How Not to Translate a Videogame

(using Azure)

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rdavisau

- essential-interfaces use DI/mocking with Xamarin.Essentials
- jsondatacontext-linqpad json data context driver for LINQPad
- sockets-for-pcl, sockethelpers socket comms in a PCL (today you should use netstandard sockets why are you all still installing this)



• why i wanted to translate a videogame

- building a basic real-time translator
- improving translations with custom translator
- meeting our azure/buzzword quota
- resources

-= how not to translate a videogame =-

why

i wanted to play another game like this one

Nine Hours, Nine Persons, Nine Doors 2009, Spike Chunsoft / Aksys



- "Visual Novel" like a choose your own adventure book with graphics, music and sound
- Multiple routes and endings
- Sci-fi, supernatural themes, crazy twists

across it.

-(5)--

someone had written...





The first thing Junpei noticed about the

door was the number roughly emblazoned

On the surface of the door, in red paint,





, menu 🕈

-: CUBED3.com

the infinity series

The internet recommended **Ever17**, the second game in the 'Infinity' series.



Never7 (KID, 2000) Fan Translated



Ever17 (KID / 5PB, 2002) Officially Translated



Remember11 (KID, 2004) Fan Translated



12Riven (KID/CyberFront, 2009) Never Translated

I decided I'd play the whole series, but tragically...

how to translate a video game

- Extract the script from the game data files
- Have someone fluent in the source and target languages translate the script:
 - Account for puns
 - Account for cultural references and jokes
 - Employ a consistent tone
- Re-insert the translated script into the game
- Patch aspects of the game that made assumptions about the language
 - Fixed width font
 - Hardcoded character limits / timing assumptions



* See the mother3 fan translation blog (link in resources) for just how crazy patching in a translation can be.

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building a basic translator

our approach



PPSSPP Emulate the game



LINQPad / C# Capture frames, "Detect" text



Azure Computer Vision OCR API Recognise characters



Azure Text Translate API Translate text



extracting the text

We can use simple, targeted techniques to effectively identify text-containing parts of the screen.



In both cases we need to detect when text has finished 'typing out' before requesting OCR.

extracting the text - demo



extracting the text - improvements

Improve processing speed

- Use unmanaged bitmap access
- Reduce time to detect stabilisation
 - Make message dialogue window opaque
 - Mask out 'cursor' when detecting changes between frames

recognising the characters – options

Azure currently has two classes of OCR services available for character recognition tasks:

Old Busted

- Uses an 'earlier recognition model'
- Synchronous API
- Supports 25 languages and automatic language detection.

New Shiny

"Read" API "Recognise Text" API

- Based on 'Updated recognition models'
- Asynchronous APIs
- Still in preview
- English only (currently)

Given we need to recognise Japanese text, we'll use the OCR API.

recognising the characters – OCR API

Key Features

- Recognises text in 25 languages
- Supports orientation and rotation detection
- Detects multiple regions of text if present
- Returns comprehensive information about the position and size of detected characters

Pricing		
INSTANCE	RATE LIMIT	PRICE
Free - Web/Container	20 per minute	5,000 transactions free per month
S1 - Web/Container	10 TPS	0-1M transactions — \$2.06 per 1,000 transactions 1M-5M transactions — \$1.373 per 1,000 transactions 5M-10M transactions — \$0.893 per 1,000 transactions 10M-100M transactions — \$0.893 per 1,000 transactions 100M+ transactions — \$0.893 per 1,000 transactions

Sample Request

POST

api.cognitive.microsoft.com/vision/v1.0/ocr

いきなりそんなこと言われても……。

Sample Response

```
"language":"ja",
"textAngle":0.0, "orientation":"Up",
"regions":[
{ "boundingBox":"8,6,772,51",
"lines":[
{ "boundingBox":"8,6,772,51",
"words":[
{
"boundingBox":"8,10,47,43",
"text":しい"
},
{
uboundingBox":"62,7,45,48",
"text":さ"
}, ... etc.
```

recognising the characters – demo



recognising the characters – improvements

Use "Recognise Text" / "Read" API once out of preview

Use Google OCR instead

translating the text – text translate API

Key Features

- Supports 64 languages and automatic language detection
- Multi input and output translation and transliteration
- Profanity marking and/or filtering
- Translation of HTML/markup content
- v3 introduces Neural Machine Translation (NMT)
 ⁴¹ languages supported currently

