



Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Thailand FOSS Localization Report

Theppitak Karoonboonyanan

Thai Linux Working Group

Localisation Workshop, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
25 October 2005



Agenda

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

- 1 **Demonstration**
- 2 **Technical Works**
- 3 **Translation**
- 4 **Documents**
- 5 **Fonts**
- 6 **Testing**
- 7 **Packaging & Distributions**
- 8 **Maintenance**
- 9 **Migration**



Reporter's Backgrounds

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Reporter's Backgrounds

- Author of th_TH locale for GNU C library
- XFree86 contributor (before X.Org 6.7.0 fork back)
- GTK+/Pango contributor
- Thai GNOME translation team coordinator
- Thai Linux Working Group (TLWG) volunteer
- Former Linux TLE team member
- Limited participation with Qt, None with KDE
- Limited participation with Mozilla
- No participation with OpenOffice.org and OpenL18N so far
- No participation with SIPA



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
 - Word Break
 - Firefox
 - OpenOffice.org
 - Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Demonstration

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Demonstration

- Input Method & Rendering
- Editing
- Word Break
- Firefox
- OpenOffice.org
- Other Applications
- Translation
- Printing



Technical Works

Input Method

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Input Method

- XIM
 - Fixed X11R6 Xlib source (via XFree86, now in X.Org)
 - Added Read/Write **StringConversionCallback** support (i.e. context-sensitive sequence check/correction)
- GTK+
 - Requested for context-sensitive IM API in GTK+ 1.3 (pre-2.0)
 - Context-sensitive, correcting IM with **im-xim**
 - Client-side supports as well
 - Proposed Thai-Lao GTK+ IM Module in gtk-im-extras



Technical Works

Input Method

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Input Method

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Input Method

- Qt 3
 - Just relies on limited XIM support (without access to surrounding text)
 - Context-insensitive sequence check
 - No correction, of course
- IIIMF
 - thai-le from Sun
 - No context sensitivity yet



Technical Works

Input Method

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Rendering

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Rendering

- Pango
 - WTT-based clustering
 - Substitution-based shaping for legacy Win & Mac fonts
 - OpenType-based glyph positioning
- Mozilla
 - Pango-lite CTL support
 - Full pango support build option
- Qt 3
 - Unicode-based class for glyph positioning
 - Poor-man typography
 - Bug-prone, Thai devs tired of fixing every new versions
→ dismissed, time to leave for Qt 4



Technical Works

Rendering

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Rendering

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Technical Works

Rendering

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Rendering

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Technical Works

Word Break

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Word Break

- Utilities
 - cttex: Thai word break filter for \LaTeX , HTML
 - swath: Thai word break filter for \LaTeX , HTML, RTF
- Libraries
 - libthai: basic routines for Thai language processing, with cttex-based word break functionality
 - ICU: now supports Thai word break (from Mozilla Thai project)



Technical Works

Word Break

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Word Break

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Word Break

- Pango
 - pango-libthai: libthai-based language engine for word breaking
- Qt 3
 - Dynamically load `libthai.so` for word breaking



Technical Works

Word Break

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Cultural Conventions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Cultural Conventions

- GNU C library: all ISO/IEC 14652 locale categories supported
- CLDR: being audited



Technical Works

Cultural Conventions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Open18N-related Tasks

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Open18N-related Tasks

- No known activities further than experimenting yet
- Reasons, maybe:
 - Current solutions still work
 - thai-le IIIMF from Sun is not so bad
 - Lack of, or too complicated, documentation
 - People are just too busy with current jobs
- CLDR is catching interests, anyway



Technical Works

Open18N-related Tasks

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Open18N-related Tasks

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Other Applications

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Other Applications

- THAI~~L~~TEX: babel-based Thai support for L~~A~~T~~E~~X
- Xpdf: with TIS-620 support in pdftotext utility
- console-tools: with locally-distributed console fonts and keymaps



Technical Works

Other Applications

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Other Applications

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- Xpdf: with TIS-620 support in pdftotext utility
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Technical Works

