



Translating VIPLogic

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How the translation works

VIPLogic is written in Java. Java's standard way of handling translation is by using ResourceBundle. ResourceBundle is a Java class that is used to store texts and components that are locale sensitive. To print a localized text, we could do it this way (FreeMarker example from VIPLogic code):

```
<h1>${i18nBundle.greeting} VIPLogic</h1>
```

The `${}` markup is FreeMarker specific. `«i18nBundle»` is our instance of the ResourceBundle class. The important stuff here is the keyword `«greeting»`. This is used by the ResourceBundle class to look up the localized phrase. Where does it look for the phrase? It looks in a properties file called

```
vipslogictexts_[language_code].properties
```

So, if your browser has set Norwegian as its preferred language, `«no»` is the code for Norwegian, and the ResourceBundle class looks for

```
vipslogictexts_no.properties
```

Then it looks in that file for the keyword `«greeting»`. In that file, the line with `«greeting»` looks like this:

```
greeting=Velkommen til
```

Thus, what is printed in the end, is

```
<h1>Velkommen til VIPLogic</h1>
```

IF, however, the file `vipslogictexts_no.properties` does not exist (the translation has not been made yet), the ResourceBundle loads the file

```
vipslogictexts.properties
```

This file contains all the phrases in VIPLogic's default language, which is English. In that file, the line with the `«greeting»` keyword looks like this:

```
greeting=Welcome to
```

So in that case, what's printed is of course

```
<h1>Welcome to VIPLogic</h1>
```

How to edit a language file

The easiest way to edit a language file, is to use a ResourceBundle editor. NetBeans has a good one.

See screenshot below

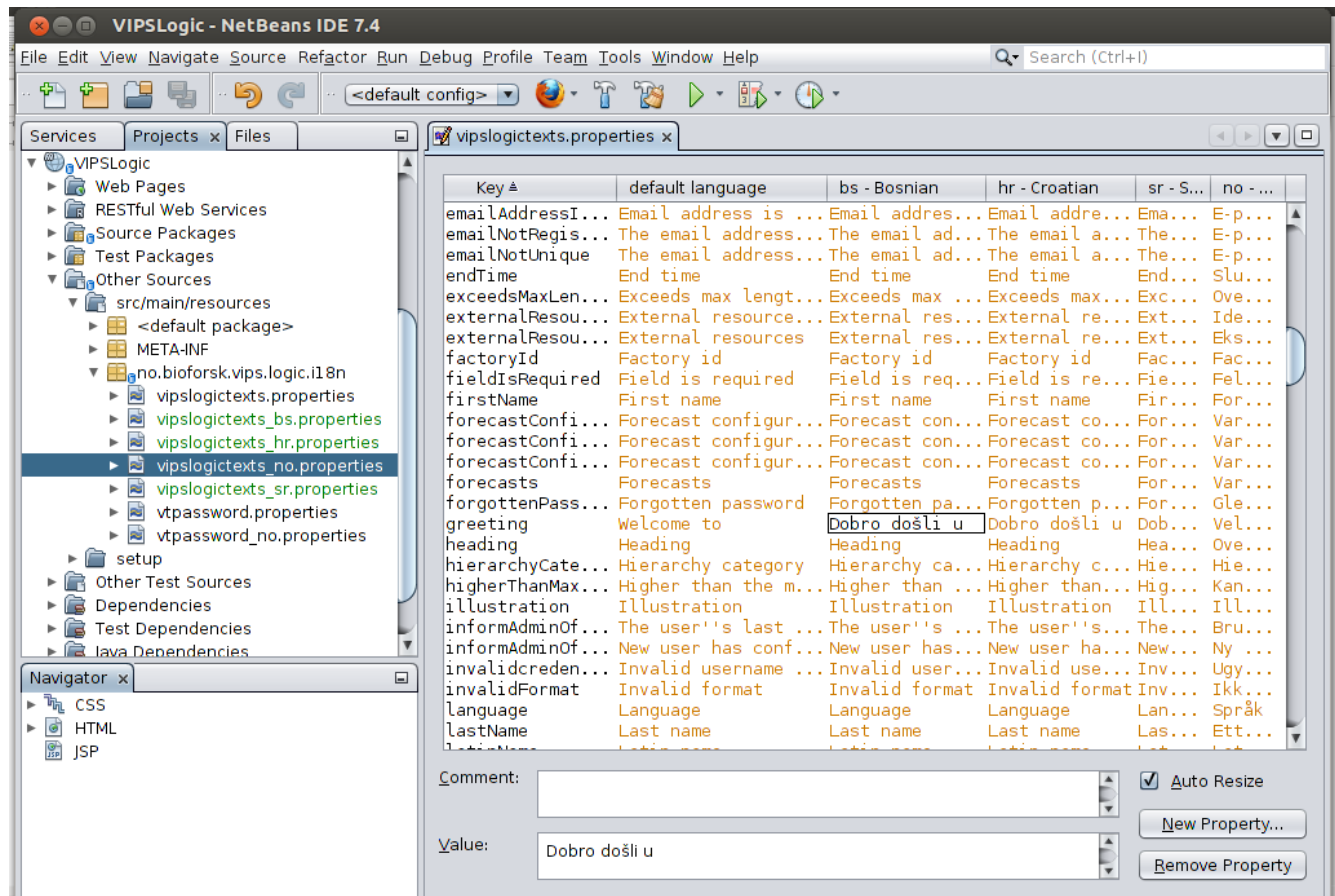


Illustration 1: Showing NetBeans's ResourceBundle editor. The separate language files are collated together in an easy-to-navigate table

