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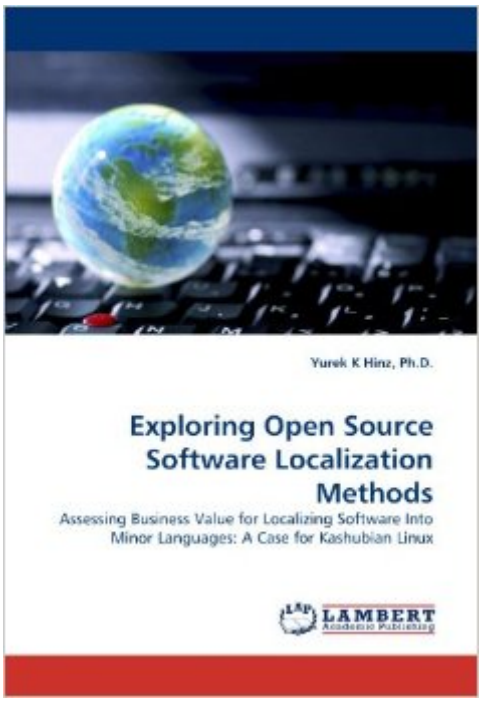
Exploring Open Source Software Localization Methods: Assessing Business Value For Localizing Software Into Minor Languages: A Case For Kashubian Linux



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Synopsis

In this multi-case study, open-source software localization methods and techniques were explored. The study included a comparison of two independent population groups. The mixture of participants facilitated exploration of attitudes towards specific software localization methods and the use of Linux. Interviews were conducted and responses were coded. The results were then compared using a cross case analysis technique. The study revealed that localization models, the political environment, software usability, and Linux popularity, were the four predominant themes that significantly affected the acceptance of Kashubian Linux. Business leaders contemplating penetration of markets in which minor languages are spoken may be able to broaden market exposure by offering products and services that integrate minor languages into the structural framework of e-commerce. However, barriers to acceptance identified in this study may hinder these efforts.

Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing (May 25, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 3844399739

ISBN-13: 978-3844399738

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.3 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,135,403 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Software Design, Testing & Engineering > Localization

Customer Reviews

Excellent knowledge base discussion of the immediate need for businesses to tap into new market opportunities that exist within the cultural affinity of European languages. Businesses that operate in communities where esoteric languages are spoken need a way to tap into those culturally closed markets. Dr. Hinz has enlightened us to the fact that information systems are the infrastructure support that facilitates the manner and mode of business operations. Dr. Hinz provides an excellent in-depth discussion of the importance for collaboration between community business leaders and software developers in order to design fully functional open-source software that meets the needs of local business communities who are striving to open new markets where rich local cultural customs

and long heritages impede the impact of big business. This source of hidden wealth really comes to light in this book. Excellent read and well thought out. I highly recommend this book for anyone interested in the complexities of developing open source software for esoteric languages, especially the Kaszubian language, culture, and community.

The book is unique on two accounts.First it tries to measure and analyze localization of a complex product. Second it does that for a language that is spoken by around 50,000+ people.If you preparing for a similar project it is interesting read as it approaches the matter from different angels and in an analytic manner.

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