Other Applications

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

- TLWG (Thai Linux Working Group)
 - Public community for user supports and developers' meeting place
 - \approx 10 active developers working on:
 - Patching upstream sources
 - Joining message translation teams
 - In-house collaborative development
 - Debian, Gentoo packages maintenance



Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

- NECTEC (National Electronics and Computer Technology Center)
 - An R&D agency under M. of Science, Technology and Environment
 - With an open source department
 - ≈ 10 hired researchers working on:
 - Linux TLE distribution
 - GNOME, OpenOffice.org message translation
 - OpenOffice.org hacking
 - Fonts development
 - Miscellaneous promotion activities



Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

- SIPA (Software Industry Promotion Agency)
 - A promotion agency under M. of ICT
 - With an open source project
 - Hired developers working on:
 - OpenOffice.org and Mozilla hacking
 - FOSS-for-Windows distribution CD
 - Subsidizing companies working on:
 - Debian-based GNU/Linux distribution for servers
 - Fonts development



Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Human Resources

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 - Debian-based GNU/Linux distribution for servers
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Technical Works

Human Resources

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

KDE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

KDE

- Totally done by unpaid volunteers
- Started around 1998
- Apparently defunct over a year
- Current status (2005-08-30)
 - stable = 24.40%
 - head = 17.96%



Translation

KDE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

KDE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

- Initiated by Paise Seeluangsawat, an individual volunteer, since 2.4
- More contributors, paid and unpaid, in later versions
- Current status (2005-09-07)
 - New supported language in GNOME 2.12



Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

- Working process
 - A few GNOME CVS committers accept and verify PO files before committing
 - Tools to ensure consistency (facilitated by NECTEC)
 - Mailing list discussion
 - Glossary web (<http://opentle.org/ossglossary>)
 - Wiki page for recording discussion summaries and for collecting translations in organized sets (such as location names, colors, etc.) (<http://l10n.opentle.org>)



Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

GNOME

- Translated messages
 - Initial translators translate user-visible messages
 - Coordinators pursue the rests
 - Policy: try to achieve 100% for every translated package
 - Don't wait for string freeze. Keep catching new messages along the development phases.



Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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- Translated messages
 - Initial translators translate user-visible messages
 - Coordinators pursue the rests
 - Policy: try to achieve 100% for every translated package
 - Don't wait for string freeze. Keep catching new messages along the development phases.



Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

GNOME

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Translation

OpenOffice.org

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

OpenOffice.org

- Formerly two efforts
 - Algorithms Co.: Pladao Office
 - NECTEC: OfficeTLE
- Both merged upstream
- OpenOffice.org hacking now done by SIPA and NECTEC
- Translation by NECTEC (in progress)



Translation

OpenOffice.org

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Documents

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Translation

- Currently no program document translation
- Some philosophical articles are already translated, e.g.
 - How To Become A Hacker
 - The Cathedral and the Bazaar
 - Homesteading the Noosphere



Documents

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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NECTEC

- National Fonts
 - Initiated by NECTEC, with experts' contributions
 - Publishing: Recommendations for Thai font creation
 - 3 standard, free families (2 serif, 1 san serif)
- UI Font
 - Font with specialized metrics for on-screen GUI
 - 1 free family



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TLWG

- National fonts maintenance
 - 2 out of 3 are maintained (1 dropped for license issue)
 - Fontforge as development tool
- In-house created fonts
 - 3 families (1 Monospace, 1 Typewriter, 1 Handwriting)



TLWG

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Fonts

SIPA

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

SIPA

- Thai glyphs in upstream free fonts
- In progress



Fonts

SIPA

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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- Thai glyphs in upstream free fonts
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Testing

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Testing

- Normal tests by individual developers
- Peer review among developers
- Bug reports from local distros
- Bug reports in the community



Testing

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Testing

- Normal tests by individual developers
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Testing

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Testing

- Normal tests by individual developers
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Testing

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Testing

- Normal tests by individual developers
- Peer review among developers
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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

