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# **Virtaal Documentation**

***Release 0.7.1***

**Translate**

**Jun 26, 2020**



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## Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Using Virtaal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Virtaal Features</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Virtaal Screenshots</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Shortcuts</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Tips and Tricks</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Installation</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>31</b>
	<b>Index</b>	<b>39</b>





Virtaal is a graphical translation tool. It is meant to be easy to use and powerful at the same time. Although the initial focus is on software translation (localisation or l10n), we definitely intend it to be useful for several purposes.

Virtaal is built on the powerful API of the [Translate Toolkit](#). “Virtaal” is an Afrikaans play on words meaning “For Language”, but also refers to translation.

Read more about the [features](#) in Virtaal, or view the [screenshots](#). You can also download a [screencast](#) (33MB, Ogg Theora format) to see some of these features in action.

Learn more about [using Virtaal](#), available [shortcuts](#) and some extra [tips and tricks](#) for people who want to customise their installation.



# CHAPTER 1

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## Using Virtaal

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Virtaal is meant to be powerful yet simple to use. You can increase your productivity by ensuring you know all the shortcuts and tricks and without being distracted by a cluttered interface.

Although most features are available using the mouse, Virtaal is designed to encourage you to work as much as possible with your keyboard to increase your speed and keep the translation fun.

When you have no file open in Virtaal, you'll see the Virtaal dashboard with helpful links to your recent files and various common tasks in the program.

## 1.1 Opening a File

Mostly you should be able to simply open a translation file by clicking on the file in your file manager (Windows Explorer, Nautilus, Konqueror, etc.). The file might be associated with another program in which case you can look for Virtaal in the context menu by right-clicking on the file.

You can also run Virtaal and open a file with *File* → *Open* or `Ctrl+O`.

You can invoke Virtaal from the command line with

```
virtaal <filename>
```

A list of supported translation formats can be found on the [features](#) page.

## 1.2 Normal Translation

After opening a file, the first translation unit will be shown, with your cursor in the field below the source text. You can simply type your translation and press `Enter` when finished – just like in your word processor.

Note that `Enter` moves you to the next position where you want to type. In the case of units with [plurals](#), enter will take you to the next line in the same unit.

If you have the correct [spell checkers](#) installed, spell checking should be active for both the source and the target text.

You can undo normally using `Ctrl+Z`.

## 1.3 Time Savers

### 1.3.1 Auto-completion

Virtaal will save you some time by trying to complete some long words for you. Users of OpenOffice.org will already love this feature. You will see the auto-completion suggesting a possible word, and the suggestion can be accepted by pressing `Tab`. If the suggestion is not what you want, you can simply continue typing the word you had in mind. If you accepted a suggestion that you don't want, you can simply undo normally with `Ctrl+Z`.

### 1.3.2 Auto-correction

Virtaal will save you some time by fixing certain common typing mistakes or spelling errors. Users of OpenOffice.org will already love this feature. How mistakes are corrected depends on your language, and there might possibly not be information for your language yet. Feel free to get involved in the project to improve this feature for your language.

If Virtaal automatically corrected something which you didn't want, you can simply undo the step with `Ctrl+Z`.

### 1.3.3 Copy Original to Target

Sometimes it is easier to have the original string as a start to only replace a few translatable elements. Translations containing XML markup or many variables might be more work to type again than to just start with the source text. You can easily copy the original text into your translation area by pressing `Alt+Down`.

For some languages, you will see how Virtaal automatically changes the punctuation marks to fit the conventions of your language. This could involve quotation or other punctuation marks, or the spacing between certain elements. For example, a "quotation" automatically becomes a « quotation » in French, without the translator having to change the quote characters or the spacing.

If you don't want the changes to the source text that Virtaal automatically did, you can simply undo the step with `Ctrl+Z`.

### 1.3.4 Copy a Placeable to the Target

*Placeables* are special parts of the text that can be automatically highlighted and easily inserted into the translation. You will see that certain parts of the source text will be highlighted. To select which placeable to insert, press `Alt+Right` to move the highlighting to the correct placeable. You can insert the currently highlighted placeable by pressing `Alt+Down`. After you have inserted a placeable, the next placeable will be highlighted.

### 1.3.5 Copy a Term to the Target

Highlighted text will show which terms Virtaal recognised, and allow you to handle them as placeables. You can use `Alt+Right` and `Alt+Down` the same way as with other placeables. If there is more than one suggestion for a term, Virtaal will display the choices in a menu. Select the translation you want, or press `Esc` to continue typing.



### 1.3.6 Use a Suggestion from TM or MT

If Virtaal has a suggestion obtained from translation memory or machine translation, it is displayed underneath the editing area. You can put the first suggestion into the target text with `Ctrl+1`, or use `Ctrl+2`, etc. to select the others. You can also double click the suggestion to obtain the same effect.

## 1.4 Navigation

Above we saw how we can easily advance to the next point of translation by pressing `Enter`. You can also move around easily between rows with `Ctrl+Down` and `Ctrl+Up`. To move in large steps, use `Ctrl+PgDown` and `Ctrl+PgUp`.

### 1.4.1 Incomplete Mode

Virtaal will move you between certain rows. Normally it will move between all rows, but if you activate the “Incomplete” mode, it will move between untranslated and fuzzy units. This allows you to quickly find the places where you need to work. Translations will still appear between the same rows in the file so that you can see the context that you are translating in.

### 1.4.2 Workflow Mode

This mode allows you to move between specific units sharing the same state(s), which can be specified in detail. For example, with a PO file you could move across translated items, or only untranslated ones. Or with XLIFF, you could move only across units that need more work, review process, or both.

### 1.4.3 Searching Mode

Activate searching mode in the mode selector at the top, or simply press `F3`. Virtaal will then move between all the rows that correspond to your search query. Translations will still appear between the same rows in the file so that you can see the context that you are translating in.

To move back from the search box to your translation, simply press `Enter`, or go back to another mode.

### 1.4.4 Quality Checks Mode

New in version 0.7.

In the “Quality checks” navigation mode, you can select certain quality checks from the list of possible issues seen by Virtaal. For more information, visit the [quality checks](#) page.

## 1.5 Privacy Issues

Commercial users of Virtaal should be aware of certain privacy issues:

### **1.5.1 Virtaal's Log File**

A record of some of the source text and matches served are kept on the local computer in a file called `virtaal_log.txt` (on Windows XP machines, this file may be found in `Application Data\Virtaal`). The log file is not deleted when a file is closed in Virtaal or when Virtaal exists. The file can be safely deleted manually.

### **1.5.2 Virtaal's Local TM**

All translated segments of any file opened, edited and saved in Virtaal are added to Virtaal's local translation memory (TM) in a file called `tm.db` (on Windows XP machines, this file may be found in `Application Data\Virtaal`). The TM is not purged or deleted when Virtaal exists, and the TM file can only have the name "`tm.db`".

The consequences are that (a) your translation remains on the local machine and (b) translations from all previous texts are served as matches for all future texts.

It is safe to delete and/or rename the file.

### **1.5.3 Network Based Translation Memory**

If you have the appropriate plugins enabled, Virtaal will deliver results from network based translation memories. Since the source text is sent to the service provider, take care that you are allowed to do that. In the case where the source text is confidential, this is probably not a good idea.

### **1.5.4 Contributions to Remote TMs**

Although Virtaal may query remote translation memories such as the online TM Open-Tran, none of your own translations are automatically uploaded or contributed to a public or remote TM. The only way you can contribute your translations to a public or remote TM is to send the PO file yourself, for example via e-mail.

