

Xoterm 1.0a

A TMX viewer for MacOSX

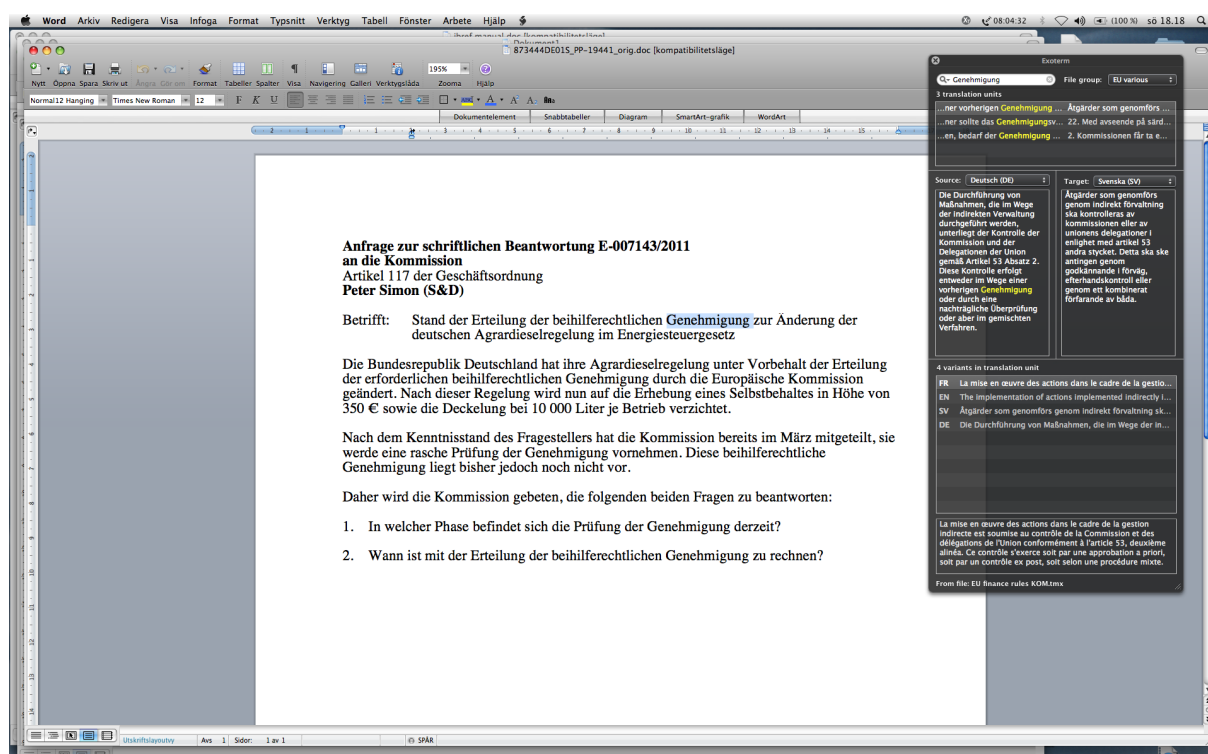
Release: July 18, 2011

Latest version: jfbraun.com/xoterm

Author: **Joakim Braun** joakim.braun@jfbraun.com

Pricing: **Shareware, USD 25.00** (PayPal to account joakim.braun@jfbraun.com)

Xoterm's TMX panel floats on top of text editors such as Microsoft Word.



1. What is Xoterm?

Xoterm is a reference tool for translators – a small application for viewing and searching TMX files (translation memories) on MacOSX. Xoterm displays a floating panel on top of other applications and integrates with Microsoft Word and other text editors for seamless terminology support.

If you're a translator who works with technical or other structured documents where terms and phrases reoccur regularly and translation memories are useful, this application may be for you.

2. What are TMX files?

TMX (Translation Memory Exchange) is an industry-standard XML format for multilingual translation memories. Typically, such files contain identical text in two or more languages, segmented into "translation units" (short text sections). Most CAT tools will import and export TMX files.

For more information about the TMX format, see www.lisa.org/fileadmin/standards/tmx1.4/tmx.htm.

3. Can I use translation memories from my favorite CAT tool?

Yes – if your CAT tool provides TMX export capabilities. Most do.

4. Can I edit or export TMX files with Xoterm?

No, Xoterm is intended as a simple, easy-to-use reference tool. Adding editing capabilities would require a much more complex user interface, and a much steeper learning curve.

However, watch for **TMXX**, a full-featured TMX editor for MacOSX, in the fall of 2011.

The text of translation units and their variants can, however, be copied in a spreadsheet-friendly tabbed text format.

5. Does Xoterm read XLIFF files?

No. Currently, Xoterm reads TMX files only. The ability to read XLIFF tops the "to do" list.

6. Which text editors are supported?

Xoterm is a standalone TMX viewer, quite functional on its own. However, when triggered by a user-defined shortcut, Xoterm can access selected text from other applications, and use it as a search term.

