
Mandrake GNU/Linux Arabization Project Status (MAPS)

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This document is the documentation for the Arabic related bugs in the current Mandrake release. This document will be updated regularly and almost everything is subject to change.

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Introduction

Legal Notice

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Intended Audience

This document is mainly for Developers.

About this Document

This document is meant to serve as a one-stop location that provides all Arabic-related issues with Mandrake. It serves as a status page and a place of coordinating the Arabization efforts in Mandrake. In short, if you want to know what's missing regarding the Arabic Support in Mandrake take a look at <http://www.arabeyes.org/download/documents/distros/mdkarabicsupport-en/>.

About me

A Mandrake Club member who is happy with Mandrake and looking forward to help Linux maturing its Arabic support.

Credits

As with any effort for the Linux project, there are a number of people who contributed to this document.

Thanks to:

- All the folks on the arabeyes.org mailing lists who contributed suggestions and gently showed me the errors in my way.
- Mr. Pablo Saratxaga of Mandrake cooker-i18n mailing list for his many great contributions, numerous bug fixes and modifications.

Feedback

Please send any questions, comments, suggestions, corrections, or contributions via e-mail to the 'doc' mailing list at <http://lists.arabeyes.org/mailman/listinfo/doc>. This document will be updated regularly.

Brief Overview

Mandrake 9.2 (FiveStar) supports Arabic but many issues exist. These are recent bugs and issues related mostly to Arabic. Please feel free to help in any possible way.

Installation bugs

- If one chooses the Arabic keyboard during the installation, the BACKSPACE key doesn't work during the installation. For example, when I type the password, I can't use BACKSPACE to delete it.

Pablo: During install old xmodmap system is used; I will look at the xmodmap.ar file

what is the problem. I don't see absolutely anything wrong! I attach you the xmodmap file, you can load it with xmodmap command (eg: xmodmap filename). I load it and the backspace key works fine for me... after install, the Arabic layout is from

```
/usr/X11R6/lib/X11/xkb/symbols/pc/ar
```

Inspite of Mr Pablo's comment, it still doesn't work!!

- Upon the installation one will be faced with the dialog box of "Please choose a language to use.". Choosing Arabic as the Primary language should enable Arabic during the installation. In Mandrake 9.1 (bamboo) Arabic fonts are not usable to DrakX and hence it's disabled completely in drakxtools in 9.2 (FiveStar). This should be solved instead. Bug 5181 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=5181]

gc say the only remaining problem was not the font size but the fact that the arabic font overided the latin font which eg looks qite weird for french. pablo, there's sg odd somewhere that needs to be fixed.

Mandrake First Time Wizard (drakfw) bug

- Arabic alignment in Mandrake First Time Wizard dialog box is left justified. This should be right justified. The position of the the buttons: `Trash' and `Cancel' when you "Move to Trash" a file or `Delete' and `Cancel' when you "delete" a file. Other dialog boxes faces the same problem, e.g. locale-drake's `OK' and `Cancel' button should be in the reverse order in Arabic. Also on the dialog box of typing a password (kdesu program), the "keep password" checkbox should go to the right. Bug 5184 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=5184] (update: for locale-drake's `OK' and `Cancel' are on the reverse order in the English version itself so this has nothing to do with the bug. But in kedit if you modify a document and tried to close it without saving, the dialog box's `Yes', `No' and `Cancel' buttons should reverse the order when the interface is Arabic but this is not the case.)

rpmdrake bugs

- If the Arabic description of a package (in rpmdrake) contain a comma, the Arabic translation should use an ARABIC COMMA (U+060C) not the one used now. You can find this in many packages such as: locales-ar. Also when lanuching rpmdrake on the message "Please wait, finding available packages..." (the comma after wait). Also, in the option "All packages, alphabetical".
- in rpmdrake, when using an rtl locale such as ar or he, some strings are badly rendered, ie they're wrongly rendered as rtl strings whereas they really are ltr. whereas, it's not such a problem for packages description, it's a real bug for paths such as in package content listing. Bug 6581 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=6581]

XFree bug

- In all applications (KWord, OpenOffice, Konqueror, kedit, gedit, dia, ...) accelerator values such as Ctrl+A don't work if the language chosen is not English and "Enable keyboard layouts" is checked in KDE Control Center (kcontrol). Hence, if I was writing in Arabic, I can't use Ctrl+C, Ctrl+V, Ctrl+A, ... to copy, paste, select all, ... respectively!! Everything works fine if keyboarddrake, from Mandrake Control Center, is used to set the language but there is no option to display an icon to switch the language in kicker then. Bug 69458 [http://bugs.kde.org/show_bug.cgi?id=69458] (Fixed in CVS but haven't verified it yet)

locales-ar bug

- locale -c yesexpr noexpr gives wrong output in case of Arabic locale. This should be fixed in locales-ar and maybe glibc. Bug 6482 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=6482]
- If locales-ar (or any other language btw) is installed after the install of the system; you would also want to edit: /etc/rpm/macros to add it ("ar") to the %_install_langs macro; otherwise the translation files coming in the rpm packages won't get installed when you install/update an rpm package. Bug 6588 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=6588]