Sample Request / Response

POST

api.cognitive.microsofttranslator.com/translate?api-version=3.0&to=en

```
"Text": "とっさにブレーキを絞った"
```

INSTANCE	PRICE
Free	2M chars of any combination of standard translation and custom training free per month
S1	\$13.73 per million chars of standard translation
S2	\$2,821.52/month Up to 250M chars per month Overage: \$11.29 per million chars
	T63 T6V

"detectedLanguage":{ "language": "ja", "score":1.0 },
"translations":[
 {
 "text" : "I squeezed the brakes momentarily",
 "to" : "en"
 }
]

translating the text – SMT vs NMT

Text Translate is moving from Statistical (SMT) to Neural (NMT) Machine Translation techniques. Both techniques do not translate individual words, rather words in a broader context.

Statistical Machine Translation

- Standard technique used by machine translation providers for the last 10 years
- Uses advanced statistical techniques and large reference bodies of human-translated sentences to determine the likely best translation of a word, given words around it
- Limited context (3 5 surrounding words)
- Accuracy / performance has plateaued in the last decade.

Utilises advances in ML and deep learning techniques over the last few years

 Defines words as a feature vector of 500 concepts, specific to source/target language pair

Neural Machine Translation

- Encodes inputs as a 1,000 dimension vector
 (500 features representing the word + 500 representing its position in relation to words in the sentence refined over several layers)
- Final vector used to select best translation from reference set, and next word to process
- Allows much broader context of surrounding words to inform the translation.

translating the text - demo



ICROSOFT (W/google OCK)

- cr-go: 線路の彼方に目を向けると、鋼鉄の四角い箱がのんびりと近づいてくるのが見えた。(
- en-ms: Look beyond the line and square steel box coming slowly appeared.

GOOGLE

- - のが見えた。(
- en-go: Looking at the other side of the track, I saw a square box of steel coming close. (

translating the text – improvements

Use Google translate instead

Use the includeAlignment and includeSentenceLength parameters to increase the amount of context provided to the translation algorithm.

alignment : An object with a single string property named proj which maps input text to translated text. The alignment information is only provided when the request parameter includeAlignment is true. Alignment is returned as a string value of the following format: [[SourceTextStartIndex]:[SourceTextEndIndex]-[TgtTextStartIndex]:[TgtTextEndIndex]]. The colon separates start and end index, the dash separates the languages, and space separates the words. One word may align with zero, one, or multiple words in the other language, and the aligned words may be non-contiguous. When no alignment information is available, the alignment will be empty. See <u>Obtain alignment information</u> for an example and restrictions.

• sentLen : An object returning sentence boundaries in the input and output texts.

• srcSentLen : An integer array representing the lengths of the sentences in the input text. The length of the array is the number of sentences, and the values are the length of each sentence.

• transSentLen: An integer array representing the lengths of the sentences in the translated text. The length of the array is the number of sentences, and the values are the length of each sentence.

Sentence boundaries are only included when the request parameter includeSentenceLength is true

Train a custom model using Azure Custom Translator

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building a custom translator

why custom translate?

- Azure Text Translate models are trained and tested over a huge range of translation data and are optimised to perform well in the general case
- Many domains involve biases not reflected by or even trained on by the general case
- Azure provides a service that allows us to create a specialised translation model that includes domain bias Custom Translator
- Maybe 12Riven still could be playable...



custom translator

Key Features

ia

- Train and deploy models based on translations you that you provide
- Easy to use online portal with workspace sharing/collaboration options
 + an API that exposes upload, training and deployment
- Automatically performs 'alignment' on provided translations
- Provides a mechanism for you to assess the lift in domain relevance that your trained models provide (BLEU score)
- Supercedes the SMT-based Microsoft Translator Hub product



consume





train and assess model



deploy model

sourcing translated content

- Custom translate requires at least 10,000 source -> target translation pairs
- Fortunately, the raw fan translation of Remember11
 (3rd game in the series) was left on tlwiki.org perfect
 - Many similarities in concepts between both games
 - Same author wrote both scripts
 - This could be good
- Unfortunately, tlwiki.org went down sometime last year and never came back up
- Fortunately, I first had the idea to try this a year or two back and had already scraped the site, I found the working files on an old laptop.



preparing translated content

- R11 fan translation separated into chapters -> scenes -> text boxes approx 36K pairs
- Contains noise and control codes, but is already aligned due to the nature of the game
- Straightforward to transform this into a format that that Custom Translate can use.

