

## Softissimo's translation software looks to be near word perfect

By Tom Venetis, posted Mar 20, 2002

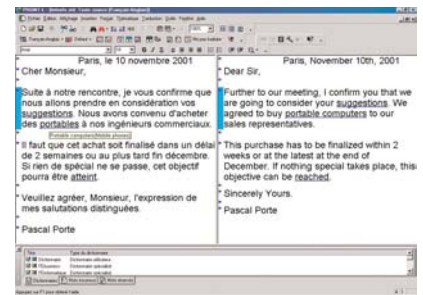
Businesses and consumers alike have not been very pleased with the translation software packages currently on the market. It is not hard to see why. Many of the packages offer translations that are often no better than the poor subtitling found on many Hong Kong action pictures. You know the kind, where the action hero suddenly shouts out, "You always use violence. I should've ordered glutinous rice chicken!"

Antoine Genee, business development manager for the Paris, France-based Softissimo expects that his company's line of Reverso translation solutions will be popular with Canadian businesses and government departments as the focus of the company has always been in developing high-quality translation solutions, not ones that simply try to quickly translate lots of different kinds of languages with varying results.

Currently, Softissimo has four different packages available to Canadians: Reverso Pro, a package designed for intensive text translation, including Web pages; Reverso Intranet, a Web-based server version of the product for companies looking to give quick but accurate translation capabilities to employees on a network; Reverso Corporate that can be adapted and customized for specific corporate translation needs; and Reverso Perso for home use.

"Reverso Pro is made for intensive translation while keeping the same format, layout and overall look-and-feel- of the document intact," Genne adds.

Integrating with Microsoft's BackOffice, it allows for the translation of a variety of documents, including those done in Microsoft Word, e-mails delivered to Outlook and PowerPoint presentations. Reverso takes the original document, displaying it in a window. Right next to it, another window that shows the translated text, allowing one to do a side-by-side comparison of the texts and making it easier to make any corrections to the translated text.



One of the key features of the entire Reverso line is the ability to create customized dictionaries. An aerospace company or a medical company can create a dictionary with words and phrases that are specific to their respective industries. Softissimo can even help in customizing those dictionaries for a company.

"The English may not be 100 per cent perfect but it still very understandable," Genee adds. "The software should help you save both time and money. Normally, you would take a document and hand it over to a translation service and then you have to wait some time before it arrives. With this software, you can do a first translation, make some corrections and then you can send that over with the original and thereby get it back faster and much cheaper."

These dictionaries can be activated or shut off depending on the translation needs and the use of several different dictionaries can offer up several possible translations for individual words or phrases in a text. These possibilities will be displayed on the translated text allowing someone to choose which translation is best and then use that specific translation throughout the text whenever that word or phrase occurs again.



The Reverso Intranet solution works by having employees go to a Web site and transfer the text they wish to translate to the Reverso program. Reverso Intranet can also be accessed by mobile workers as well over a secure connection letting them have quick translation of documents or e-mails that may be important to their work while away from the office.

Reverso Perso is a home version of the Reverso translation solution and will be available to Canadian consumers through such retailers and resellers as Alis Technologies, Machina Sapiens, FutureShop in Quebec and 3-Soft.

Currently, Softissimo's Reverso offers translation capabilities for English, French, Spanish and German. Work is being done for the support of Chinese and Portuguese.