- Mainly working upstream, and develop own sources
- Distributed in many ways
 - Published patches in developer forum & upstream BTS
 - Source tarballs from project pages (<http://linux.thai.net/>)
 - Local APT archive for Debian (<http://linux.thai.net/apt>)
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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

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Packaging & Distributions

TLWG

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

TLWG

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Packaging & Distributions

Linux TLE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

**Packaging &
Distributions**

Maintenance

Migration

Linux TLE

- Packaged and Distributed by NECTEC
 - Formerly based on Mandrake, then Red Hat, Fedora
 - The latest version now Ubuntu-based
 - Try to work with upstream sources (rather than base distros)
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Packaging & Distributions

Linux TLE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

**Packaging &
Distributions**

Maintenance

Migration

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Packaging & Distributions

Linux TLE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Packaging & Distributions

Linux TLE

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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- Packaged and Distributed by NECTEC
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Packaging & Distributions

Others

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

**Packaging &
Distributions**

Maintenance

Migration

Others

- Burapha U.: Burapha Linux (Slackware-based)
- SIPA: Suriyan (Debian-based)
- Many others used to exist, now seem to fade out



Packaging & Distributions

Others

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Others

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Packaging & Distributions

Others

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Others

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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
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- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
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- Firefox (TLWG, NECTEC, SIPA)
 - Patched upon new upstream/distro releases



Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Base distribution sources upon major releases
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- Firefox (TLWG, NECTEC, SIPA)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
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- Firefox (TLWG, NECTEC, SIPA)
 - Patched upon new upstream/distro releases



Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
 - Own official package sources (Debian, Gentoo)
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
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Maintenance

Version Updating

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Version Updating

- TLWG
 - Upstream CVS
 - Own CVS
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
 - Mostly focusing on Thai supports in upstream sources
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Targets desktop users
- Suriyan-Chantra (SIPA)
 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
 - GNU/Linux server and Windows workstations



Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
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 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Targets desktop users
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 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
 - GNU/Linux server and Windows workstations



Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
 - Mostly focusing on Thai supports in upstream sources
- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Targets desktop users
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 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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 - Targets desktop users
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Targets desktop users
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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 - Targets desktop users
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 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
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Maintenance

Special Intentions

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Special Intentions

- TLWG
 - As of individuals' interests
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- Linux TLE (NECTEC)
 - Targets desktop users
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 - New strategy to promote FOSS country-wide
 - GNU/Linux server and Windows workstations



Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

- TLWG
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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

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Maintenance

Business Model

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Business Model

- TLWG
 - Server, bandwidth and domain name are donated
 - Volunteers are self-supported
 - FOSS hacking as personal hobbies
 - No enough interests in doing FOSS as business
- NECTEC
 - Government funded
- SIPA
 - Government funded



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Thailand
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Technical
Works

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Documents

Fonts

Testing

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FOSS L10N

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Electricity Generation Authority of Thailand (EGAT)

- Self-assembled PC, with GNU/Linux as alternative OS
- Slackware and FreeBSD as servers for long
- Pioneer organization in migration to GNU/Linux in desktop side
- Training courses instructed by NECTEC staffs
- In-house web services with LAMP



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Migration

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Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA)

- Chantra: FOSS-for-Windows CD
- Suriyan: GNU/Linux distro for server, based on Debian



Migration

SIPA

Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

- Thai input/output methods are mostly complete on GNOME, and sufficient on KDE
- Thai support in OpenOffice.org is mostly complete in local versions, and is being incorporated in the next upstream version
- Thai L10N are mostly hacker activities, many get direct association to upstream projects
- Governmental agencies play the major roles in creating public awareness and development facilitation
- No obvious business model for L10N yet, apart from governmental subsidiary (Most FOSS businesses are server-side service providing and system integration)



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Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

Migration

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Thailand
FOSS L10N

Theppitak

Demonstration

Technical
Works

Translation

Documents

Fonts

Testing

Packaging &
Distributions

Maintenance

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