



FLOSSMANUALS FINLAND

finnish language guides and workshops for open software

FLOSS Manuals is a collection of manuals that explain how to install and use a range of free and open source software. The manuals are friendly and simple, and they are intended to encourage people to explore the wide range of free, open source alternatives to expensive and restrictively licensed software.

At FLOSS Manuals you can find manuals for free and open source software like office applications, as well as web editing and browsing, and tools for playing, making, streaming and sharing audio and video. You can read and use the manuals in a number of different ways - online in separately indexed chapters, as PDF files, or by 'remixing' manuals to combine chapters from manuals in a single document.

FLOSS Manuals make free software more accessible by providing clear documentation that accurately explains their purpose and use. Each manual explains what the software does and what it doesn't do, what the interface looks like, how to install it, how to set the most basic configuration necessary, and how to use its main functions. To ensure the information remains useful and up to date the manuals are regularly developed to add more advanced uses, and to document changes and new versions of the software.

Flossmanuals is an international foundation based in Amsterdam and operating in a network of international contributors, with links to key open source initiatives, including the One Laptop per Child OLPC.

The first translation of Flossmanuals, Farsi, was launched in 2008. Finnish will be the second localisation, with French and Spanish versions in progress.

The Finnish localisation is realized by m-cult centre for new media culture, within the Medios project on participatory and social media tools, funded by the European Social Fund in 2009-2011.

PROCESS

The Finnish localisation of Flossmanuals will involve a process of workshops, translation and building a network of users.

Workshops

The project plan includes 15-20 training days per year:

- *Translation sprints bring together people with experience in working with the software, for exchange of experiences and preparing draft translations
- *Test workshops will put the draft manuals to test in actual use situations, giving feedback for
- *Workshops will be additionally organized for various partner groups (educators, citizen groups, media and design students, artists&film makers) to encourage use of manuals and software

Manuals and publishing

- *The project will start with a selection of existing English language manuals, with emphasis on media production and design software.
- *Manual translation will proceed via sprints and testing to proofreading and publishing.
- *The Finnish team also contributes to new manuals focusing on educational needs of media production.

fi.flossmanuals site

The Finnish Flossmanuals site is realized following the specifications and guidelines prepared by the Flossmanuals network and will be hosted at the FM international server. The opening of the site is tentatively scheduled for October 2009 coinciding with the launch of the first Finnish manuals.

Network

The project will be realized within the international Flossmanuals network and expanding it to include Finnish contributors. The Finnish Flossmanuals network will be based on a core team and coordinator, working closely with local partners such as schools, universities and community media organisations.

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