### **1.5.5 User Information in PO Files**

The first time you use Virtaal, you'll be prompted for your name, mail address and team information. This information is then added to all PO files you translate in future. If a PO file already has an author, its author will be commented out and your name will be added as the current author. PO files from opensource projects are often made public, and the details you entered into Virtaal (your name and mail address) may subsequently become available to spam harvesters and search engines, in clear text.

### **1.5.6 Network Based Machine Translation**

If you have the appropriate plugins enabled, Virtaal will deliver results from network based machine translation engines. Since the source text is sent to the service provider, take care that you are allowed to do that. In the case where the source text is confidential, this is probably not a good idea.

Virtaal has many features for beginners and advanced users.

## 2.1 Ideal for Beginners

### 2.1.1 Quality Checks

New in version 0.7.

Virtaal provides a powerful way of reviewing translations for quality. It exposes most of the [pofilter checks](#) that can test for several issues that can affect the quality of your translations.

If Virtaal indicates a possible problem with a translation, it doesn't mean that the translation is necessarily wrong, just that you might want to review it. You should also select the correct project type (GNOME, KDE, Mozilla, etc.) in the project type selection. This will improve the accuracy of the quality checks.

Virtaal shows the results of the quality checks in two ways: interactively for the current unit while you type, and as a navigation mode, similar to searching or “incomplete” mode.

#### Interactive Checking

Virtaal will perform the quality checks on the current translation while you type. Only the names of the possible issues are listed, but you can click on them for more detail. The same details can also be shown by pressing F8. This might explain what the test mean, or could even mention detailed information about the possible error.

You can also read the detailed descriptions of the [pofilter checks](#).

#### Quality Checks Navigation Mode

In the “Quality checks” navigation mode, you can select certain quality checks from the list of possible issues seen by Virtaal. The navigation mode allows for batch review of quality checks. Selecting the name of a test will step you through the translations that fail the test.

At each translation you have access to the test details as described above.

You might need to save to ensure that the navigation results are up to date.

### 2.1.2 Web-Lookups

Web-lookups allow you to execute web queries based on text selected in the source or target window. For instance if you see a word in the source text that you would like to search for in Wikipedia, before web lookups you would have copied and pasted the text. With web lookups, select the text, right click, and then select the web lookup.

Below are user contributed web-lookup queries that you can add to Virtaal. If you have others that you think could be useful then please add them to the list.

You can also *create your own web-lookups*.

#### Search Engines

These are not bound to any language and deal specifically with lookups performed against search engines.

##### Bing

Use Microsoft's [Bing](#) search engine.

- quote: yes

```
http://www.bing.com/search?q=%(query)s
```

##### Google

Use the [Google](#) search engine.

- quote: yes

```
http://www.google.com/search?q=%(query)s
```

##### Yahoo

Use the [Yahoo](#) search engine.

- quote: yes

```
http://search.yahoo.com/search?p=%(query)s
```

#### Dictionaries

Various dictionaries for a single language, multiple languages or specialist domain dictionaries. Not limited to English dictionaries.

## Wiktionary

- Wiktionary
- language: various
- quote: no

```
http://%(querylang)s.wiktionary.org/wiki/%(query)s
```

## dict.org

- dict.org
- quote: no

```
http://www.dict.org/bin/Dict?Form=Dict2&Database=*&Query=%(query)s
```

## TheFreeDict

- TheFreeDict
- quote: no

```
http://www.thefreedictionary.com/%(query)s
```

## YourDictionary.com

- YourDictionary.com
- language: English
- quote: no

```
http://www.yourdictionary.com/%(query)s
```

## Google Translate

- Google Translate
- language: various
- quote: no

```
http://translate.google.com/#!/%(querylang)s/!(nonquerylang)s/!(query)s
```

## General

These are not bound to any language, such as where language is not important, or will work in almost any source or target language, such as Wikipedia where the query will ask the correct language version of Wikipedia.

### Wikipedia

The [Wikipedia](#) encyclopaedia provides over 3 million English articles for you to query. The query will also work on any of the many Wikipedia in other language encyclopaedias.

- quote: no

```
http://%(querylang)s.wikipedia.org/wiki/%(query)s
```

### Open-Tran.eu

[Open-Tran.eu](#) contains all of the open source software translations available. While there is already a Translation Memory plugin you might want to quickly see how a phrase has been translated or used in other software translations.

- quote: yes

```
http://%(querylang)s.%(nonquerylang)s.open-tran.eu/suggest/%(query)s
```

### WordNet

- [WordNet](#)
- quote: no

```
http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=%(query)s&sub=Search+WordNet&o2=&o0=1&
↪o7=&o5=&o1=1&o6=&o4=&o3=&h=
```

### Termium

- [Termium](#)
- quote: no

```
http://btb.termiumplus.gc.ca/tpv2alpha/alpha-eng.html?lang=eng&i=1&srchtxt=%(query)s&
↪index=ent&go=Find
```

### Microsoft Terminology

The Microsoft website contains information on a lot of their terms and translations. It is not currently possible to define a single URL that will work for all languages, since the language codes their site expects should contain a country code in addition to the language code, which is not usually the case in Virtaal. But it should still be easy to write a URL for your language specifically. Here are a few examples for different languages. Note how a country code is always added to the language code at the end of the URL.

- quote: no

Afrikaans

```
http://www.microsoft.com/Language/en-US/Search.aspx?sString=%(query)s&langID=af-za
```

French

```
http://www.microsoft.com/Language/en-US/Search.aspx?sString=%(query)s&langID=fr-fr
```

Similarly use 'pt-pt' for (Iberian) Portuguese, 'pt-br' for Brazilian Portuguese, 'sw-TZ' for Swahili, etc.

## Language Specific

These queries are only relevant to one language, such as a monolingual dictionary, or only a few languages such as a terminology list that covers a single pair or limited pairs of languages.

## Create your own web-lookup

You need to know the following information:

- **display\_name**: The name that will be shown in the context menu
- **url**: The actual URL that will be queried. See below for template variables.
- **quoted**: Whether or not the query string should be put in quotes (").

Valid template variables in 'url' fields are:

- **%(query)s**: The selected text that makes up the look-up query.
- **%(querylang)s**: The language of the query string (one of **%(srclang)s** or **%(tgtlang)s**).
- **%(nonquerylang)s**: The source- or target language which is **not** the language that the query (selected text) is in.
- **%(srclang)s**: The currently selected source language.
- **%(tgtlang)s**: The currently selected target language.

Virtaal is perfect for the new member on your team:

- Simple and intuitive layout
- Colour highlighting
- *Quality checks*
- Displays comments from programmers and previous translators
- Displays context (like msgctxt in PO)
- Easy way to *look-up* selected text on the web
- Tutorial and *guide* for localisation available from the Help menu

## 2.2 Productive Environment

Virtaal will make you more productive

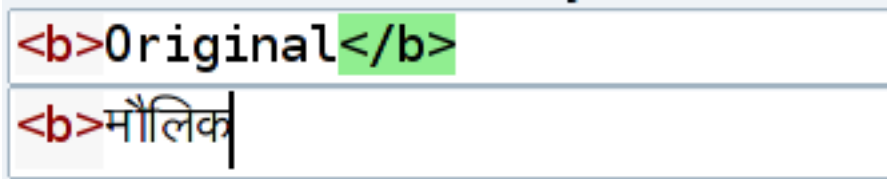
### 2.2.1 Placeables

New in version 0.4.