	(
Day 1	Day 2	R11:CO2 09A.txt
<u>R11:CO1_01.txt</u>	<u>R11:CO2_01.txt</u>	From TLWiki
<u>R11:CO1_02.txt</u>	<u>R11:CO2_02.txt</u>	Jump to: <u>navigation</u> , <u>search</u>
<u>R11:CO1_03.txt</u>	<u>R11:CO2_03.txt</u>	/EDITING NOTE: Any changes to this section must be synchronized with CO2_01 (bad end).
<u>R11:CO1_04.txt</u>	<u>R11:CO2_04.txt</u>	気がつくと <mark></mark> %K%P
<u>R11:CO1 05.txt</u>	R11:CO2 05.txt	When I came to my senses—
<u>R11:CO1_06.txt</u>	<u>R11:CO2_06.txt</u>	私は暗黒に包まれていた。 <mark>XXXP</mark>
<u>R11:CO1_07.txt</u>	R11:CO2 07.txt	I was engulfed in darkness.
<u>R11:CO1_08.txt</u>	R11:CO2 08.txt	何も見えない。何も聞こえない。何も匂わない。何も感じない、 <mark>XKXP</mark>
R11:CO1 09.txt	R11:CO2 09A.txt	I couldn't see anything. I couldn't hear anything. I couldn't smell anything. I couldn't feel anything.
<u>R11:CO1_10.txt</u>	R11:CO2 09B.txt	TZ? ZNIJ? J KKOP
R11:CO1 11.txt	R11:CO2 10.txt	"Eh? What?"
R11:CO1 12.txt	R11:CO2 11.txt	声さえ、出すことができない。%KK%P
R11:CO1 13.txt	R11:CO2 12.txt	I couldn't make a sound. Even my voice was gone.
		闇の中に、さらに黒を溶かし込んだような、そんな完全な暗黒の中に私はいた。XKXP
L		I found myself in a darkness so total, it was as if an even further blackness had been enfolded into the dark of night.
		上下の感覚がない。 <mark>%K%P</mark>
		I had no sense of up or down.
		上を向いているのか、下を向いているのか、寝ているのか、起きているのか、それすらもわからない。 <mark>80K%P</mark>
		I didn't know whether I was facing upward, downward, or even if I was awake or asleep.
		何も私に触れていない。 SKSAP
		Nothing was touching me.
		無重力の中を漂っているような感じだった。 <mark>%X%P</mark>
		It was as if I was floating in zero gravity.
		服をまとっている威触がない。 XKSP

▲ List<> (3787 items)					
ja		en			
あまりの寒さで目が覚めた。		The frigid air wo	oke me.		
いつの間にか眠っていたようだ。		It seems I had	allen asleep without realizing it.		
自分の体力がかなり落ちていることを思い知らされる。	It felt like I had gotten a lot weaker.				
スフィアでの混乱の後、私の意識はすぐに小屋へと戻ってきた。	After the chaos at SPHIA, my consciousness returned to the cabin.				
その時にはすでに夜更けが近づくころだった。		At that time, it	was already late at night.		
『眠ると死ぬ』という固定観念があるため、私は眠らずに一夜を	2週こそうと思っていたのだが。	However, since	I was fixated on the idea "go to sleep	o and you'll die,")	
結局、何度もワトワトとしては、寒さで目が覚める、ということを結	繰り返していた。	In the end, no r	natter how many times I began to do	oze off, I was awa	
時前で見ると、「時干につに。		Looking at my v	vatch, it was half past 1.		
眠る肌の時间は確認していない。 見過ぎだというのに、私はとてた座かった		I couldn't confir	m the time before I fell asleep.		
金旭さたというのだと、外はとこも暗かった。 士陽がたくたってしまったかの下ろに		Even though it was after noon, it seemed dark and gloomy outside.			
入場がるくなりてしないたがのように。 利けー					
窓の外を眺めた。 		Look out the wi	ndow		
窓に近寄ってみた		Approach the w	indow		
私はベッドの上から窓の外を眺めた。		I looked outside	from in bed.		
すっかり雪がこびり付き、景色はほとんど見えない。		The window wa	s completely frosted over with snow,	so the outside sc	
	Ļ				
In Reference Ref	19/11/20	17 8:52 PM	Microsoft Excel W	17 KB	
🚺 R11CO1_02.xlsx	19/11/20	17 8:52 PM	Microsoft Excel W	15 KB	
🗊 R11CO1_03.xlsx	19/11/20	17 8:52 PM	Microsoft Excel W	21 KB	
🗊 R11CO1_04.xlsx	19/11/20	17 8:52 PM	Microsoft Excel W	21 KB	
R11CO1 05 xlsx	19/11/20	17 8·52 PM	Microsoft Excel W	9 KB	

