

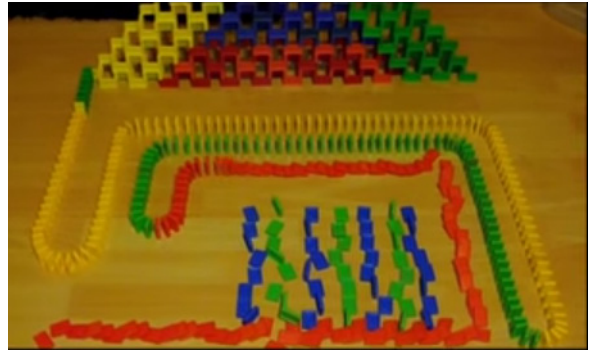


The HYPACK® Translation Project

(HYPACK® Dominos)

By Judy Bragg

2014 has turned out to be the year of the “HYPACK® Translation Project”. Have you ever played with dominos where you stand the tiles up closely together in a long line then tip the first into the second, which tips the third, which tips the fourth...? (Here’s an example if you are unfamiliar: <http://bit.ly/1xJznLL>) As I think about our translation project, it reminds me a lot of that Dominos game and, as a result (so far), our Spanish and Russian-speaking users will enjoy a fully translated HYPACK® 2015 interface. (The manuals will take a bit longer.) Translated interfaces in other languages are only a small step (per language) away.



Two of our support staff, Carlos Tejada and Ivan Isaak, who are bilingual, “tipped the first domino” in the translation project and then it was one domino after another! Read on and you’ll see what I mean.

Domino #1-Initial Manual Translation: It all actually began three years ago, when Carlos and Ivan took the initiative to translate the HYPACK® User Manual and the annual HYPACK® Training Notes into Spanish and Russian respectively.

Domino #2-Researching Translation Software: The next year, they asked me (as the Technical Writer) if I could keep track of everything that I changed or added in the documentation so they only needed to translate that much. Certainly a reasonable request, but it wasn’t that easy. To make a very long story short, we decided to work with a translation software package (memoQ by Kilgray, Inc.) that, not only finds the changes, but facilitates the whole translation process.

It has taken quite a bit of time to research translation software packages and for the three of us to learn how to run memoQ and how to make it work best for us. In fact, we’re *still* learning as we implement it fully for the first time.

Domino #3-Learning the Translation Software: Using trial versions of memoQ, Carlos and Ivan both eagerly began learning the software as they translated the annual HYPACK® Training Notes. (They were getting a different kind of training with the HYPACK® Powerpoint presentations that year!)

Meanwhile, I watched online training webinars, studied the manual and did preliminary testing on a small, but representative section of the User Manual. We wanted to be sure the software would serve us well before we were fully invested—financially in the memoQ software as well as in time and effort implementing memoQ with a 2000 page manual.

We all agreed the preliminary results were very good and we should begin work on the User Manual.

Domino #4-Manual Translation in memoQ: I spent a *lot* of time cleaning the manual (paragraph and character styles, conditional text, variables...) to make the import to memoQ and the translation job afterward as easy as possible. Then I set up the first translation

packages for Carlos and Ivan and let them have a try. We had never worked cooperatively in memoQ before so we, again, tried a small section to help work out the system first.

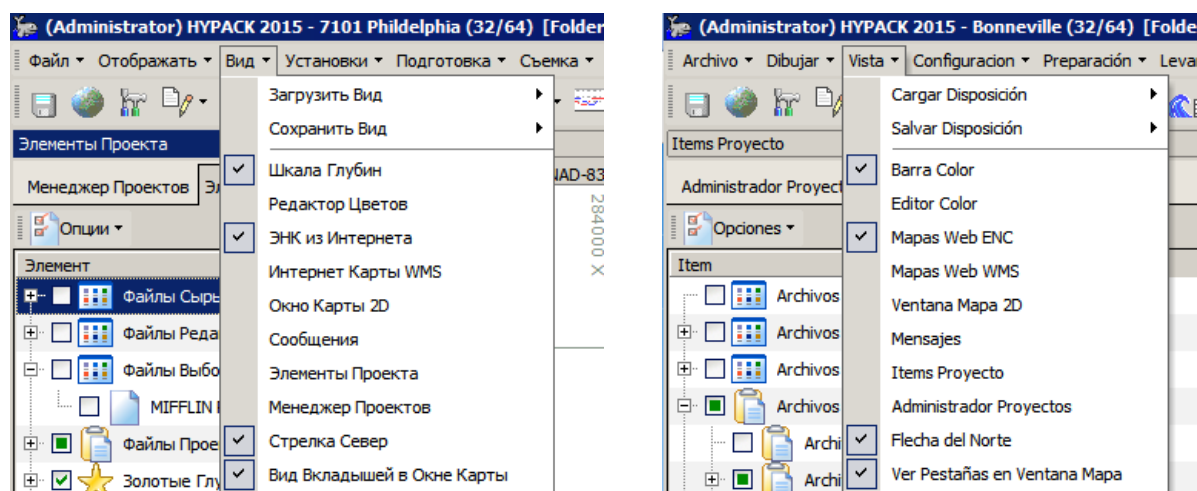
After much discussion and some setting adjustments, I sent them the whole manual and they began to work, section by section, as they could make time around their other HYPACK duties. As they completed their first few sections, they passed them back to me to review.

Domino #5-HYPACK® Interface Translation Upgrade: As I began reviewing the first translated sections, I noticed that Ivan and Carlos were translating menu and dialog options, but they were also including the original English. It was then that I learned that the HYPACK® interface needed an upgrade so I approached HYPACK Pres. Pat Sanders about what I had learned.

After a little research of his own, Pat put the programming team to work, coding for Unicode to fully support non-Latin characters in all HYPACK® modules, and updating the language database, which provides the translated text in the interface according to the user's language selection. It was a lot of work, but it's a huge step forward toward more fully supporting our international customers.

Domino #6 Language Database Translation: Ivan and Carlos have completed the Russian and Spanish columns of the database table so the interface for HYPACK® 2015 should be fully translated for our Spanish and Russian-speaking users. (It looks like we still have a bit of work to do here, but a big improvement, nonetheless.)

FIGURE 1. HYPACK® 2015 Alpha Build—Russian (left) and Spanish (right)



We would love to have the remaining languages in the Language Database completed by people who are knowledgeable about both hydrography and HYPACK®. If you, or someone you know would like to volunteer to work on this project with us, please contact me at judy@hypack.com.

A NOTE FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING USERS

Expect a much more completely translated interface in the HYPACK® 2015 release. The HYPACK programmers have been working really hard trying to get every bit of text in the program into the Language Database, and I have translated all of those terms into Spanish.

If you don't like this Spanish (Colombian) translation and think that you have a better translation term, please let me know. (Well, you can change it yourself using the LngEdit.exe available in the HYPACK® directory, but that will be only in your copy of the program.) If you pass it over to me, I can have it placed on the version that will be available in our web page for download, so everyone can have it.

~ Carlos Tejada