Placeables are special parts of the text that can be automatically highlighted and easily inserted into the translation. By using placeables, a translator can avoid certain errors, such as retyping numbers or acronyms incorrectly, or perhaps

introducing an error when retyping some program codes, such as XML. Virtaal will help you to insert these placeables easily, and save you time because you don't have to type them.

You can choose which placeables Virtaal should recognise in the preferences. Virtaal will visually highlight the placeables that it recognises in the text.



Some examples of placeables that Virtaal can help you with:

- Numbers
- Acronyms
- XML
- E-mail addresses and URLs
- Variables used in software localisation
- Inline tags in XLIFF files

## Selecting and Inserting

To select which placeable to insert, press **Alt+Right** to move the highlighting to the correct placeable. You can insert the currently highlighted placeable by pressing **Alt+Down**. After you have inserted a placeable, the next placeable will be highlighted.

### 2.2.2 Automatic Terminology Assistance

New in version 0.5.

Virtaal can provide terminology help in many ways. One of the most powerful ways is where Virtaal downloads a recommended file of localisation terms for your language.

This powerful feature has many benefits:

- This works without any configuration. As long as the autoterm plugin is enabled, this works (it is enabled by default).
- Inexperienced translators will get terminology configured, even if they don't know that they should be doing something like this.
- Since the terminology is not packaged with Virtaal, teams can maintain their terminology, and don't need to "have it ready" for a Virtaal release.
- Since Virtaal will check every few days for new versions of the file, translators can use up to date terminology, without having to even know that maintenance was done on the list.
- The file can be maintained at any URL – no intervention by the Virtaal community is required.

For example, a PO file from our Pootle server can work well – this way the same terms are also recommended in Pootle. We need the experts in software localisation in each language to recommend which URL should be used for their language. Contact us if this is not yet configured for your language.

All file formats supported by Virtaal can be used.



### 2.2.3 Amagama

New in version 0.7.

Virtaal provides TM suggestions from the Amagama Translation Memory server. Amagama contains translations of FOSS projects.

The plugin queries a web service over the Internet, and suggestions might therefore take a moment before they are displayed. Also keep in mind that your source text is sent unencrypted over the Internet, and therefore no confidential translation should be done using this plug-in.

Remember that the suggestions from the Amagama plugin come from a variety of sources, and might not be perfect for what you need. It is meant as a way to help you increase your productivity, but still needs your expertise.

- Fast and easy navigation within the file
- Auto-correction of common mistakes
- Auto-completion of long words
- Automatic sensing of the initial cursor position
- Copying original string to target string taking your language's punctuation rules into account
- Highlighting and copying *placeables* from the source text
- Easily find your work by moving between the units that are untranslated or fuzzy
- Automatically update the PO header when saving
- Terminology help. Suggestions can come from:
  - Local files on your computer
  - [Open-Tran.eu](#)
  - *Automatically downloaded terminology files*
- Reuse existing translations. Suggestions can come from:
  - The current file
  - Alternative translations (previous msgid in PO, or alt-trans in XLIFF)
  - Previously saved translations
  - [Open-Tran.eu](#)
  - A team / office TM server
  - A tinyTM server
  - *Amagama*
- Machine translation
  - *Google Translate*
  - *Microsoft Translator*
  - *Apertium*
  - *Moses*

## 2.2.4 Google Translate

New in version 0.5.

[Google Translate](#) is an online service for machine translation (MT). Familiarise yourself with Google's [terms of service](#). Note that since Virtaal version 1.0 you need to have an API key in your configuration (`tm.init`).

The Virtaal plugin provides the output of Google Translate as suggestions.

The plugin queries a web service over the Internet, and suggestions might therefore take a moment before they are displayed. Also keep in mind that your source text is sent unencrypted over the Internet, and therefore no confidential translation should be done using this plug-in.

Remember that the suggestions from the Google Translate plugin are unreviewed machine-generated translations, that could be wrong, inaccurate, or flawed in some other way. It is meant as a way to help you increase your productivity, not to substitute the expertise of a human translator.

## 2.2.5 Microsoft Translator

New in version 0.6.

[Microsoft Translator](#) (also known as Bing Translator) is a free service for machine translation (MT). Familiarise yourself with the [Microsoft Service Agreement](#).

The Virtaal plugin provides the output of Microsoft Translator as suggestions.

The plugin queries a web service over the Internet, and suggestions might therefore take a moment before they are displayed. Also keep in mind that your source text is sent unencrypted over the Internet, and therefore no confidential translation should be done using this plug-in.

Remember that the suggestions from the Microsoft Translator plugin are unreviewed machine-generated translations, that could be wrong, inaccurate, or flawed in some other way. It is meant as a way to help you increase your productivity, not to substitute the expertise of a human translator.

## 2.2.6 Apertium MT

[Apertium](#) is Free software for machine translation (MT). It started as a project to translate between closely related languages, but later versions also supported language pairs that were not that close to each other. Most of the current language pairs offered by Apertium do not use English as the source language.

Virtaal has a plugin to provide the Apertium output as suggestions. Contact the Apertium project for information on what language pairs are supported, what quality can be expected, and to hear how to get involved. More information is available on [their wiki](#).

The plugin queries a web service over the Internet, and suggestions might therefore take a moment before they are displayed. Future versions might be able to make use of a locally installed copy of Apertium. Join us to make this a reality. Also keep in mind that your source text is sent unencrypted over the Internet, and therefore no confidential translation should be done using this plug-in.

Remember that the suggestions from the Apertium plugin are unreviewed machine-generated translations, that could be wrong, inaccurate, or flawed in some other way. It is meant as a way to help you increase your productivity, not to substitute the expertise of a human translator.

## 2.2.7 Moses MT

New in version 0.5.

**Moses** is Free software for machine translation (MT). Moses is a statistical machine translation system that allows you to automatically train translation models for any language pair. All you need is a collection of translated texts (parallel corpus).

The Virtaal plugin provides the Moses machine translation output as suggestions. Read on the Moses website how to get a Moses server running, and configure the settings in your tm.ini file.

Remember that the suggestions from the Moses plugin are unreviewed machine-generated translations, that could be wrong, inaccurate, or flawed in some other way. It is meant as a way to help you increase your productivity, not to substitute the expertise of a human translator.

## 2.3 Wide Format Support

Virtaal supports many file formats:

- Gettext (.po and .mo)
- XLIFF (.xlf)
- TMX
- TBX
- WordFast TM (.txt)
- Qt Linguist (.ts)
- Qt Phrase Book (.qph)
- OmegaT glossary (.tab and .utf8)

## 2.4 More

### 2.4.1 Spell Checking

Virtaal provides spell checking for translators to see possible typing and spelling mistakes. Where the relevant spell checkers are available, it will be enabled for both the source and target text. Possible misspellings will be underlined in red, and the context menu could provide suggestions and the ability to add it to the personal word list.

#### Windows

New in version 0.7.

Currently only Hunspell and Myspell spell checkers are supported. You need to install spell checkers for the languages that you are interested in.

