Bitrix Framework

Localization Guide
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How to translate the Bitrix products interface into any language with the Localization module

The Localization module helps localize the system, including the Control Panel interface and messages, into many languages.

To localize the interface you will:

1. Add a new language into the system.
2. Translate the system language files into a new language or download a language pack through the update system.

Adding a New Language into the System

We will create accounts for the regional language settings and the language itself.

- Go to page Desktop > Settings > System settings > Language Parameters > Regional Options and Culture to add language parameters.

- Click Add and enter regional parameters of the new language.

⚠️ Note: The fields marked in bold are mandatory.
- **Name** – name of the record of the regional settings.
- **Date format** – determines the format in which date is represented in a new language.
- **Date-time format** - determines the format in which date and time are represented in a new language.
- **First day of the week** – indicates the week start day.
- **Name format** – indicates the name format.
- **Charset** – the encoding of a new language.
- **Text direction** – Left-to-Right or Right-to-Left.
- **Symbolic code** – symbolic code of the regional setting.

➢ Go to page Desktop > Settings > System settings > Language Parameters > Interface languages in order to add a language account.
Click Add language and indicate the language parameters and its specifics.
ID – identifies the new language.

⚠️ Important! The system language identifier (ID) is used to identify and download the appropriate language files. The ID must have the same name as the language ID on the server.

For example, the server expects the bg ID for Bulgarian language files. Therefore, you must create the language using the ID bg before downloading Bulgarian language files.

Please specify the national language encoding as an interface language encoding or UTF-8 if the entire project is in Unicode.

You will find the complete list of language identifiers and encodings for different languages in the help section.

- Active – indicates whether or not the interface can be changed to a new language. Clicking in the box enables language changes.
- Name – language name.
- Default – determines if the language is in the system by default.
- Sorting index – the rank of a new language in the list of available languages.
- Language and culture – choose the regional setting.

➢ Click Save. The new language is added to the list of available system languages for installed copies of the system as well as to the languages indicated on the Control Panel toolbar.
Before you begin translating the interface, you must adjust the Localization module settings.

**Downloading a Language Pack through the Update System**

Devoted Bitrix Specialists and qualified Bitrix Partners keep working hard to adapt the interface of Bitrix Site Manager and Bitrix24 Self-hosted version for users from all over the world. The list of languages into which the product is translated can be found at bitrixsoft.com.

If the list contains the language you need, you may download the relevant language pack through the update system (Desktop > Marketplace > Platform Update).

You have to set up an account for the language in the system first.

**The Localization module settings**

Click Settings > System settings > Module settings > Localization to open the Localization page.
- **Initial Folder** – Specify the directory to open when going to Browse Files (Desktop > Settings > Localization > Browse Files).

- If **Autocalculate message file difference and show translation statistics** is checked, all the untranslated phrases in the table on the Interface language page are displayed. Their total number is in red; links to them are in blue.
If this option is unchecked, an additional button (Show differences) is displayed. Click Show differences to see information about the number of untranslated phrases and links.

Please note that browsing of the system language files is much faster if this option is unchecked.

When you click Show differences button, the system stores its state in session and displays language file differences for all folders until you click it again.

In our example, we uncheck this module option to ease and hasten the translation process.

- **Show untranslated messages only** - If you click this option, when you open any language file with some language phrases, the system displays untranslated phrases only.
**Note:** This form shows translations into the languages of the same encoding.

I.e. if the ISO-8859-1 encoding is set for the English and Spanish language settings and Windows-1251 for the Bulgarian language, the form will contain fields to introduce the translation of the message into English and Spanish. To translate the phrases into Bulgarian, the interface must be switched to Bulgarian.

If you unset the **Show only errors in edit mode by default** option and open any language file with some language phrases, all of the translated and untranslated phrases are displayed.

In our example, we set this option.

- Include **Show Language Files** Button In Toolbar.

  In case this option is selected, the Translation button will be shown on the toolbar. In case the Show Language File menu option of the Translation button is selected, the addresses of all the language files used on this page will be displayed at the bottom of the website page.
File names are shown as links, which can be clicked to open the language file for editing. In the end of the list you will find a search field. You can use it to find a required message (exact match).

- **Backup Affected Files**

  If this option is selected, a backup copy of the translation file will be created.

**Product Translation**

The product may be translated either consecutively by modules and versions or page by page.

Translation by modules means downloading each module into a separate csv file, translation of such files, and their uploading into the system. Translation by versions consists in the localization of the product starting from the oldest version and gradually uploading and translating newer versions. Page by page translation consists in the exclusive translation of the
components used in this project and are visible in the public part. This approach is convenient and recommended for portal localization.

