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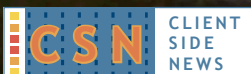
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Improving *Internationalization*

Detection and Testing with *Globalyzer 2.4*

by Adam Asnes
Lingoport

One of the ongoing challenges for any internationalization product is to accurately balance detecting internationalization issues while differentiating them from programmatic elements within large volumes of code. It's like that "needle in a haystack analogy," except some needles you care about and others you don't. You need to get the detection right early on because whatever you miss, you have to fix in testing, or worse, after localization or even release. That adds time, cost plus some measure of embarrassment for the development team. More severe consequences are delayed revenue and market commitments.

The challenge is that internationalization issues can be difficult for a computer to detect correctly. They also vary widely depending upon the programming language being used, as well as the project's internationalization marketing and technology requirements. You have to build some tricky detection *and* filtering logic. If your application errors on reporting too many issues that aren't relevant to the developer, then you force developers to wade through too much false issue data output. Leave anything out and that's bad too, as it will show up later in the testing cycle. At Lingoport, considerable attention goes into regularly adjusting Globalyzer's balance on detection and filtering of internationalization issues. We've also created a powerful rules-based interface so that our customers can adapt and pinpoint internationalization issues with great accuracy and share those controlling rules with their fellow users within their company.

Lingoport is in a strong situation to be constantly reviewing and improving our Globalyzer software. In addition to getting product feedback and requests from our product customers, we use Globalyzer as a key vehicle for all our extensive internationalization development services projects - often involving development on millions of lines of code over geographically dispersed teams between our development labs and our clients. Globalyzer 2.4 is the latest outcome of that ongoing cycle of feedback, development, and release.

Key areas that we saw needed improvement and expansion are:

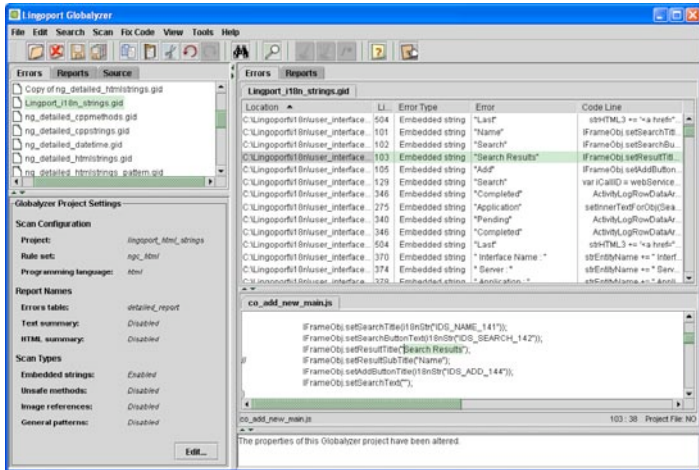
1. Internationalization detection in HTML oriented code (e.g. JSP, ASP, ASPX and so on)
2. Expanding features of our very popular PseudoJudo utility within Globalyzer.

Improved HTML String Detection

Believe it or not, HTML is one of the hardest languages to parse for internationalization issues. It's not structured in the same way as programming languages such as C++, Java, and C# and therefore a different approach to parsing it is required. We found that no matter how we tweaked our old HTML internationalization engine, we

