

GNU Hackers Meeting 2020



GNU gettext 1.0 and beyond

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GNU gettext - Overview

- libintl: Message translation lookup (runtime)
- Programmer tools: xgettext, msgfmt
- Translator tools: msgcat, msggrep, etc.
- Emacs PO mode (outdated)



Current problems

- Problem for package maintainers:
The PO directory and version control.
 - Should the PO files from the TP be committed in version control?
 - “make dist” modifies the PO files before distribution. ⇒ version control conflicts.
- No support for Go, D, Rust.

Release 1.0

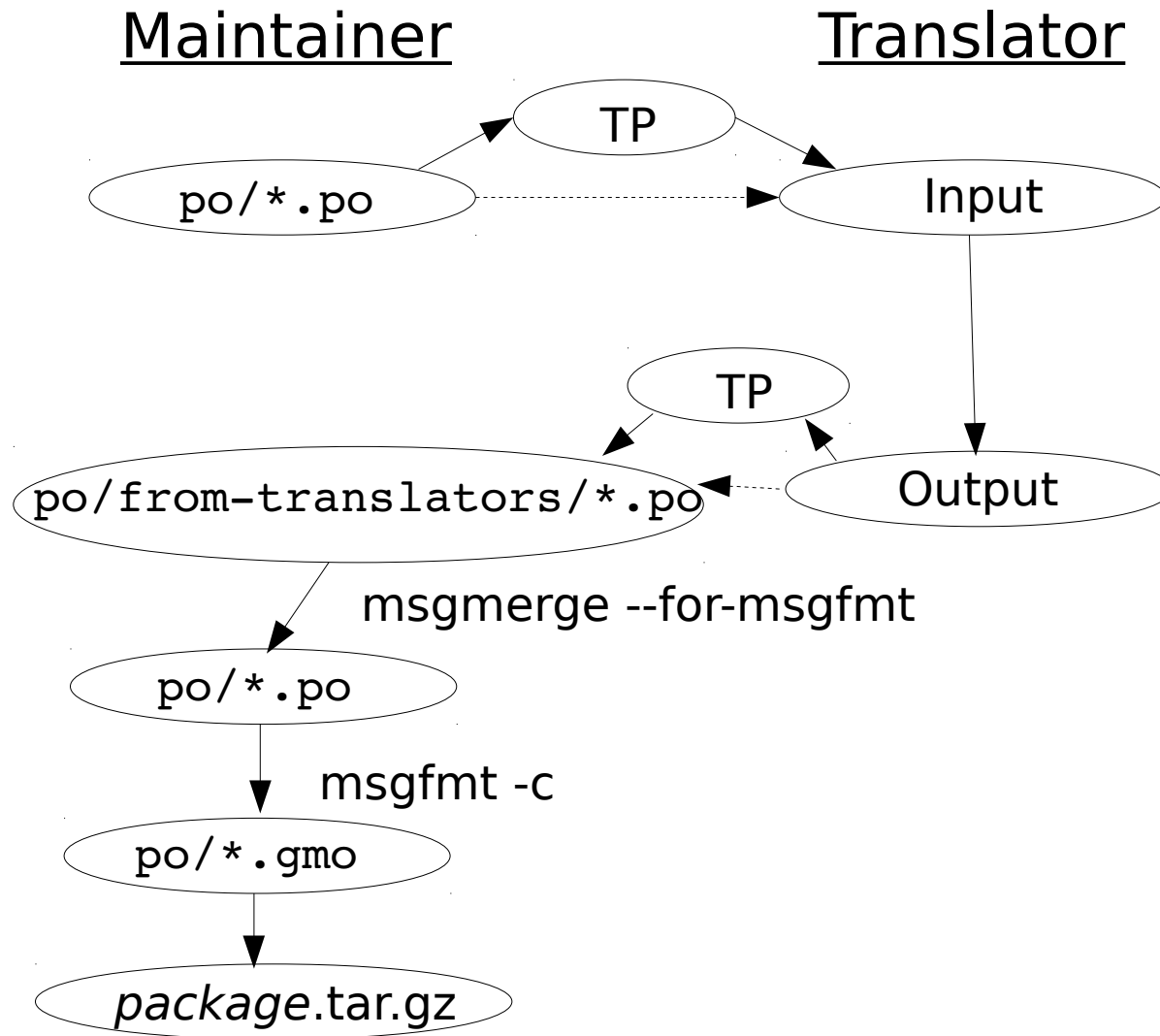


- New structure for the PO directory:
 - `po/* .po` - PO files after merging with POT
NOT under version control
 - `po/from-translators/* .po` - Original PO files
Possibly under version control, depends on project

Release 1.0



- New workflow regarding the PO directory:



Run & Translate (1)



- Translators will be able to
 - set a couple of environment variables
 - run the program (in a terminal)
 - right-click on an untranslated or wrongly translated message
 - “open hyperlink” - opens the PO file editor at the location of that message
 - save the PO file
 - continue running the program, with the modified translations enabled

Run & Translate (2)



- Benefits:
 - Translators produce better translations when they know the context
 - Normal users are led to the path of becoming translators

Run & Translate (3)



- Behind the scenes:
 - libintl with modified gettext() function that produces a text string with hyperlink
 - an app-client daemon downloads the PO file, if necessary, and launches the PO editor
 - once saved, it is compiled to .mo
 - libintl with ability to reload a modified .mo file