

# C-4 Scoping: Reimplement Internationalization

## Proposal

Registry should switch from custom internationalization to a language or package based system.

## Options

1. Maintain the current custom implementation.
2. Switch to the [CakePHP mechanism](#).
3. Use PHP native [gettext](#).
4. Use PHP native [Internationalization libraries](#).

## Evaluation Criteria

1. The selected internationalization system must support language keys (eg: "fd.title") rather than default to untranslated English strings (eg: "title"). This is to avoid context and disambiguation problems. (Is "read" a command or a status?)
2. The selected internationalization system must support partial translations (ie: merging together an incomplete translation with a default or parent translation) at a CO or platform level.
3. The selected internationalization system must support plugins.
4. The selected internationalization system must support dynamic overrides (ie: those stored in a database to localize specific phrases) at a CO level.
5. The selected internationalization system must support enumerations, though how [enumerations](#) will be handled in v4.0.0 is not yet determined.
6. The selected internationalization system should support the [ICU](#) standard.

## Benefits

1. Elimination of custom code.
2. "Industry standard" translation approach will be familiar to more people.

## Drawbacks

1. All text localizations may need to be re-implemented (eg: from `_txt()` to `__( )`).

## Conclusion

 TBD

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