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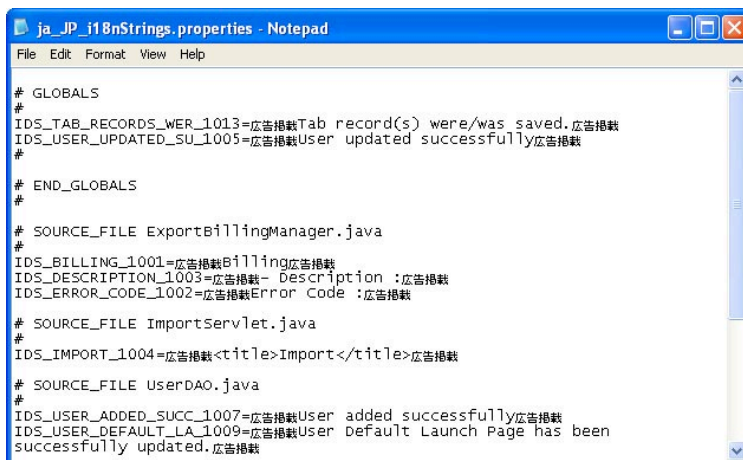
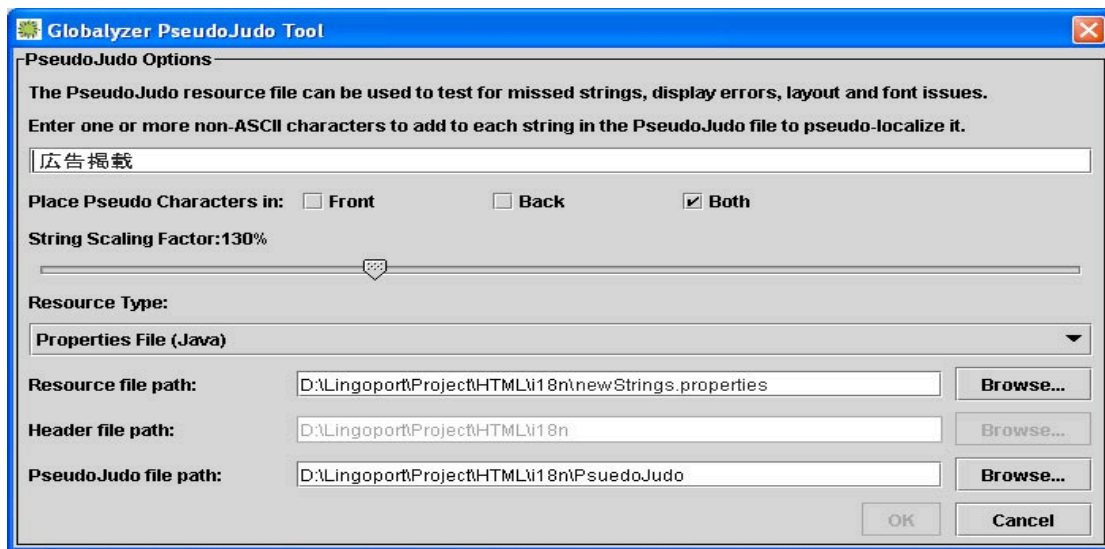
were still missing some strings. We ended up adapting an entirely new approach to parsing HTML and are happy to report both higher accuracy (finding all the strings, plus less false positives) and much faster performance. It's a big win for all of us, with higher project accuracy, faster scanning, and less clean up needed in testing.



PSEUDOJUDO IMPROVEMENTS

PseudoJudo became an immediately popular feature with its release in Globalyzer 2.3. In 2.4, we expanded PseudoJudo to work with entire directories of resource files rather than just one at a time. PseudoJudo lets developers test for internationalization without waiting for localization, by “padding” and stretching your resource files with characters from your target locale requirements. This also means your internationalization testers don't need to speak target languages just to test functionality. You can test to make sure character encodings aren't being corrupted and that strings and interfaces are expanding properly. You can also point PseudoJudo's controls at files and then push fake translated data through your application's database or back-end to make sure character input and output is performing as expected.

You can learn more about Lingoport and Globalyzer at <http://www.lingoport.com>.



Adam Asnes is CEO and Founder of Lingoport, Inc., creators of Globalyzer software and providers of software internationalization development services. Adam's been involved in the software development side of globalization services for nearly 10 years. He is a popular speaker at conferences presenting papers on internationalization and is a frequent guest columnist in software trade publications. He attended New York University. Adam is an avid cyclist and former competitor. He gets his best ideas on two wheels.