creating a custom translation project

- Custom models are hosted within a "Project", which is linked to an Azure subscription. Custom translator exists outside the Azure portal at <u>customtranslator.ai</u>
- Projects target a single source/target language pair
- Projects specify a base category, which may influence the behaviour of the model (currently only the "Technology" category is modelled differently)

Projects can be shared between multiple users

12 Riven	
Description	
Add more information to your project (max 500 char	rs)
Language Pair*	
Japanese->English	~
Category*	
Arts & Entertainment	\sim
Category descriptor	

uploading reference documents

Uploading documents via the portal is intuitive enough for ordinary users to perform

Projec Category Language Category Edit proje	ts > 1 ID: e Pair: Jap : Arts & E ect	2R panese - English ntertainment		-ARTS	SENT			
Create	model	Odels Upload files	∇					
	Name			Document Pairing	Document Type	Language(s)	Japanese Sentences	English Sentences
	CO1			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	3,266	3,266
	CO2			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	2,950	2,950
	CO3			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	2,364	2,364
	CO4			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	2,647	2,647
	CO5			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	3,787	3,787
	CO6			Parallel	Training	Japanese - English	939	939

The portal displays a summary of uploaded document/document pairs and their contents.

Document Type.		
Training		
Language Pair:		
Japanese->English		
Override document if it exi	ists	
Parallel Data		
Source (ja) file:	Target (en) file:	
Browse files	Browse files	
.TXT .HTML. .HTM .PDF .D	OCX .ALIGN file required.	
Document Name:		
Name your document (ma	x 100 chars)	
	or	
Archive or Translation	Memory File	
Archive or TM File:		
Browse files		

Users can upload parallel documents or aligned documents in various formats.

 You can explicitly specify whether to use a document for training, testing or tuning.

If not, custom translator will automatically withhold portions of training documents for testing and tuning purposes.

You can upload parallel documents for custom translator to align.

 Or, you can upload a single, pre-aligned document.

training a custom model

A model can be trained on all or a subset of uploaded documents, and takes minutes

- Trained models include a BLEU score, giving a quantifiable/comparable indication of lift
- It's possible to view the outputs of the model against sentences in the test set

Projects > 12R > R11 Scri

View BLEU lift

Bleu score: A 25.85 Baseline bleu score: 17.27 Japanese - English Edit model

Evaluating model effectiveness is important because deploying incurs immediate cost

Projec Category Language Data	ts > 1 ID: e Pair: Jap M	2R panese - English odels		ARTSENT	
Create	model	Upload files	7		
\checkmark 17 doc	cuments s	elected, 35066 traini	ng sentences sel	ected	
	Name	Document Pairing	Document Type	Japanese Sentences	English Sentences
\checkmark	CO1	Parallel	Training	3,266	3,266
\checkmark	CO2	Parallel	Training	2,950	2,950
\checkmark	CO3	Parallel	Training	2,364	2,364

