

Across: An Exciting New Computer Assisted Translation Tool

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The Across Language Server, developed in Karlsbad, Germany, provides new solutions for both large companies and agencies, and for individual freelance translators. Widely used in Europe by such clients as Volkswagen, Siemens, and SMA Solar, Across has two different editions, one intended for large companies with multiple users, called the **Across Language Server**, and another designed to stand alone, called the **Across Personal Edition**. The former is a comprehensive solution for corporate translation management that provides the all of the features for translation support, plus additional tools for workflow and project management. The Personal Edition is intended for use by freelance translators.

Unlike many other computer assisted translation tools, freelance translators using Across may decide between two different operating modes: **working independently** and alone (the conventional way of using a translation memory tool based on a database located in the translator's local computer); or **working with an external Language Server**. If the freelance translator receives a translation project from a client that has an Across Language Server, that client may allow the translator to have temporary access to their server through a soft key provided just for that project. The client specifies the particular project memory they wish to share and then the freelancer for the project downloads all the relevant data they need to perform the particular translation task, such as the source text and any terminology entries relevant to that translation. Once the translation project has been completed, the target translation can be uploaded to the customer's Across Language Server. Projects are completed not only more quickly, but the client has more control over the consistency of language and terminology.

Across is an integrated tool that functions in its own environment. Because it does not use the Word environment as its interface as so many other computer assisted translation tools do, all files must be converted into a new file format in order to be imported into the translation environment. This is an extra step, but for the most part, Across has a wider variety of files that can then be handled (including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe FrameMaker, XML/HTML and others) and the constant

breakdowns caused by integrating Word with a computer assisted translation tool become a thing of the past.

The new work environment in Across, called "**crossDesk**", is quite different from the environment of the most common computer assisted translation tools currently used by translators, and for that reason, it does take a bit of getting used to. The pleasant discoveries more than make up for that initial unfamiliarity. Soon one discovers how nice it is to have everything needed to perform a quality translation all displayed together without having to toggle between multiple documents and websites or having to constantly flip through multiple dictionaries and glossaries. On the left side of the crossDesk user interface, there is a section called **crossView** that gives you easy access to all your files and projects. On the right of the crossDesk work environment there is a section called **crossTerm** that displays your terminology database. There is also a window called **crossSearch** that displays hits from preselected internet sources such as Eurdictautom/IATE or Wkitionary, etc. This user interface can be customized by the individual translator.

Starting a translation: Before starting to translate a project must be created. As part of this process the source document is imported into the Across system, converted into a different format, and then is analyzed and prepared for translation in crossDesk. A pre-translation may be done, comparing the new source document with the current memory, and then automatically inserting any 100% matches into the translation.

During the translation, every paragraph is assigned an editing state and this status data is stored with the paragraph. The translation can be "untouched", "touched" or "translated". As soon as you start to translate the translation moves from an "untouched" state to a "touched" state. Translations are not stored in the memory until they have been fully edited and proofed and manually changed to the "translated" state. This ensures that errors won't end up in the permanent memory.

Across has its own built-in spell-check function and will flag terms that it recognizes as errors during the

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Cultural Corner

Did you know that one the greatest concentration of Basque people in the United States is found in our Northwest States of Idaho and Montana? Until I went to Montana, I did not realize this! The Basques came to this area in order to work as shepherds, and sheep-herding remained a Basque occupation for almost one hundred years and Basque Day is celebrated on August 15th around Montana!

The Basque people have been in Europe since before the arrival of Europeans and are now concentrated in the border area between Spain and France. Their language has fascinated linguists, since it appears to be the only surviving language from the time before Indo-Europeans entered Europe. Interestingly enough, English, which has borrowed a number of words from Spanish and French, has not borrowed a single word from Basque!

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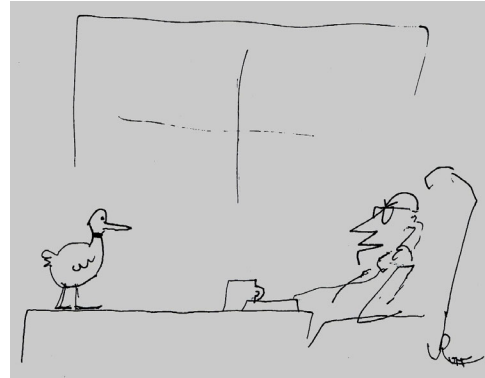
translation process. Right-clicking on the word, allows the translator to select the appropriate term for a list of suggestions. Translators may add words to the built-in dictionary or can import entire dictionaries into the system.

Like other tools, Across also has a concordance search feature, which allows the translator to quickly search the memory for a word or phrase. Additional research may be done on the internet right on the page, in the **crossSearch** section. Some resources have already been entered into crossSearch by default (Google, IATE, Systran, AllWords.com, Ultralingua, etc.). crossSearch is not limited to searching just the internet, but can also be used to search an intranet or local resources.

The **crossTerm** window in **crossDesk** displays a list of all the entries from the crossTerm database that are found in the paragraph currently being translated. They can be inserted into the text with a double-click or by using icons on the toolbar.

Changing Computer Assisted Translation Tools: Transferring your current translation memory to the Across tool is an easy process. The Across Wizard handles both the export of your former system's memory and its import into the new one. Memory segments are imported into **crossTank**, the Across memory, and terminology is imported into **crossTerm**, the terminology management tool.

Jokebox



“Get me somebody who speaks Mandarin.”

Across is an exciting new computer assisted translation tool, and one with too many special features to summarize in a short article. If you'd like to review this tool in more depth, the Across website is a wonderful source of information, including guided tours, tutorials, downloadable data, and further contact information if you'd like to review this tool in more depth.

Most exciting of all is the fact that, there are **no license fees for freelance translators**, either for their standalone translation operations or for use of the system in order to connect with an outside client on the Across Language Server. Fees are paid by agencies and businesses that purchase the Across Language Server edition. Online training and interactive tutorials are also offered without charge to freelancers.

For more information, visit the Across website at <http://www.across.net>

Kathryn German is the Secretary of NOTIS, a member of both the ATA and NAJIT, and Secretary for the T & I Institute's Advisory Board. She currently works full-time as the Senior Spanish Translator for Quorum Review, an institutional review board of clinical trials, and also co-teaches the Introduction to Translation & Interpretation course at the T & I Institute with Martha Cohen. Kathryn has completed T & I Institute's Translation Certificate Program coursework, two years of online instruction in Spanish-English translation through International House, Barcelona, and the Cross Cultural Health Program. She also holds a M.A. and B.A in Spanish Literature and Language, was a Fulbright Fellow to Ecuador, and lived and studied in Spain, Perú, Paraguay, and Guatemala.