

CASE STUDY

PROMT Professional Translator as an efficient tool for patent translation



Company	Patrick Roye, freelance translator Special focus: Patent specifications.
Language pair	German<>English
Challenges	Fast, high quality translation of 20+ pages of documentation per week.
Solution	PROMT Professional 12 translation software
Conclusion	<p>PROMT translation software enabled Patrick Roye to benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Savings in time and resources for everyday translation work · An increase in the number of documents translated each day · Increased revenue.

"My productivity has improved by close to 35% since adopting PROMT."

1. Overview

Patrick Roye's clients are primarily companies who demand quick turnaround and good quality of translation whether the target language is English or German. Both document format and subject matter vary widely. Special focus of Patrick's work is patent translation. His most important client is a German document management company, COI GmbH (www.coi.com), whose customers include Bayer and Siemens Medical.

2. The Challenge

As a self employed translator, Patrick needs to maximize both the quantity and quality of his translation output. To achieve his goal, he needs to overcome the challenge of working with critical time constraints especially when dealing with multiple document formats. Accordingly, Patrick was on the lookout for tools that could handle PDF files directly, as well as methods of increasing his efficiency in order to improve his profitability.

"Many of my clients prefer to use PDF files because they're easier to send via email and there's no danger of format incompatibility. But without the right tools, I have to convert PDF files back to their source format to tackle the

translation effectively, which takes time and cuts profits,” says Patrick.

As for the content, translation of patent specifications requires quite specific skills. The output should be as close to the original as possible and at the same time it should still sound idiomatically and fit well within the constraints of the target language. Translation should be literal, balancing between mere formal and functional equivalence of the original and translation. Any added word or distorted meaning may become a pretext for a claim, and therefore inflict a patent infringement.

3. The Solution

The solution, which Patrick chose to improve his productivity, involved automating as much of the translation process as possible without sacrificing quality. He uses MT output as a draft for post-editing.

“I started using MT software to create a rough draft of the translation for myself. I find it easier to edit an existing 'picture' – even if it's only a sketch – than to start with a blank canvas. And because I work by myself, I really appreciate anything that will help me do my job faster and better.”

Patrick claims that “PROMT is well suited for technical text such as patent text.” It helps to keep focus on special terminology, preserve sentence breaks and maintain one-to-one correspondence between the texts – all of these being quality standards in the field of patent translation. All these reasons provide for machine translation usage being a common practice among those who deal with patent specifications, from prior art researchers to patent examiners.

Patrick has tried several different MT products and finally settled on PROMT Professional. He was impressed by the quality and speed of PROMT Professional translations and its ability to work effectively with multiple document formats. The list of supported formats includes PDF which is the first choice for documents intended for wide distribution across different devices and operation systems.

PROMT Professional can be customized easily to leverage translator's personal workflow and make translation process fast, easy and efficient. To achieve the best results, Patrick uses PROMT's personal dictionary as well as lists of unknown and reserved words. Along with industry-specific packages, this feature makes PROMT a universal MT tool whatever the subject matter of a current project.

“PROMT supplies a draft, a rough cast which I can then refine. It translates the sentence and helps me to not forget the nonstandard words or sections. When working in PROMT's linguistic editor, I can adjust the source text and immediately see the changed output text, which I can edit further to optimize the final product,” says Patrick.

As Patrick works with patent specifications in a number of different subject areas (technical, Internet, legal, and general business), he finds the PROMT

dictionary tools to be particularly valuable: "I simply select which dictionary to apply, according to the text subject."

The personal dictionary further improves productivity for Patrick, as it enables him to create and reuse lists of additional terms for any individual project.

"PROMT has an almost unlimited memory and learns new words faster than any human. And once it has learned a word, it never forgets it," he adds.

When he has finished customizing the program and processed the draft translation, Patrick can focus on the style and feel of the final document. The last step is to save all settings and the personal dictionary so that they're ready for reuse if a similar document comes his way in the future. Patrick has been using PROMT software since 2007, and over this time he developed a set of elaborate glossaries in subjects of his professional interest.

4. Conclusion

- Implementing PROMT translation helped Patrick Roye to:
- dramatically improve his work capacity in terms of **speed** and **quality**;
- complete precise translations rapidly using **multiple document formats**;
- save time in future translations by creating **subject specific vocabularies**;
- as a result, meet the high standards of translation set up for **patent specifications**;
- comply with clients' needs;
- increase translator's revenue.

About PROMT

PROMT was founded in 1991 with the goal of creating tools to enable people to communicate easily and effectively, breaking down the language barriers between them. Today, the company is a leading provider of innovative machine translation solutions for web sites, corporate Intranets, PCs and mobile devices under the trademark PROMT. The company offers bidirectional machine translation in English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, and more than 40 other language pairs for over 100 specialized domains. Customers include Russian Federal Institute of Industrial Property, TripAdvisor, AOL, Siemens AG, NASA, DaimlerChrysler, DHL, and Metro Group. Further information is available at prompt.com.

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