Copy the .aff and .dic files into Application Data\enchant\myspell\ for your account. If you are the Administrator user, that could be in:

`C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Application Data\enchant\myspell\`

## Linux

On Linux systems, you need to have the following packages installed:

- enchant
- pyenchant
- gtkspell
- pygtkspell (might be packaged as gnome-python-extras or something similar)
- Spell checkers for the languages that you are interested in (all checkers supported by your enchant installation should be usable)
- Search and replace with regular expressions and Unicode normalisation
- *Spell checking* for translation and original text
- Word and string based translation statistics in file properties
- Uses language codes from [ISO 639-1](#) if available, or otherwise from [ISO 639-3](#). Arbitrary IETF language tags as described in [BCP 47](#) can be used.
- Export .po files to .mo
- Support for inverse colour schemes for accessibility.
- Designed to also work well on small screens.
- Debug compiled application translations by opening .mo and .qm files directly
- Platform independence means you can run Virtaal on Windows, Linux, Mac OSX and probably other systems as well.
- Native window dialogs on Gnome, KDE, Windows and OSX

## Virtaal Screenshots

These are some screenshots of Virtaal. Although it doesn't show all functionality, hopefully it gives an idea of some of the features.

### 3.1 Autocomplete

Virtaal can provide word based suggestions for some of the longer words you have used before. This way you can increase your typing speed.

Port	Poort
Server name	Bedienernaam
Server type	Bedienertipe
<div> <div>The <u>hostname</u> that will be sent with all</div> <div>Die gasheernaam</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Fuzzy</div> </div>	
The port that the server is running the database on	
The type of the server to contact for CD queries. Possible values are 0 (FreeDB round robin server) 1 (other freedb	

Fig. 1: Virtaal automatically suggesting a way to complete the word

## 3.2 Translation Memory Suggestions

Virtaal can also provide suggestions for whole strings from sources such as the current file, previous translations, Open-Tran.eu and several others.

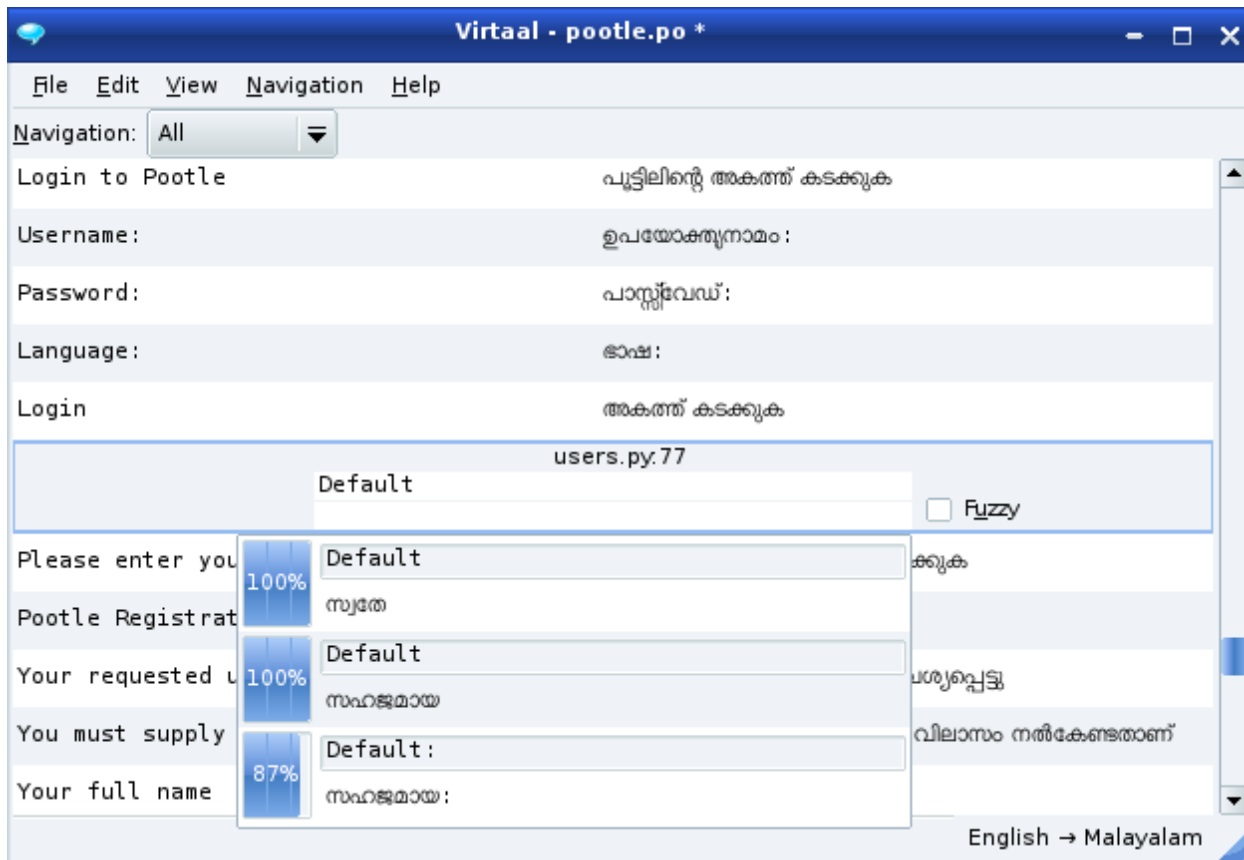
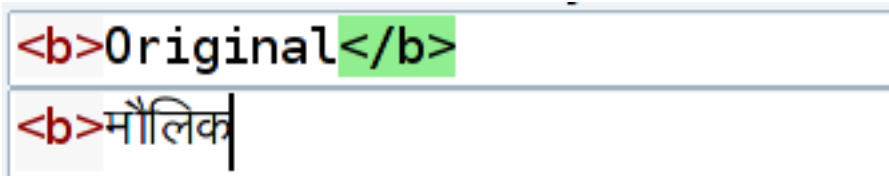


Fig. 2: Virtaal showing suggestions from translation memory

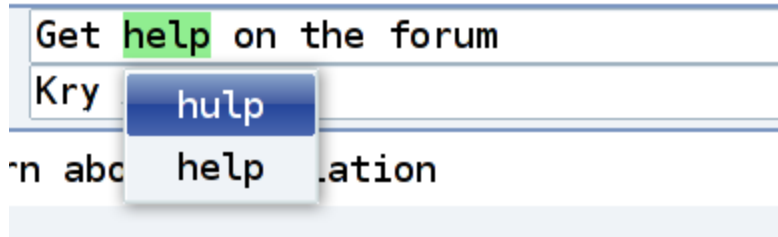
## 3.3 Easy Manipulation of Placeables

Virtaal can highlight *placeables* and makes it easy to insert them. This avoids typing errors, and increases productivity.



## 3.4 Terminology Assistance

Virtaal can highlight recognised terms and makes it easy to insert them. This avoids typing errors, and increases productivity.



### 3.5 Quality Checks

Virtaal can help you improve your translations with *quality checks*, either showing the errors in the current translation unit, or by navigating the file in Quality Checks mode.

### 3.6 Virtaal on Windows

Here Virtaal is Running on Windows Vista. Virtaal should work well on all Windows systems from Windows 2000 onwards with the installer we provide.

