in this folder. Existing text files with section headings will be updated if necessary. You can recognize the language of the files by the language code in the file name.
- The files of the different languages are located in subfolders of the selected folder. A subfolder contains the files of one language. The names of the subfolders contain the language code in this case. The files are edited as described above.

Format of the source and target files

Translate Files with AI processes only text from plain text files whose extension can be of type .txt, .text and .utf8. The text contained in them should be UTF8 encoded. If this is not the case, the target files will still be UTF8 encoded.

The text contained in the files can be formatted in two different ways:

- Unformatted text
  This type of text is translated in such a way that the translation matches the original as closely as possible. Subsequent changes to the original text cannot be incorporated into an existing translation. Instead, the translation must be performed again.
- Text divided into sections
  The text is divided into individual sections by section titles. The section titles are **not** translated but transferred 1:1 into the translation. This makes it possible to update changes to sections of the original text in the translated text. Text that is outside of sections can be transferred untranslated into a newly created target file during the first translation.

Text divided into sections

The sections of such a text are marked by section titles. The end of a section can be marked either by the next section title or by a special section end.

The app recognizes section titles by a special flag, e.g., that they always end with the character "=" or ":".

For example, such a text could look like this:

```
Subtitle=

This is a subtitle.

--------------------------------------------------

Advertisements=

Here are a few advertising texts.

--------------------------------------------------

News=

• There are already a few news.
• And there are some changes.
• New languages have been added.

Thank you for your feedback!

--------------------------------------------------

Description=

This is meaningless text with no content.

A list:

- This is part 1.
- And here is part 2.
- This is part 3

    YYYY[ -_./]MM[ -_./]DD hh[ -_./:]mm[ -_./:]ss
    YYYY[ -_./]MM[ -_./]DD hhmmss
    YYYYMMSS hhmmss

- Here's another postscript.

And then some text with a link: https://touch.tomsidee.de/.

Important note:
It's not that important!

Note: It contains a date 1.1.1970.

--------------------------------------------------

Keywords=

Key,Words
```

Section title and Section end [7], [8]

These fields contain regular expressions that describe the format of the section titles and endings used in the original text.

For example, two commonly used regular expressions for these fields look like this:

- Section title: [^\n+][\S]+=\n+
  A title consists of any words followed by the "=" character. The title may be preceded by any number of line breaks and must be followed by at least one line break.
- Section end: \n+[*_–-]{5,}+\n*
  A section end consists of at least 5 consecutive characters "*", "_", "–" or "-". There must be at least one line break before the section end, after that there may be any number of line breaks.

Sections to be ignored and translated [9], [10]

Section titles can be described in these fields, which are edited according to the field name. It may be useful to use the regular expression placeholders for line start and line end. For example, specifying the value *house* would indicate not only the value itself, but also all other titles containing that value. For example, the title *House Construction* and *In the House* would also be affected. The specification *^House$* would avoid this conflict and only the paragraph with the title *House* would be translated.

Special characters [11]

It may happen that special characters embedded in the text are corrupted during translation. Such characters can be specified in the **Characters and strings to ignore** field to exclude them from translation.

It is also possible that certain words or terms should not be translated. These can also be specified here.

Formal salutation

In some languages, it may be important to distinguish between formal and informal salutations. This applies to DE (German), FR (French), IT (Italian), ES (Spanish), NL (Dutch), PL (Polish), PT-PT, PT-BR (Portuguese) and RU (Russian). It can be useful to make button labels and help texts (tooltips) informal, since in these cases it is not the user who is addressed, but the program, so to speak. It can make a difference whether a button is labeled *Save file* or *Save the file*. The same applies to information for the user, which in many cases can be provided with a formal salutation.

Notes

It often makes sense to use German instead of English as the source language, since the infinitive is more clearly recognizable in German and is therefore translated more unambiguously.

Settings

The settings in the program window are self-explanatory. They are automatically saved at the end of the program.

The **Do not translate online, only simulate** setting is used to easily check the translation process. It displays the original text and the target text side by side in one window. In order not to unnecessarily load the character contingent of DeepL, the text for the simulation is not translated, but is also displayed in the window of the target file as original text. The text to be translated is highlighted in color for better display.

Sets of settings (12), (15)

In many cases, it is convenient to be able to save settings for different tasks in different sets or profiles in order to recall them later.

This button opens a self-explanatory dialog for managing such sets.

The bottom of the program window shows which set is currently being used.

Regular expressions

Regular expressions are used in the input fields of this app. A regular expression is a string that is used to describe a set of strings according to certain syntactic rules. Regular expressions are used as filter criteria in text search by comparing the text with the regular expression pattern. For example, it is possible to find all words in a word list that begin with *T* and end with *S* without having to explicitly specify the letters in between or their number.

The Internet offers a wealth of information on the structure and use of regular expressions.

If you want to enter normal text in such a field that should not be interpreted as a regular expression, start the text with an apostrophe. Example: `'Not a regular expression`. If you want to use an apostrophe as the first character in a regular expression, you must precede it with a backslash. Example: `\'A meaningless regular expression`.

Log file

Translate Files with AI maintains a log file that keeps track of each transaction. The log file has the standard format for .log files and is located in the *logs* folder below the user folder.

Contact

tomsidee
Thomas Osthege

Siegstraße 24

D-51570 Windeck-Rosbach
Germany

Fon: +49 2292 9599730
Fax: +49 2292 9599733
contact@eurocomp.info
translate.tomsidee.de

If you have any questions or miss a feature, please email me using the app's contact function. I appreciate feedback and of course positive reviews in the App Store. Please do not criticize the software with negative reviews. I can't respond to that and it only frustrates. It also does not contribute to the further development or improvement of the app.