pt	📄 ref.txt - Notepad —	🗐 custom.mt.txt - Notepad —	Х
~	<u>File Edit Format View H</u> elp	<u>F</u> ile <u>E</u> dit F <u>o</u> rmat <u>V</u> iew <u>H</u> elp	
	I didn't know where it was.	I didn't know where it was.	^
	No, I'll tell you later.	No, I'll tell you about this later.	
	I set my freezing feet in motion and started to walk.	I began to walk, moving my freezing feet.	
	I used the gathered luggage and blankets and such to s	I opened the gaping hole in the fuselage, and blocked it with a	
	gaping holes in the airframe.	blanket and blankets.	
	Without enough time to give even a baby's first cry—	I couldn't even afford to cry – –	
	There was no wind, and the sun hanging in the western	There was no wind, and the sun leaning toward the west was givin	g
	bright sunlight down at us.	off an intense ray of light.	
	I couldn't feel pain anymore.	There was no pain any longer.	
	Y, Yeah, I got it	Ah, yeah, I understand	
	Of course, I couldn't recall ever having met her.	Of course, I didn't recognize her.	
	If I can't reach Satoru's room	If I hadn't habitat to Satoru's room like this	
	I returned my eyes to Enomoto's corpse.	I glanced Enomoto's corpse again.	
	Not only space, but the time axis differs as well.	The axes are different, not only the space, but also the time.	
	Isn't there a court to the east of the building?	There was a coat on the east of the building, wasn't it?	
	"I said it's fine, so"	"That's fine, because I said"	
	The murderous aura she now emanated was no different f	That kind of thing won't change any more than the mentally	

View outputs against the test set

deploying a custom model

• A trained model can be deployed with one click:

Name Status Modified Date Bleu Score Baseline Bleu Score Training Dictionary Tuning Test Model A R11 Script Trained 2019-02-23 25.85 17.27 29,533 0 1,636 1,554 Deplo	Data	Models									
R11 Script Trained 2019-02-23 25.85 17.27 29,533 0 1,636 1,554 Dept	Name		Status	Modified Date	Bleu Score	Baseline Bleu Score	Training	Dictionary	Tuning	Test	Model Action
	R11 Script		Trained	2019-02-23	▲ 25.85	17.27	29,533	0	1,636	1,554	Deploy
	_										This button costs

Once deployed, a custom model can be used via the standard Text Translate API, by providing the appropriate categoryId as a query parameter:

POST

api.cognitive.microsofttranslator.com/translate?categoryId=08b1f19-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-xxxx-ARTSENT

custom translator – demo

custom translator – improvements

- Review scraped scripts for additional control characters or other errors
- Add scripts from additional translations?

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adding more azure



• We have only included 3 Azure services

Not enough buzz words

No time to add blockchain

Can we add something else?

'improving' the experience

- Currently we need to look at the LINQPad window to view translated content lame
- Lets use Azure Hosted SignalR, Azure App Service, Xamarin.iOS and ARKit to make this even more stupid more user friendly

'improved' solution design



'improved' solution design

- The LINQPad translator script will forward untranslated images to the app via SignalR, which the app will use as AR Reference Images to detect the untranslated content
- When the app detects the untranslated text in 3D space, it will place a virtual message box over the real one
- When the app receives a translation, it will draw that onto the message box



'improving' the experience - demo



-= how not to translate a videogame =-

wrapping up

how not to translate a video game

- Extract the script from the game data files ahead of time
- Have someone fluent in the source and target languages translate the script:
 - Account for puns
 - Account for cultural references and jokes
 - Employ a consistent tone
- Re-insert the translated script into the game

- Scrape game screen to detect and OCR text in realtime
- Use a machine translation service to translate the script
 - × No awareness or accounting for puns
 - × No awareness of references/jokes
 - × Can robots feel?
- Display the text in a separate window in 3D space using AR

How Not to Translate a Videogame

(using LINQPad, Azure OCR, Azure Text Translate, Azure Custom Translator, Azure Hosted SignalR, Azure App Service, Xamarin iOS and ARKit)

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• Azure OCR

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/cognitive-services/Computer-vision/concept-recognizing-text

- Azure Text Translate
 <u>https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/cognitive-services/translator-text-api/</u>
- Azure Custom Translate https://customtranslator.ai
- Azure Hosted SignalR
 https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-signalr/signalr-overview
- Xamarin/ARKit
 https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/xamarin/ios/platform/introduction-to-ios12/arkit2
- Infinity Series
 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infinity (video game series)
- Mother 3 Fan Translation Notes (start from the bottom)
 http://mother3.fobby.net/blog/previews/archives/

questions / comments