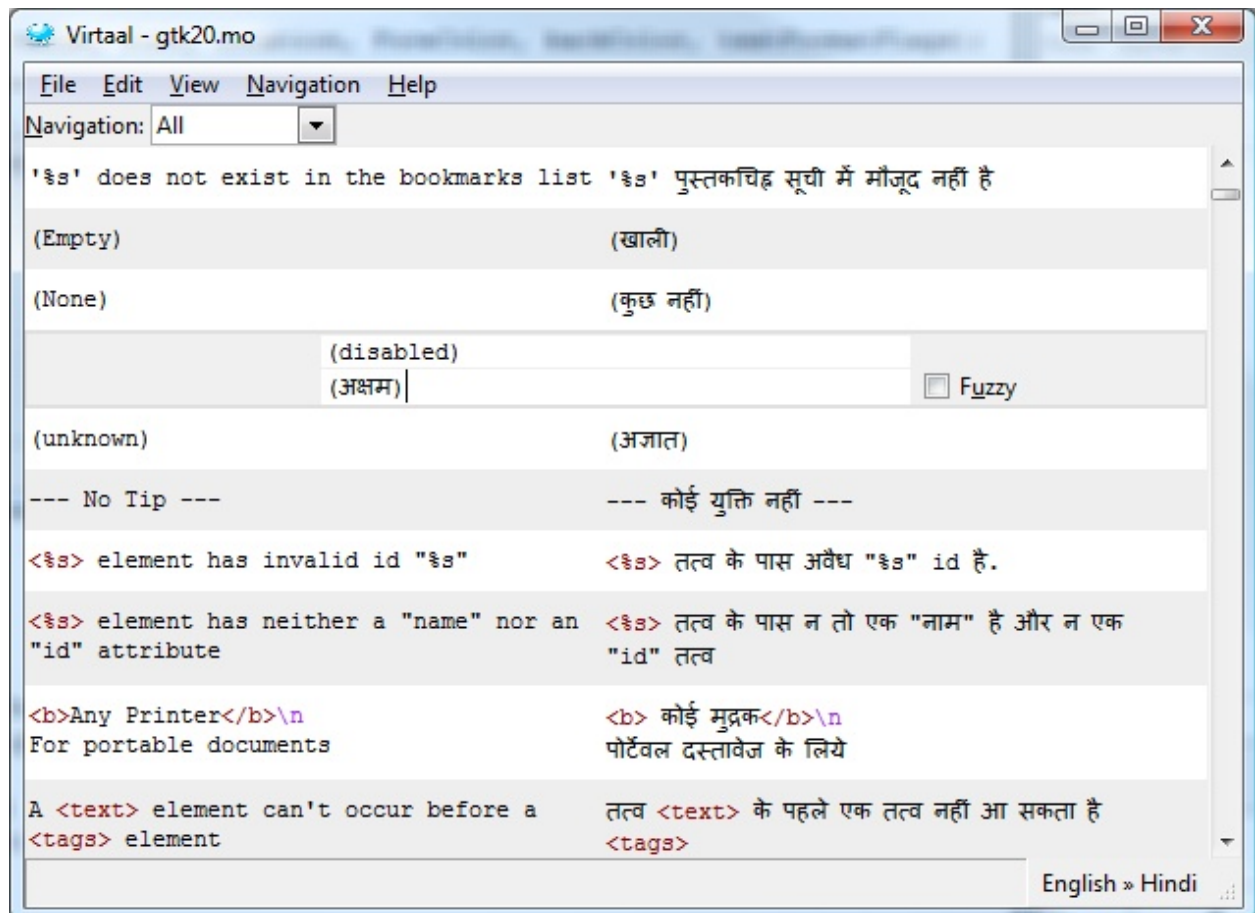


Fig. 3: Virtaal running on Windows Vista

## 3.7 Virtaal on OS X

Here Virtaal is running, and nicely integrated, on OS X and shows the search functionality.

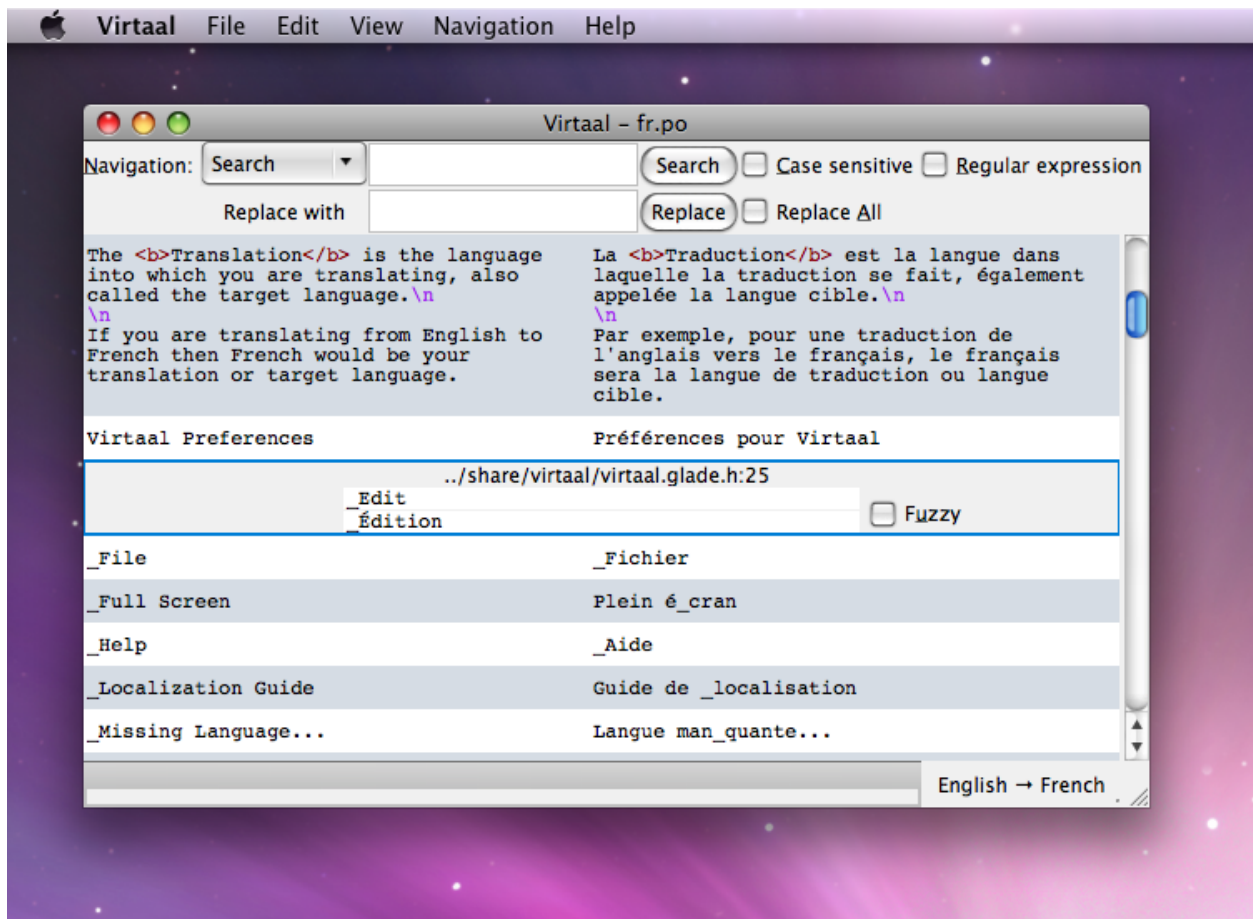


Fig. 4: Virtaal running on OSX



## CHAPTER 4

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### Shortcuts

---

Global	
Ctrl+O	Open a file
Ctrl+S	Save the current file
Ctrl+W	Close the current file
Ctrl+Q	Quit Virtaal
Ctrl+P	Show preferences dialog
Alt+Enter	Show file properties and statistics
F11	Toggle fullscreen mode

Navigation	
Enter	Move to next translation
Ctrl+Up	Move to previous unit
Ctrl+Down	Move to next unit
Ctrl+PgUp	Move 10 units up
Ctrl+PgDown	Move 10 units down
Ctrl+F, F3	Search
Ctrl+G	Move to next search match
Ctrl+Shift+G	Move to previous search match

Units	
Alt+Left	Select previous <i>placeable</i>
Alt+Right	Select next <i>placeable</i>
Alt+Down	<i>Copy</i> the source or selected <i>placeable</i> to the target
Shift+Enter	Enter a new line
Ctrl+Enter	Mark unit with marker “Needs work” as “Translated” and go to the next unit
Ctrl+Shift+Enter	Mark unit as “Needs work” and go to the next unit
Ctrl+Z	Undo the last change

Plug-ins	
Ctrl+1	Use the first translation suggestion (use Ctrl+2, etc. for others)
F8	Show/Hide <i>checks</i>
F9	Show/Hide translation suggestions
Ctrl+T	Add a term to the local terminology file
Right click on selection	Access external look-up features

See the *tips and tricks* page for more usage tips.

