Software Localization QA & Testing

Software testing is an essential step in the localization process and ensures that the foreign language versions of your application function, look, and read as the users in each locale expect. Localization QA & testing will fix errors that are sometimes introduced during the translation process.

McElroy Translation has experienced localization engineering and testing teams for all standard platforms, operating systems, and programming languages; using proven processes, testing methodologies, and the latest testing automation tools as appropriate. Services include:

- Acceptance testing
- Test plan creation
- Functionality testing
- Cosmetic testing
- Linguistic testing
- Bug fix and management

ACCEPTANCE TESTING

Acceptance tests are performed on localized builds before entering the complete cycle of localization testing. These tests check for a base level of quality prior to commencement of a full testing cycle.

TEST PLAN CREATION

To ensure that our definition of quality assurance (QA) is in full agreement with and meets your expectations, we recommend the creation of a documented QA plan that specifically addresses localization issues. McElroy can either create a QA plan that is completely new or customize your existing test plan to specifically meet the needs of your localized product. The creation and implementation of this plan is a major benefit to you, as it ensures consistency in testing and the achievement of an agreed-upon level of superior quality.

FUNCTIONALITY TESTING

Functionality testing of the localized product ensures it performs as closely to the source version as possible and that localization has not introduced any functional defects. This series of tests validates all behavioral aspects of the product. Test criteria include:

- Technical verification to ensure code integrity, link integrity, string consistency, concatenation, and out of order variables.
- Compatibility and multi-language testing to ensure compatibility of a software product or website with different platforms, browsers, network configurations, multi-language OS, and other third-party software

Functionality testing is performed on an automated or manual basis (or both), and it comprises two methodologies:

- Thorough script-based testing of the product's UI, APIs, database management, security, installation, networking, etc.
- Smoke testing of the product by experienced QA engineers to locate any issues that might not be found with more structured testing methods.

COSMETIC (VISUAL) TESTING

Cosmetic testing ensures that all dialogs, menus, and strings display properly, are compared against the domestic product, and are visually correct. Throughout the testing cycle, exploratory testing is also performed to verify that:

- No duplicate or conflicting hotkeys exist
- Data layout on each screen is correct
- No items overlap
- All pull-down menus are localized
- Locale-specific issues such as tags, fonts, date & time functions, and currencies display correctly

LINGUISTIC TESTING

In this phase we test the final build, ensuring the product is linguistically sound and verifying that:

- All text, including text in graphics, have been translated
- No text is truncated
- Grammar is correct
- Translations still make sense when seen in context

BUG FIX AND MANAGEMENT

Bug identification, reporting, and resolution is thoroughly integrated into our localization testing process. Once identified, bugs are reported in either the client's or our own bug-tracking database. Our in-house tool reduces the time to find and resolve QA issues, eliminates version control problems, and facilitates communication among the client and McElroy testing teams.

McElroy's integrated QA processes ensure your international releases perform as expected and meet your customers' expectation.