Xoterm can access selected text in any application with the following methods:

- If the text editor supports MacOSX's **Accessibility** technology, and if Accessibility is enabled in the System preferences, Xoterm can access selected text seamlessly.
- If the text editor is **Microsoft Word**, Xoterm accesses selected text through a built-in AppleScript. (*Tested on Microsoft Office Mac 2008.*)
- For other applications, a "service menu item" is provided. For technical reasons this service cannot be triggered by a keyboard shortcut – you'll have to select it manually.
- If you're interested in making Xoterm work with a particular application, please contact me and perhaps it will be supported in an upcoming version.

For more information about Accessibility, see www.apple.com/accessibility/macosx/vision.html.

7. Can I open multiple TMX windows?

No. Xoterm would then become similar to a document-based application, with the added complexity this entails. (I may reconsider this depending on user feedback.)

8. Can I filter or search for all TMX metadata?

No, this typically wouldn't be very useful for everyday translation work. Again, the goal is to keep the user interface as simple as possible. The complete TMX specification is a quite complex format.

9. How about fuzzy matches, concordance, spell checking, etc, etc...?

No.

10. Why doesn't Xoterm show up in the dock/the Application switcher?

Because it's a "status menu item" (LSUIElement) application and doesn't have a main menu bar. Apple doesn't want such applications to show up in the dock or the Application switcher.

11. Is Xoterm free?

Xoterm is a tool for professionals. You won't use it unless it saves you time and money. Please encourage further development by making a contribution of **USD 25.00** to PayPal account joakim.braun@jfbraun.com.

12. Where do I report bugs and make suggestions?

E-mail me at joakim.braun@jfbraun.com.

13. Acknowledgements

Transparent controls from Brandon Walkin's excellent **BWToolkit** library (brandonwalkin.com/bwtoolkit).

14. Version history

1.0a	July 18, 2011	First release.
------	---------------	----------------

TMX Panel

Note: Every TMX file consists of multiple *translation units* (text segments).
Every translation unit contains multiple *variants* (versions of the segment text in different languages).

Search field

Enter search term here.

Translation units

Containing the search term.
Source text on the left side,
target text on the right side.

Source language button

Translation unit variants
to display in the left
section of the panel.

Source language text

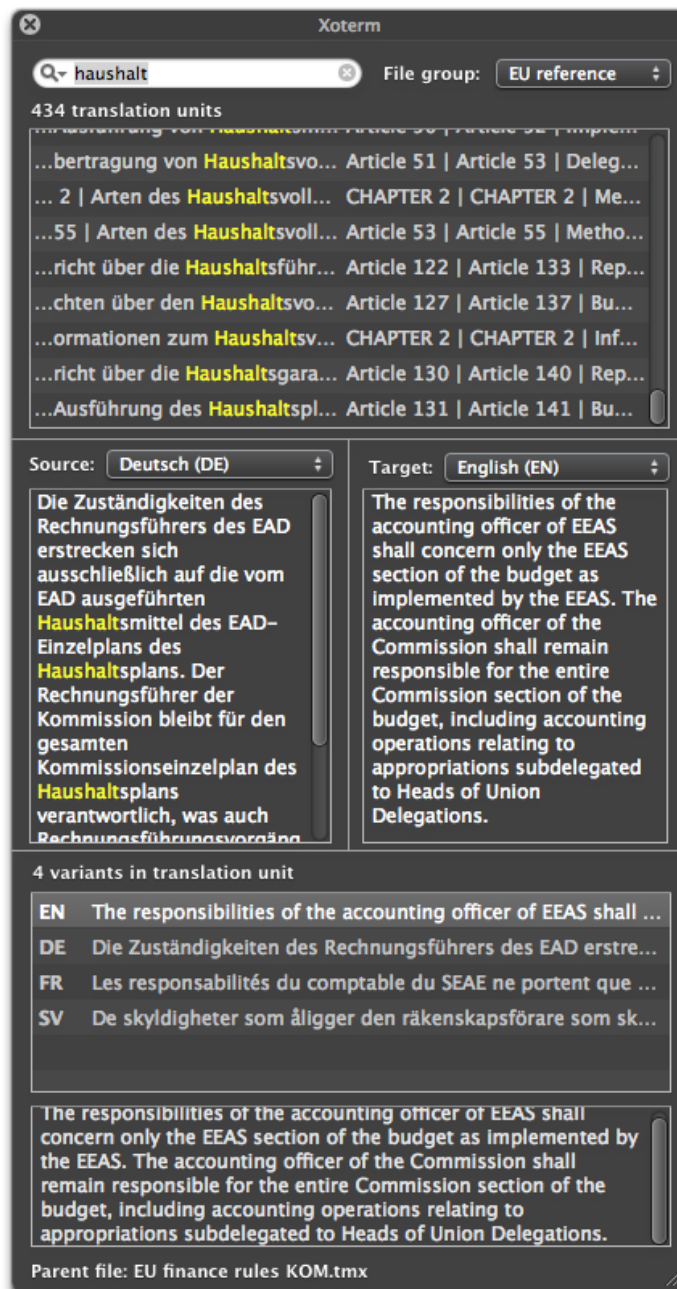
Text of the translation unit
variant of the source language.