Fonts issues

- XFree86's bitmap font doesn't excludes the Arabic glyphs due to a problem of memory optimization. This should be solved.
- The Arabic font kacst-qr which is used by default in Mandrake for the Arabic interface has some serious issues which need to be corrected. Mapping of characters doesn't seem to conform with Unicode, e.g. SQUARE BRACKETS (U+005B and U+005D), ASTERISK (U+002A), ARABIC FIVE POINTED STAR (U+066D), dashes, ... has been mapped into other symbols (sometimes Koranic annotation signs). The problem is serious because this font when used in the shell to display commands, like pstree, that use chars \342 \224 \234 \342 \224 \200 will display garbage.
- We need to have a freely distributable font covering all the Arabic letters with the supplementary glyphs needed for other languages like Farsi and Urdu (most of them are easy as they are just variations in number of points over/under base letters, only 3-4 letters need specific drawing); but I - Pablo- can't do it myself, as I don't know enough about scalable font editing. If more glyphs could be added it would be perfect. Particularly interesting and easy are: U0679, U067E, U0686, U0688, U0691, U0698, U06A9, U06AF, U06C7. Digits U06F0-U06F9. Those need a bit more design: U06BA, U06CC, U06D2, U06D5. With those 23 extra characters it would cover also Farsi and Urdu. We can modify either Urdu Nastaliq Unicode to include: ALEF WITH HAMZA ABOVE (U+0623), YEH (U+064A), TEH MARBUTA (U+0629), ALEF MAKSURA (U+649), or Kacst-qr to include the Urdu and Farsi glyphs.

Shells bugs

- Shells allow for Arabic input and display with some rendering, shaping/joining problems that should be solved.
- The shell doesn't refresh the text displayed if its window is minimized then maximized again.
- Hyphenation is not displayed properly in konsole, rxvt, gnome-terminal, ... when the "ar_SA" locale is used to display a man page or using the less pager Bug 6479

[http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=6479]. This thread
[<http://mail.gnu.org/archive/html/bug-groff/2003-07/msg00033.html>] seems to be related to the bug.

- Deleting Arabic text in terminals in response to an interactive command using BACKSPACE will delete the question itself!

When you type any interactive command in the console (e.g. `rm -i`), you will be faced with a question such as:

```
rm: remove regular file `filename'?
```

Now, if you switch to Arabic and type some Arabic letters then BACKSPACE to delete them, you will delete letters from the question itself which is equal to the number of the typed Arabic letters. Looks as if something concerned with Arabic being double byte and the UTF-8 encoding. This problem is in `konsole`, `xterm`, `mlterm`, `gnome-terminal`, ... Bug 5645 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=5645] (update: if you type any Arabic letter in a shell's prompt, you won't see it, this happen in all of them except `gnome-terminal`, try to discover where has it gone ;))

Application issues

KOffice issue

- `koffice-i18n-ar` should be built and included in the CD.

Katoob issue

- An rpm for Mandrake 9.2 is needed. The SPEC file is at <http://cvs.mandrakesoft.com/cgi-bin/cvsweb.cgi/contrib-SPECS/katoob/>

Vim issue

comming soon...

Mozilla issue

To install the Arabic interface for Mozilla, there is an installable language pack (*.xpi). One small compressed archive containing just the localized resources and an installer script. A user with Mozilla installed, can have Arabic available just with one click at:

<http://www.4-sms.com/users/mozilla/index.php?action=get&file=langar-1.4-0.1.xpi>

- mozilla-i18n-ar should be built and included in the CD.

PostArabic issue

The PostArabic package provides Arabic shaping functionality for PostgreSQL. <http://dcmmms.sourceforge.net/postarabic.php>

- A mandrake rpm should be built.

LyX bug

- An error if the first paragraph is double-spaced. Bug 1404 [http://bugzilla.lyx.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1404]

ArabTeX bugs

- ^ and @ doesn't show properly in ArabTeX.
- tetex-latex-arab in Mandrake 9.2 is old and contains an error in the spec file that duplicates files in the hard drive and hence eating valuable space, besides it's an old buggy version too. Bug 5712 [http://qa.mandrakesoft.com/show_bug.cgi?id=5712]

I have made a new tetex-latex-arab-3.11d-1mdk.noarch.rpm and now it's on cooker.

KPrayerTime issue

- I need to upload an rpm and vote for it to be included.

Arabic translation issues

- The translation should be completed and checked (QA). <http://www.linux-mandrake.com/110n/ar.php3>
- Duali should be run on any translated file before submitting to cvs.
- check the translation against KDE i18n howto, Arabeyes.org Arabic Translation howto and other howtos and take care of things such as “Think of a file manager, where you can open a context menu on a file and select View to view the file. In this context View is a verb. Additionally the window of the file manager has a menu View in the menubar. In this context View is a noun.”

MkLiveCD - Mandrake LiveCD build scripts

I10n Problems

- coming soon...

Wishlist

The Arabic community suggests that Mandrake will be much better if they considered the following:

- CVS repository for managing the translation of Mandrake. I am still waiting for Mr Pablo's response...
- The day when we say bugs? What are these? ;)