## CHAPTER 5

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### Tips and Tricks

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This page mentions some tips and tricks to get the most out of Virtaal. Some hidden features mentioned here might just make you a little more productive, or help you to customise things to be exactly the way you want.

Some of these features mention how to make changes to a configuration file for Virtaal. Depending on the version of Virtaal, you might be able to do the same inside Virtaal in the Preferences dialog. You can use any text editor to make these changes. These files are stored in the following directory on your system:

Platform	Location
Unix / Linux	~/.virtaal/
Mac OS X	~/Library/Application Support/Virtaal/ or ~/.virtaal/
Windows	%APPDATA%\Virtaal for example: C:\Documents and Settings\%USERNAME%\Application Data\Virtaal C:\Users\%USERNAME%\AppData\Roaming\Virtaal

Most features are available via easy *shortcuts*.

### 5.1 Migrating to Another Account/Computer

Close Virtaal. Then find the directory with all your settings and the file `tm.db` (your translation memory database). Copy the contents of the whole directory to the corresponding directory on the other account/computer.

### 5.2 Disabling some Functionality

To disable some functionality like autocorrect, go to the Preferences and deselect it from the list of plugins.

Alternatively, you can edit `virtaal.ini`:

```
[plugin_state]
autocorrect = disabled
```

## 5.3 Updating the Information Stored in the PO Header

You can modify the information put into the PO headers using Virtaal's Preferences window.

For older versions, edit `virtaal.ini` and look for the settings `name`, `email` and `team`. The field for the team can contain a description of your team and a URL or a mailing list address – anything really.

## 5.4 Specify a Language for Virtaal's Interface

The best way to change the language of the Virtaal interface, is to change the locale of your system. For Windows, this is done in the Control Center under the Regional Settings, for example.

Changed in version 0.7.

You can specify a language for the interface that is different from the language of the system. To do this, first ensure that Virtaal is closed entirely. Then open the file `virtaal.ini` and edit the setting `uilang` under the `[language]` heading. Note that native window dialogs only work when this is not set, or set to the system's language.

```
[language]
uilang = fr
```

## 5.5 Using Your Own Font Settings

You can specify your own font settings to use in the translation area. These can be edited inside Virtaal in the Preferences.

For older versions, edit `virtaal.ini`, and look for the settings `sourcefont` and `targetfont`. You can therefore set the font and font size separately for the source and target language if you wish to do so. Valid settings could look something like this:

```
targetfont = monospace 11
targetfont = georgia 12
targetfont = dejavu serif,italic 9
```

## 5.6 Receive More Suggestions

If you want to receive suggestions more often, even if they are not very similar to what you are translating, edit `plugins.ini` and lower the setting for `min_quality`.

If you want to receive more suggestions at a time, edit `plugins.ini` and increase the setting for `max_matches`.

Note that you can specify these same parameters for most of the individual sources of TM suggestions. Try adding or editing these settings in `tm.ini` under a heading corresponding to the name of the plugin.

## 5.7 Make Open-Tran.eu faster

Do you wish the suggestions from [Open-Tran.eu](#) could come faster? The speed of this translation memory plugin depends a lot on your network connection. One way that could help to make it faster, is to avoid DNS lookups. You can do that by adding open-tran.eu into your [hosts file](#).

<code>85.214.16.47</code>	<code>open-tran.eu</code>
---------------------------	---------------------------

(or whatever the IP address of open-tran.eu is)

If you don't know about hosts files and their syntax, it might be best not to play with this setting.



## 6.1 Fedora Custom Repo

Fedora package policy limits updates to security and bufix releases. Thus new versions of Virtaal won't make it into the official repository. But if you would like the latest Virtaal we have built them for your version of Fedora.

To install follow these instructions:

- Download [fedora-translate-tools.repo](#)
- Copy it to `/etc/yum.repo.d`
- Run `yum update virtaal`
- Run Virtaal and check Help->About to verify that Virtaal is at the latest version

Platform	Instructions	Notes
Windows	<a href="#">Download Virtaal setup.exe</a>	Includes all dependencies
Mac OS X	<a href="#">Download Virtaal .dmg</a>	Beta release. OS X 10.5 and greater
Ubuntu	<a href="#">Translate.org.za Tools PPA</a>	Also available in software center
Fedora	<code>yum install virtaal</code>	Or use the graphical package manager. For older Fedora releases use the <i>custom repo</i>
Mandriva	<code>urpmi virtaal</code>	Or simply use the graphical package manager
Debian Squeeze	<code>apt-get install virtaal</code>	Or simply use the graphical package manager
openSUSE	<code>zypper install virtaal</code>	Or simply use the graphical package manager
Other	<a href="#">Download source .zip or .tar.bz2</a>	Make sure you have all the dependencies including the latest Translate Toolkit





## CHAPTER 7

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### Contact

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- [Chat in our channel](#)
- [Report bugs](#)
- [Join the Translate-devel mailing list](#)



There are many ways of contributing to Virtaal. Join the mailing list or IRC channel to join our effort. You can join our effort to distribute Virtaal by sharing informing with people, writing documentation or packaging for more platforms.

If you would like to contribute to the Virtaal software, you can start by reading the instructions on the following pages:

## 8.1 Localising Virtaal

The Virtaal project not only tries to help people with doing localisation work, we also believe that Virtaal itself should be well localised. With this localisation, you should not only refer to the user interface localisation, but a complete adaptation of the functional aspects of Virtaal for your language as well.

Very few of these customisations are required to use Virtaal, but better customisation for your language should help users with a better user experience, better productivity and higher quality translations.

### 8.1.1 Enabling your Language

#### Display

Since Virtaal uses Unicode, all languages in Unicode with an appropriate font should display correctly. If it doesn't display correctly by default on your system, let us know what font settings were required in Virtaal to fix it, and some details about your platform and fonts. On GNOME Virtaal will try to use font settings from the GNOME configuration.

#### Input

Your platform input method should work correctly in Virtaal. If necessary, select the required input method from the context menu (right click). One [known issue](#) affects the US (International) keyboard layout on Windows.

## Plural Information

It is important (although not strictly required) to know the plural information for your language so that it is easily selectable as a source or target language. For more information, see the [plurals page](#).

### 8.1.2 Word Level Features

#### Spell Checking

On Linux, Virtaal uses the system spell checkers as provided by Enchant for doing *spell checking*.

Changed in version 0.7.

For Windows, Virtaal will download a spell checker for active languages. If this is not working for your language, let us know about available spell checkers and their quality and license for the developers to consider providing to Virtaal users.

