GNOME Language Pack Report

Subir B. Pradhanang, Dayaram Budhathoki
subir@mpp.org.np , daya@mpp.org.np
Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, Nepal

Abstract

With the localization works gaining momentum, language packs for the different flavors of Linux is yet something that is useful move. In this document, we try to summarize the different components of the Language Pack and the final outcome after the successful installation. The language pack has been developed using GNOME 2.14 machine object (mo) files and currently for four major GNU/Linux distributions namely Debian Etch, Ubuntu (6.06 & 6.10), Fedora (Core 5 & 6), and openSuSE 10.1.

1. Introduction

Nepali GNOME langpack is a combination of scripts to install all the stuff which is required to work on GNOME 2.x in Nepali language. This release has been focused on four major GNU/Linux distributions namely Debian Etch, Ubuntu (6.06 & 6.10), Fedora (Core 5 & 6), and openSuSE 10.1.

The Nepali GNOME langpack automatically detects the type of GNU/Linux distribution and installs the required packages accordingly. It contains the following things:

1. Nepali locale in the locales/ directory
2. Nepali unicode fonts in the fonts/ directory
3. Nepali keymap in the keymaps/ directory
4. Nepali translations for GNOME 2.x in the trans/ directory

2. The locales directory

The locales directory is the one where the locale definition file for Nepali language resides. The information in the locale definition file is used bye the localedef command to compile locale definition files.

3. The fonts directory

The font's directory is the one where the fonts for Nepali language reside. Presently, the fonts that have been included with the Nepali GNOME langpack are Kalimati and Lohit Nepali.

4. The key maps directory

The keymaps directory contains the xkb keyboard mapping file for Nepali language. In this release, we have only focused on XKB.

5. The trans directory

This directory contains the translations in the form of mo files for GNOME 2.14 AND 2.16. The script picks up all the mo files from this location and puts them into /usr/share/locale/ne in the case of Nepali language.

After the installation of the Nepali GNOME langpack, users will be able login to Nepali GNOME Desktop Environment. Most of the applications like gedit, gaim, abiword etc. will automatically be in Nepali interface. The users will be able to view and type in Nepali language with xkb input system.

6. Installing Nepali GNOME Lang pack:

In order to install it, one needs to be logged in as root. If one is logged in as a normal user, then s/he needs to switch to root user using the following command:

```
$ su -
```

Copy the tarball into some temporary location eg. /tmp
```
# cp nepali-langpack-1.0.tar.gz /tmp
# cd /tmp
# tar zxvf nepali-langpack-1.0.tar.gz
# cd nepali-langpack-1.0
# ./install.sh
```

These are the generic steps to install Nepali GNOME langpack to all the above mentioned distributions.

Using GNOME in Nepali language:

To start using GNOME in Nepali language, the following steps are required if you are using GDM to login:

1. Set your session to GNOME
2. Select Language to Nepali from the popup menu
3. Then login to the Nepali GNOME session

This will bring up GNOME Desktop Environment in Nepali language. You can start using the applications in Nepali language.

Typing in Nepali language:

The 'Romanized Keyboard layout' is installed when one installs the Nepali GNOME langpack. More information about the layout can be found on http://www.mpp.org.np/

To enable typing in Nepali using the GUI approach, the users need to add keyboard indicator to GNOME panel. The following steps are required:

- Right click on the panel
- Add to Panel -> Keyboard Indicator
- Click Add
- Then Right-click on the applet when it appears on the panel
- Select 'Open Keyboard Prefrences' -> Layouts -> Add
- Then add the Nepali keyboard layout by selecting

Nepal and click 'OK'

The users can use different keyboard shortcut keys to switch between the keyboard layouts depending on what they have configured. This should be enough to get the users to get started typing in Nepali language.

The screenshots provided below depict the end-user interface after the language pack is installed in the different distros of Linux following the same installation procedure as mentioned above.
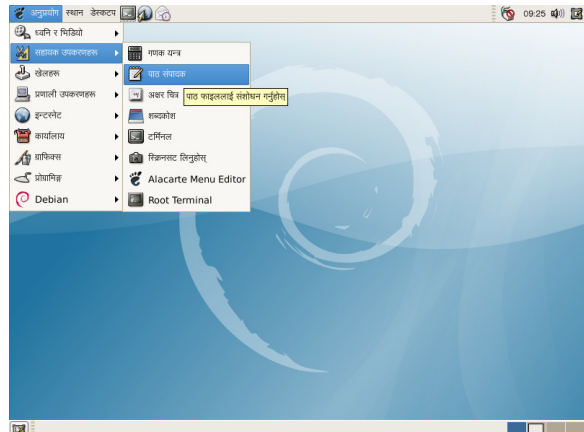

Fig.1. Debian in Nepali Desktop Environment after the installation of Nepali GNOME Lang pack.

Fig.2. Fedora in Nepali Desktop environment after the installation of Nepali GNOME Lang pack.

After installation of langpack most applications also get translated into Nepali.
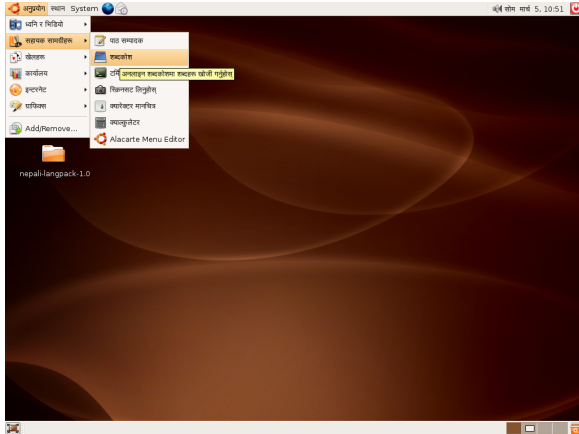
Fig.3. Ubuntu in Nepali Desktop Environment after the installation of Nepali GNOME Lang pack.

Future Implementations and recommedations:

In the future, we will also be implementing SCIM for Nepali keyboard layout in the Nepali langpack. Regarding the translation, as the translation of K Desktop Environment (KDE) is still in progress, the language pack has been done only for GNOME Desktop Environment. The future release of Nepali language pack will also focus on KDE.

This language pack can also be used as a reference for making language pack of other languages in the future.

7. References

[1] "Ind   Linux"
http://indlinux.org/wiki/index.php/Downloads
.