All variants

All available language versions
of the text of the selected
translation unit.

Selected variant text

Text of the selected
language variant.



TMX file group

User-configurable list
of TMX files to load and
search in.

Target language button

Translation unit variants
to display in the right
section of the panel.

Target language text

Text of the translation unit
variant of the target language.

Parent file

A TMX file group consists of multiple files, and so the displayed translation units may originate from different parent files. This label indicates the selected translation unit's parent file.



Adding TMX files to the panel

If you'd like to use TMX files that are not in the TMX file group, simply **drop them on the panel from Finder**. Their TMX content will be added to existing content. (Press **Shift** while dragging to clear existing TMX content before loading the dropped file).

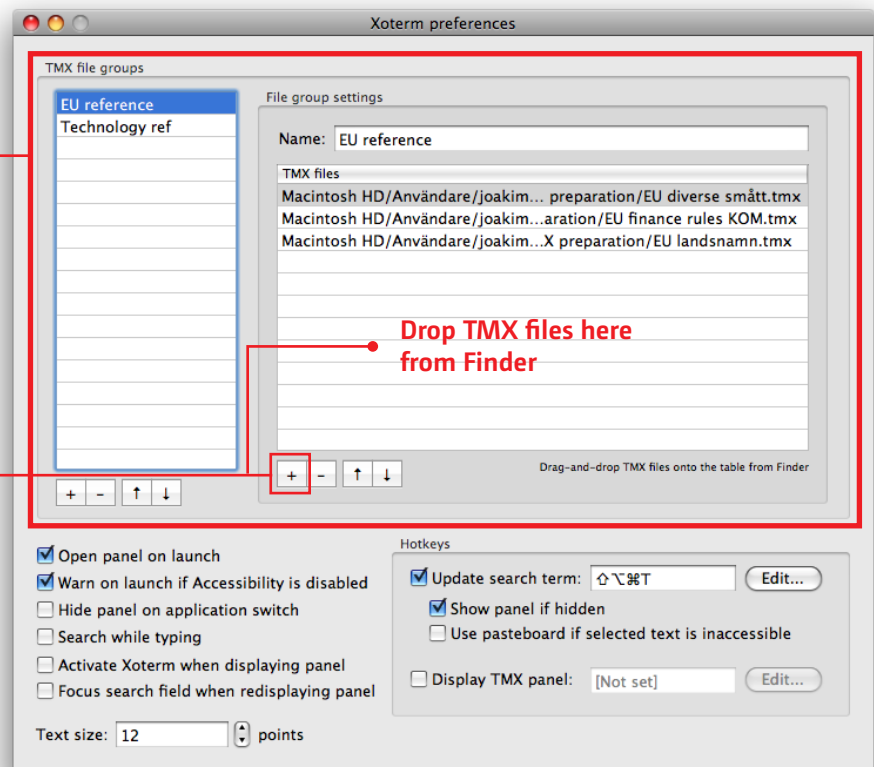
Preferences dialog

TMX file groups

Each file group consists of a number of TMX files that are loaded into the TMX panel and searched as a group. You typically create different file groups for different types of translation jobs.

Adding TMX files

Use the **+** button to add a new TMX file, or **drag-and-drop** TMX files onto the table from Finder.



Open panel on launch

Whether the TMX panel should be displayed once Xoterm has started.

Warn on launch if Accessibility is disabled

“Accessibility” is the built-in MacOS technology for assistive technologies. Xoterm uses Accessibility to access selected text in other applications as search terms. If Accessibility is disabled, a warning will be shown when Xoterm launches, if this box is checked.

Hide panel on application switch

Typically, a translator works in a single word processor and the TMX panel is useless in other applications. If this box is checked, the panel is automatically hidden when other applications become active.

Whenever the TMX panel is displayed (triggered by a hotkey), Xoterm remembers the active application at that point and hides the TMX panel when other applications become active (frontmost).

Search while typing

Whether the TMX panel should filter the translation memories as you type, or delay the search until the return key is pressed.

Activate Xoterm when displaying panel

Whether Xoterm should activate when the TMX panel is displayed. In this case, keyboard focus shifts from the active application (your text editor) to the search field of the TMX panel. If this box is unchecked, you'll need to click on the TMX panel to type in the search field.

Focus search field when displaying panel

Whether Xoterm should move latent keyboard focus to the search field when the TMX panel is shown. Note that keyboard focus doesn't actually shift until Xoterm is activated (by clicking on the TMX panel).

Text size

The size, in points, of text in the TMX panel.

Hotkey: Update search term

The global keyboard shortcut to press to update the search term to the selected text of the active application.

Show panel if hidden

Whether to automatically display the TMX panel when updating the search term.

Use pasteboard if selected text is inaccessible

Xoterm attempts to access selected text in other applications using several methods. If they all fail to return any text, this setting enables Xoterm to use the pasteboard (clipboard) contents instead. This can be useful if you are using a text editor other than Microsoft Word that doesn't support Accessibility.

Hotkey: Display panel

Toggles TMX panel visibility, without updating the search term.