#### Autocorrect

Virtaal uses the autocorrect files From OpenOffice.org, with a few extra ones contributed by the community. If you don't yet have such a file set, we can easily help you to create it. An easy start is a spreadsheet with a list of common errors and their respective corrections.

If you are interested in a more powerful solution, feel free to provide some code.

#### Autocomplete

Automatic completion currently uses a very simple approach of remembering words as typed. Only basic word segmentation is used. Feel free to contribute something more advanced as needed for your language.

#### Search

Searching is done using the code from [pogrep](#). It supports case (in)sensitive searches, regular expressions, and Unicode normalisation. Some languages might benefit from language specific normalisation.

### 8.1.3 Quality Checks

New in version 0.7.

Virtaal provides access to the quality checks of [pofilter](#). Several customisations are possible for your language, like disabling some tests, customising the behaviour, or language specific checks.

### 8.1.4 More

If you are interested in any other useful functionality that can enhance Virtaal for use with your language, let us look at how to integrate it. Adding extra terminology sources, translation memory services, machine translation services is usually very simple.

Check if your language is already supported with *automatic terminology assistance* and talk to the Virtaal developers about adding support for your language.

## 8.1.5 User Interface Localisation

Here we give some pointers to help localisers of the Virtaal interface.

Some instructions:

- Check if someone is already working on your language on [Pootle](#)
- If not, get the [Latest POT file](#)
- Be very familiar with all the *features* of Virtaal, especially *placeables*.
- Generate the .mo file with “msgfmt -cv”, and put it in your system location for .mo files. You could also use the “testlocalisations” script in the po/ directory if Virtaal if you prefer. Then run Virtaal in in your language for testing. Here are some issues you might want to give specific attention to:
  - Check for clashes of access keys that should be accessible in the main application window. These are all the main menu items, all the items in the search navigation, and all the access keys in the editing area.
  - Check for the strings that have limited space to show. These should be marked in the PO file for your attention. They are usually the descriptions of the TM backends. Try to get suggestions from these to see how much space is available. It is usually around 11 characters in the worst case.
- Send your translated file to one of the developers, or attach it to a bug report, or upload it to Pootle.
- We currently use the InnoSetup installer for building our Windows installers. You might want to check that the localisation for your language is there and an official translation.
- For translators with non-Latin scripts, you can customise the image on the welcome screen. Send us the text and your desired font to start the process. If you prefer to edit it yourself, get in contact with us and ensure you are working on the SVG, not the PNG.

## 8.2 Building

To build Virtaal yourself, you will need a packaged archive of the Virtaal source code, or obtain it directly from Git.

To get the source code direction from Git use this command:

```
git clone git@github.com:translate/virtaal.git
```

### 8.2.1 Required Packages

- [GTK+](#) runtime (for Windows download the [latest bundle](#))
- [PyGTK](#)
- [lxml](#)
- libglade and its python bindings (might be called something like pygtk2.0-libglade on your Linux distribution)
- Translate-toolkit (if a current enough version is packaged, it might be called python-translate on your Linux distribution)
- simplejson (might be called something like python-simplejson on your Linux distribution)
- PyCurl (might be called something like python-curl or python-pycurl on your Linux distribution)
- sqlite3 (only required if using Python 2.4)
- wsgiref (only required if using Python 2.4)

## 8.2.2 Optional Packages

These are not build dependencies but usually improve the user experience.

- `psyco` – provides a nice speedup
- `Enchant`, `pyenchant`, `gtkspell` and `pygtkspell` (might be packaged as `gnome-python-extras` or something similar) – provides all *spell checking* functionality. For Windows:
  - See [Gramps](#) and [PyEnchant](#) for Windows installers
  - While `gtkspell` expects `libenchant.dll`, copy `libenchant-1.dll` to the alternate name (`setup.py` expects both while this is the case)
  - Remove the `.dll` files of dependencies shipped with `pyenchant` (`iconv`, `glib`, `gmodule`, `intl`) – they conflict with the ones coming from `GTK` but are picked up by `setup.py` for some reason
- `iso-codes` – if you want translated language names
- `libproxy` and its Python binding, which might be called something like `python-libproxy` on your system – improved support for proxies on Linux (since Virtaal 1.0)
- The optional `fts3` module for `sqlite3` will be used if it is available - provides speedups with TM retrieval (it is safe to just overwrite a better `sqlite` library over the one available in Python for Windows)
- `libtranslate` – used by Machine Translation plugin
- `psycopg2` – for TinyTM plugin
- `python-Levenshtein` – speeds up Levenshtein distance measures, if not present we'll use a pure Python version.

## 8.2.3 UNIX

You should be able to run Virtaal from the source tree. If you would like to install Virtaal, you can build it using

```
./setup.py build
```

and then you can install it with

```
sudo ./setup.py install
```

## Distribution Packagers

For users running from a tarball, we do some dependency checking when starting Virtaal to be able to give accurate error messages in case of missing dependencies. However, if you have all of these sorted out in your package dependencies, there is no need for Virtaal to do this any more. In the file `bin/virtaal`, uncomment the line

```
#packaged = True
```

by removing the hash sign. This way Virtaal can start a bit quicker with no loss of functionality.

## 8.2.4 Windows

---

**Note:** For the `translate-toolkit`, be sure to get the Python library – the one marked `win32.exe` – and not the stand-alone Windows installer, which is labelled `setup.exe`. You might need to create this yourself with

```
python setup.py bdist_wininst
```

or just ensure that the Translate Toolkit is in your `PYTHONPATH`.

---

If you would like to build a stand-alone Windows installer, you will also need to get:

- [Py2exe](#)
- [InnoSetup](#)

## 8.2.5 OSX

This is just some notes – it is incomplete and might be entirely off the mark. Virtaal and all dependencies run on OSX, but we still need help to document the simplest process, and to build installable packages.

This was tried so far on Mac OSX Tiger (10.5):

Install the “inst” directory from this disk image somewhere: [http://www.immunityinc.com/downloads/CANVAS\\_OSX\\_SUPPORT.dmg](http://www.immunityinc.com/downloads/CANVAS_OSX_SUPPORT.dmg)