There are also ResourceBundle editors available for Eclipse, for instance this one:

<http://sourceforge.net/projects/eclipse-rbe/>

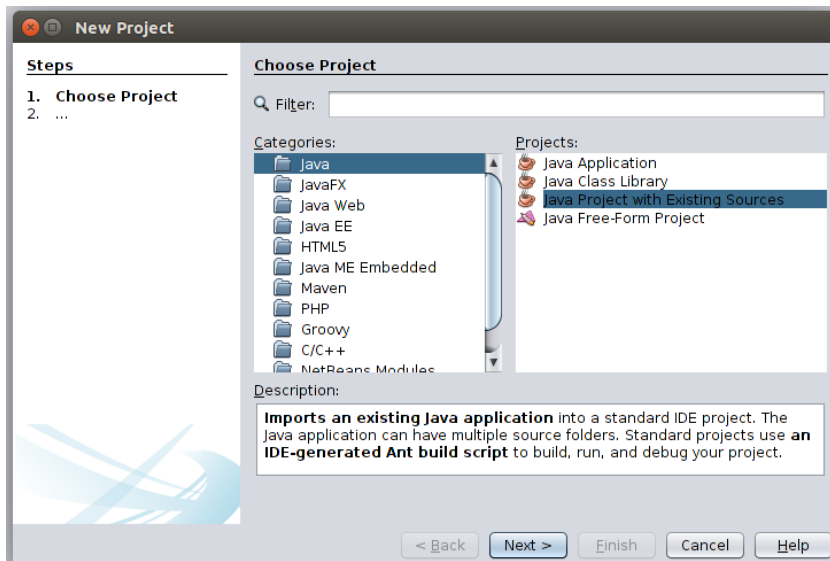
It's of course also possible to edit the files one by one in an ordinary text editor like NotePad, jEdit, Emacs, etc. In that case, please make sure to set the character set for the file to be UTF-8.

How to start translating using NetBeans

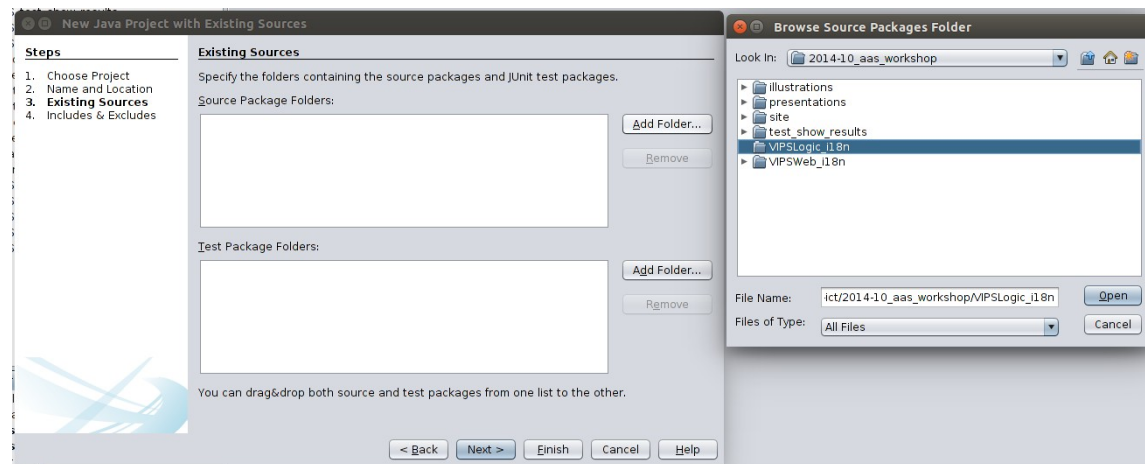
Assuming you have installed NetBeans (see separate document or NetBeans online documentation for how to do that), you must create a project for the translation.

- Start with (from the top menu) selecting File -> New Project.

- In the wizard dialog that appears, select Category «Java» and type «Java Project with Existing Sources». Click «Next»



- Next, choose the name and location for that project, and move on to the next step
- The next step is to select the folder where your translation files are. Click «Add folder» and browse to this folder, and click «Open». The source folder should appear in the list of source package folders. Click «Finish»



- In your project view on the left hand side of NetBeans, the newly created project should appear in the list. If you expand the «<default package>», you'll find the translation files. All you have to do now, is to right click on the file «vipslogictexts.properties» and select «Open». Then you'll get an editor view that resembles that of Illustration 1, and you're set to go.

