Santhosh Thottingal

Language engineer & typeface designer

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Profile

I am a software engineer by profession with 10+ years experience with special interest in language computing. I am also a typeface designer and designed two well known typefaces for Malayalam script.

Currently I work as lead software engineer at Wikimedia foundation's Language Engineering team since 2011. I have played a leading role in the design and development of Wikipedia's massive multilingual tools and translation and internationalization systems.

As an expert in Indic language computing, I had worked on building the technology infrastructure that enables the use of Indic languages in operating systems under self initiated projects. I had developed input tools that are used by thousands of people for many languages. I also lead the technology projects of Swathanthra Malayalam computing, a community project working on language computing for several years.

Experience

Github profile: https://github.com/santhoshtr

Mentoring, Community coordinator, representation

- Project Administrator, Swathanthra Malayalam Computing(SMC)
- Mentor, Google Summer of Code 2007, 2013, 2014 and 2016.
- Language Committee member of Wikimedia foundation.
- Former coordinator for Openoffice native language consortium, India region
- Represents Wikimedia foundation in Unicode consortium.
- Panel Member, Neo Brahmi script generation panel, ICANN

Internationalization & Localization

- Defined and implemented Collation rules for Malayalam, Tamil, Sourashtra languages in for GNU C Library.
- Designed and developed Universal Language Selector project of WMF, a language selection tool and utility library

- Various improvements of Mediawiki internationalization features, Co-developer of Translate extension of Mediawiki, powers translatewiki.net.
- Participated in localization of Debian, GNOME, KDE, Firefox projects.

Language technology tools

- Developer and Maintainer of Malayalam Spelling Checker Dictionary. Part of many GNU/Linux Distros.
- Defined Hyphenation Patterns of 11 Indian Languages. Used in various typesetting applications, Android and browsers
- Designed and developed SILPA Indic language computing framework and library. Now rebranded as LibIndic. This is collection of language processing libraries and utilities
- Developer and Maintainer of Swanalekha transliteration based phonetic input method for Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada, Bengali, Oriya, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Telugu. Available in GNU/Linux distros. Used by thousands of people.
- Designed and developed general purpose input method library jquery.ime used in Wikipedia, which later ported to Android and Firefox OS
- Developed various small opensource utilities around Indic language processing

Typography

Designer of well known Malayalam font Chilanka, Manjari. Maintainer of 10+ fonts for Malayalam. Co-developer of Meera Tamil font. I have deep understanding and experience in opentype engineering for Indian languages

Translation systems

Lead developer of Wikipedia content translation system which is used by thousands of user to create more than 100 thousand articles across 200+ languages. Co-developer of Mediawiki interface translation system - Translate

Accessibility

Developed Dhvani Indian Language Text to Speech System Developer- A TTS that can speak Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Oriya, Telugu, Kannada, Tamil Malayalam, Marathi and Pashtho. Dhvani was FOSS India Award 2008 winner.

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