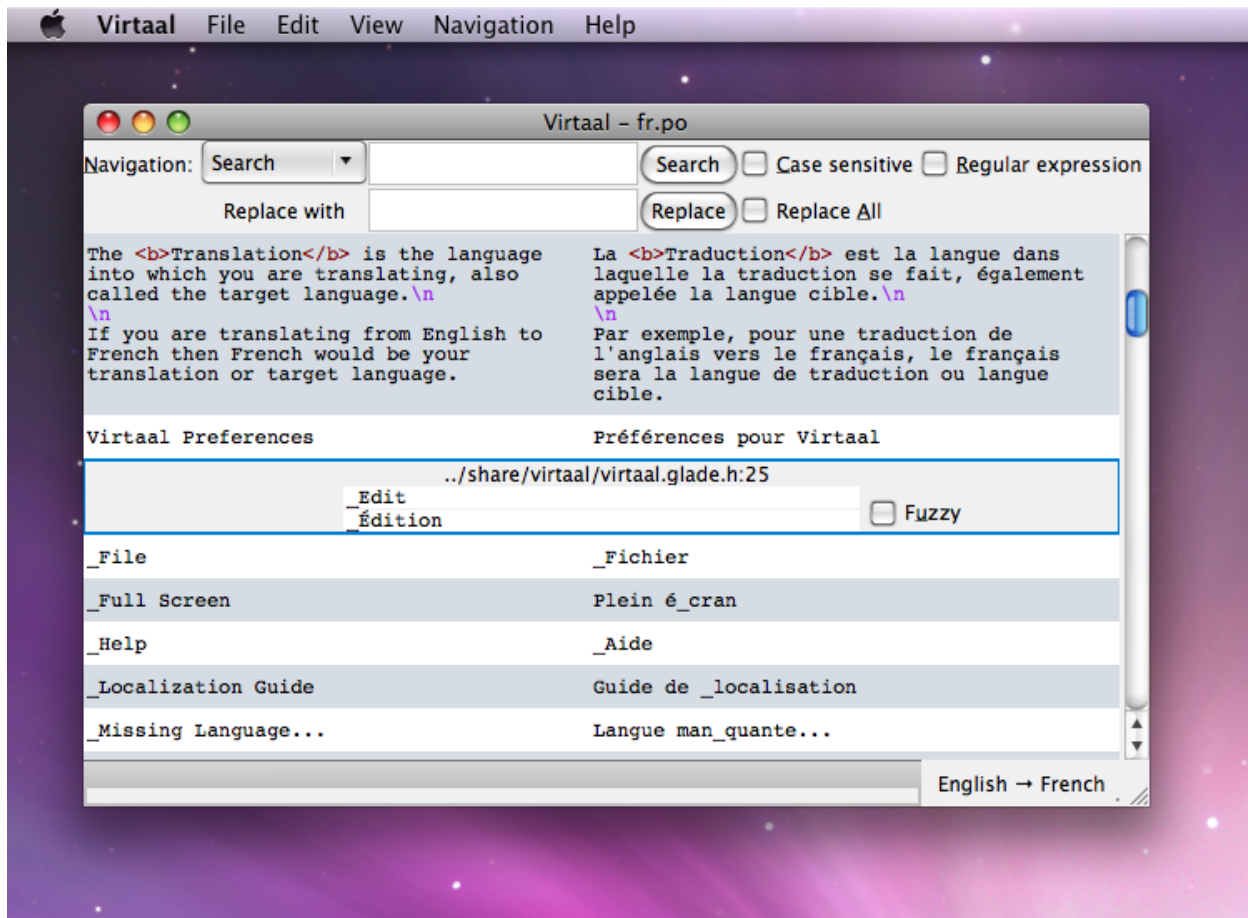
This GTK+ port does not need X11.

add `inst/lib/python2.5/site-packages` to `PYTHONPATH`

run `python bin/virtaal`

If you want, get the OS X Leopard theme: <http://kims-area.com/?q=node/4> Install it into `inst/share/themes/` and add an environment variable:

```
export GTK2_RC_FILES=inst/share/themes/OS\ X\ Leopard/gtk-2.0/gtkrc
```



## Older

Older attempt, no success yet using this way:

Install the Gtk+ Mac OSX framework: <https://www.gtk.org/download/macos.php> Install pygtk and pygobject from the GNOME FTP mirrors: <ftp://ftp.gnome.org/pub/GNOME/sources/> (extract, still need to get pygobject installed)

## 8.3 GUI Tests

**Note:** This page describes an out-of-date method for running automated tests for Virtaal. The testing framework for Virtaal will probably change into something entirely different. This page is only left as a reference.

### 8.3.1 Required Packages

- Dogtail
- Gnome's accessibility framework



### 8.3.2 Running the Tests

**Note:** For KDE users: You must run `gnome-session` before you can run any of the GUI tests. `gnome-session` might complain that another session manager is already running, but it will nevertheless start up the accessibility services which you need to run the GUI tests.

The tests are located under the directory called `gui_tests`. Currently, the tests must be executed from within `gui_tests`.

### 8.3.3 Writing GUI Tests

Accerciser allows you to inspect the GUI of a running application that was started using the Gnome at-spi framework. Dogtail does this when it launches an application; the easiest way to do this is to launch a Python shell. The following Python session shows the necessary steps and the expected output:

```
Python 2.5.2 (r252:60911, Apr 21 2008, 11:12:42)
[GCC 4.2.3 (Ubuntu 4.2.3-2ubuntu7)] on linux2
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> from dogtail.utils import run
Creating logfile at /tmp/dogtail/logs/log_20080516-115347_debug ...
>>> run("./run_virtaal.py")
Detecting distribution: Ubuntu (or derived distribution)
```

You will now see `run_virtaal.py` in Accerciser's left column. You can now use Accerciser to find the names of various widgets which you can use to write Dogtail tests for Virtaal.

### 8.3.4 External Links

- Some discussions on Dogtail: <http://lists.freedesktop.org/archives/ldtp-dev/2006-October/000484.html>

## 8.4 Virtaal Roadmap

Changes to Virtaal will be guided by these guidelines:

- The Virtaal interface must be good looking and simple
- We will optimise for the most frequent use cases
- There should be no necessity for the mouse
- The most important information must be visible by default
- Only relevant (actional) widgets should be shown
- Maximum functionality without setup and configuration

View a list of [open requests](#) and [bugs](#).

Features that are likely to be developed in the foreseeable future:

- Improved searching (to take accelerators into account, for example)
- Better support for XLIFF features
- Support for more formats – ongoing

Join the mailing list and/or IRC channel to discuss ideas and help us prioritise features for the next release.

## 8.5 Suggestions

Listed on this page are suggestions to improve Virtaal. While you can add your ideas here, it will probably eventually have to make its way into bugzilla for easier tracking of things.

### 8.5.1 Functionality

- ~~Add a Welcome Page that is shown when Virtaal is run without immediately opening a file.~~ – Implemented in Virtaal 0.6
- Fail well depending on how the program was launched. From the command line fail by placing a message on the command line and don't go graphical. If someone clicks on a file and we launch because of mime type association then give the error graphically and probably leave the application open. Might be as simple as adding a `-gui` option.
- Allow the translator to add comments
- ~~Provide the ability to save files in a different format, eg. save MO files to PO, and vice versa.~~ – Exporting .po to .mo implemented in Virtaal 0.7

### 8.5.2 GUI

- When selecting a unit, select the translated text so that it can be overwritten. – is this a good idea, I would rather see fuzzy units highlighted, translated left unhighlighted and `Ctrl+A` able to select all text DB.
- ~~Check that row hints work in Windows.~~
- ~~Add syntax highlighting for the active unit's source text.~~
- Make more attractive:
  - ~~Add borders to source and target text views.~~
  - Make modes more distinctive.
  - Change background color of unit editor to make it stand out.
  - Improve syntax highlighting so that translatable text is more distinguishable.
  - Change display of suggestions (pop-up?) – yuch no popups please, I think my idea is harder though, I'd like to see it like call tip that you can highlight and select when you go to that unit DB.
  - Smooth scrolling – I'd include the jitter you see as you go `Ctrl+Down` DB.
  - Add margins at the sides of the main window.
- Show number of translated, untranslated and fuzzy units in the status bar
- Display the unit number and give an option to go directly to a certain unit #.
- The TAB key for autocompletion might be counter-intuitive to some people (it definitely is to me). Maybe it should be changed to something else, like `Ctrl+Space`, or maybe even modifiable by the user.
- Change keys used to select/copy placeables. The hand movement required to move to the arrows are very disruptive. But to what should it be changed?
- ~~Rename "Fuzzy"? A tester suggested that the term might be very confusing to new users.~~ – "fuzzy" almost entirely gone since Virtaal 0.7

## E

environment variable  
    PYTHONPATH, [35](#)

## P

PYTHONPATH, [35](#)