**Language Phrase Location**

To translate the interface, you must translate the language files of the Bitrix modules and components.

Product modules, components, gadgets, and Business Process (BP) actions can be found in the following directories of the file system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product modules</th>
<th>/bitrix/modules/</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Components                       | /bitrix/components/
| Gadgets                          | /bitrix/gadgets/ |
| Business Process Activities      | /bitrix/activities/ |

Components, gadgets and BP actions are placed in their respective locations each time a corresponding module is installed and to which they are related to. These components, gadgets and BP actions are displayed in the front-end and need to be translated separately.

The data sources (which components, gadgets or BP actions will be included into the system) are modules:

/\bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/components/bitrix/
/\bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/gadgets/bitrix/
/\bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/activities/bitrix/

Phrases from these directories should also be translated (or replaced by copying already translated phrases from the sections /bitrix/components/bitrix/, /bitrix/gadgets/bitrix/, and /bitrix/activities/bitrix/) if a translation archive is to be set up for its subsequent use in other units. For more information, see Localization Archive Export/Import.

Phrases used in component templates can vary depending on the site templates used for a certain product copy. The look and the phrases used in the component templates are often changed when a product is customized according to the client's needs. Component templates are stored in the folders related to the corresponding site templates, these are the locations where you should translate your component templates separately for each new product instance:

/\bitrix/templates/<site_template_1>/
/\bitrix/templates/<site_template_2>/
/\bitrix/templates/<site_template_3>/, etc.
Translation of the Product by Modules

- In the localization functionality explorer go to the directory of any module, for example, calendar.

- Click **Show differences**. The files of available languages, including the Bulgarian language we added, are displayed.

- Download untranslated phrases to a **csv** file.
Open or Save a new .csv file. In the .csv file, add the translation of all the available phrases into the language (Bulgarian in our example).

When all the phrases have been translated, you must save the file and import it back to the system.

To import the file, open the Browse Files page and upload the .csv file you have saved.
➢ Click **Import**.

⚠️ You can import either of the following:
- new messages only
- all language files

*If you choose the first option (**import only new messages**), only the phrases you have added (in the Bulgarian language in our sample) are imported.*

*If you select **entirely replace language files**, the translation files in the system will be replaced entirely, that is, all language files will be deleted and replaced using only the contents of the uploaded file. None of the phrases currently in the system will be saved.*

Be careful when choosing this option.

➢ The module has been translated. Repeat this procedure for the remaining modules.

**Translation of the Product Page by Page**

For example, you need to translate the live newsfeed.
- Go to the page with the newsfeed.
- Turn on the visualization of language files by clicking the button **Show Language Files**.

- Look up the required phrase using the search bar, for example start from the top menu and find **Message**.

The search brings forth links to the files containing the target phrase. In this case, several components containing the phrase in question are connected to the page.
Select the link needed, namely the link included in the live newsfeed component template. Using the link, go to the administrative section form containing the language phrases of this file with the fields intended for translation input.

Translate this file or the entire component.

Switch the language of the site in **Desktop > Settings > System settings > Websites**. All the messages of the product both in the public and administrative sections will be displayed in the language selected.

The result:
It is possible to add a language switch to the public part of the site/portal. Please refer to the charter Adding Language Switch in the Public Section for more details.

Phrase Search in the Administrative Section

There is a possibility to search/replace phrases in the administrative section.

For example, if all phrases of the Activity Stream have to be replaced with a Live Feed, the following steps must be followed:

- Open search/replacement setup window by clicking Search.

  ![Interface localization](#)

  Path: `/bitrix/modules/intranet`

- Indicate the replacement parameters.
Upon completion of search/replacement, a list of files containing the required/replaced phrase will be shown.
Adding a Language Switch in the Public Section

Let's look at one way to put in a language switch in the front end. This switch will change the language displayed in system phrases of the product only in the front end. Each user can choose the language for himself or herself.

- Add the following code to the /bitrix/php_interface/dbconn.php file:

```php
<?
session_register("LANG_UI");
if(isset($_REQUEST['lang_ui']))
$_SESSION["LANG_UI"] = ($_REQUEST['lang_ui']=="en"?'en':'la');
if(!isset($_REQUEST['lang']) && isset($_SESSION["LANG_UI"]))
define(LANGUAGE_ID, $_SESSION["LANG_UI"]);
?>
```

- In the <head> section, the header (/bitrix/templates/<template>/header.php) of the site template needs to have this code added:

```html
<script>
    function action_lang()
    {
```
Then we add the visual output (the language switch) to the template using this code:

```php
<?echo CLanguage::SelectBox('Lang', $_SESSION['LANG_UI'], '', 'action_lang()'); ?>
```

The switch can be added as in either the header or footer of the template, depending on the design. For more details about design, follow these links:


The language switch does not translate content to the needed language, all it does is change the source code phrases to the given language. Nonetheless, using the switch created, you can influence the menu language and message template. To do that, we need to use an additional site template (in our case, the second template) to activate the menu that is translated into the other language. Language-dependent phrases should be used in this template as well. To describe the points in the menu of the given language, it is necessary to create a separate `TYPE` and `menu` files. Let’s look at this step-by-step:

1. Now we create a copy of the site template. To do that, just copy the folder with the template to the folder `/bitrix/templates/`. For example, the site template is in the folder `/bitrix/templates/light/`, and we make a copy in `/bitrix/templates/light_la/`.

2. For convenience and to tell the two apart, we can change the description of the `light_la` template in the file `/bitrix/templates/light_la/description.php`.

3. To make the switch work, the site settings needs to have specified conditions for the activation of the created template (like `$_SESSION["LANG_UI"]=='la'`).
4. For example, in your site you use top and left menu types (the types used are indicated in the settings of the Site Explorer module). We add a new menu type to describe the menu of the new language, like top_la and left_la:

![Menu types table]

5. In the light_la template, we find the activation of menu components (in the files /bitrix/templates/light_la/header.php and /bitrix/templates/light_la/footer.php) and change their menu type.

```php
<?$APPLICATION->IncludeComponent("bitrix:menu", "horizontal_multilevel", array(  
    "ROOT_MENU_TYPE" => "top_la",  
    "MENU_CACHE_TYPE" => "N",  
    "MAX_LEVEL" => "3",  
    "CHILD_MENU_TYPE" => "left_la",  
    "USE_EXT" => "Y",  
    "DELAY" => "N",  
    "ALLOW_MULTI_SELECT" => "N"  
), false);?>
```

6. Then we need to create a copy of these menu files in the site structure (the root and in sections) and translate them into the needed language.
NOTE: when translating the menu in the Social intranet template, in the .left_la.menu_ext.php and .top_la.menu_ext.php files, you need to change the template ID in the condition:

if (SITE_TEMPLATE_ID !== "bitrix24")

In our case, the condition should look like:
if (SITE_TEMPLATE_ID !== "bitrix24_la")

The code (ID) of your template can be viewed in the list of templates at Desktop > Settings > System settings > Websites > Site templates.

Switching languages of content If you need to divide content by language, then you need to use a ‘language mirror’ of the site or multiple sites:


In the first case, duplicate content is created in the second language. Static content (pages and sections) in this case needs to be separated by folders, for example:

En
...About
...Company
...News

De
...Überuns
...Mitarbeiter
...News

To have dynamic content draw from the proper sources, separate sources in each language must be established. For example, to have a News page in the right language, the component needs to point to an infoblock which has news items written in that language.

The language switch must point to a folder with content in the other language.
When using the multi-site capability of the Bitrix platform, a new site is created with its own content and objects (infoblocks, polls, banners, training courses, etc.) in the given language. The advantages of this method and configuration help can be found in the link shown above.
Localization Archive Import/Export

Product localization may be archived and imported into another project or uploaded to the Bitrix remediation server so that any user can download a product translation into its project.

Go to the page Desktop > Settings > Localization > Export And Import > Collect And Export Strings in order to set up an archive with phrases.

![Collect Strings](image)

- **Select Language** – indicate which language phrases should be exported.
- **Localization Version Date (YYYYMMDD)** – date of archive setup which is considered archive version.
- **Convert To UTF-8** – whether convert messages into the UTF-8 encoding. Select the option if the project is in a national encoding and the archive must be setup in UTF-8.
- **Pack Files (tar.gz)** – whether the archive must be made in the format of tar.gz.

⚠️ **Note 1:** If the localization archive is supposed to be sent to Bitrix for placement on the remediation server, export phrases in a national encoding and compress them in tar.gz.
**Note2:** The product localization export script harvests words and phrases from the following location only: `/bitrix/modules/`. In case phrases used in components, gadgets, and BP actions have been translated inside usage folders (e.g. `/bitrix/modules/components/bitrix/`) from which they are enabled (but not installed), they should be copied in the following directories:

`/bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/components/bitrix/`
`/bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/gadgets/bitrix/`
`/bitrix/modules/<module_folder>/install/activities/bitrix/`

Localization is imported on the page **Desktop > Settings > Localization > Export And Import > Import Localization.**

- **Select Language** – indicate the language phrases of which language are to be imported.

- **Convert From UTF-8** – select the option if your project is in a national encoding and the archive to be imported is in UTF-8.