

Actions Tech. Note 3

Draft 1.0

Localising Freeway Actions

Freeway 3.0 was designed for localisation, and to support multiple localisation. Freeway 3.0 J, for example, has a switchable interface this means that it is possible to use the same copy of Freeway with either a Japanese Interface or an English Interface. To accommodate this multiple localisation of the same product the Freeway 3 actions language was extended to make it possible to produce Freeway Actions with multiple localisation's.

So what does this all mean? Basically and text that appears in the interface of Freeway can be localised for different regions. So a single Freeway action can have both the text for an English version, and a Japanese version. Freeway will correctly use the version of the string that is appropriate. This means:

- An English version of Freeway will always use the English text
- A Japanese version of Freeway (which has a switchable interface) will use the Japanese text for when in Japanese mode, but will use the English text if in English mode.
- A Japanese version of Freeway in Japanese mode will display the Action's Interface in English if there is no Japanese form of the text available.

Most localisation of Freeway Actions is achieved through the use of the title and region property. In all places where you parameters have a name that appears in the interface they have been extended to support a title property. The title property will be the text that is displayed in the interface. So of you have a parameter:

```
<action-number name="x" title="Fish">
```

It will appear in the interface as:



But will be accessed as the parameter "x" e.g.

```
myVar = fwParameters.x
```

All titles have a region associated with them. By default this region is US (region 0), however you can set the region of by preceding a title with a region code. The region for Japan is 14. The Japanese for fish (written in roman) is "Sakana". To make the words "Sakana" in the interface when running in Japanese mode you would write.

```
<action-number name="x" title="Fish" region=14 title="Sakana">
```

All interface elements within Freeway are drawn in the font that is appropriate to the region of the software. So when you running the Japanese version of Freeway in Japanese mode your Interface elements will be displayed in a font (normally Osaka) capable of displaying Japanese. This font allows you to display Japanese characters - and you can enter them using your preferred text editor. The best thing to do is to ensure that you have the font in which your text

file is displayed set to a Japanese font so that you can read the text - otherwise editing can become very difficult.

```
<action-number name="x" title="Fish" region=14 title="魚">
```

The interface element will look like this:



In addition to the Title property, the action-version tag can be localised. For multiple localisation's you should just duplicate the tag in order to indicate the region for which the localisation is intended. The Softpress rollover action, for example, has the following localisation:

English:

```
<action-version version="2.04">  
"Rollover" Action  
Softpress Systems Limited 1999, 2000  
</action-version>
```

Japanese:

```
<action-version version="2.04" region=14>  
"___[___l[_o_]" _A_N_V____  
Softpress Systems Limited 1999, 2000  
</action-version>
```

The region codes that are supported by Freeway are codes that are defined by Apple. They are as follows:

US	0
France	1
Britain	2
Germany	3
Italy	4
Netherlands	5
Flemish	6
Sweden	7
Spain	8
Denmark	9
Portugal	10
FrCanada	11
Norway	12
Israel	13
Japan	14
Australia	15
Arabic	16
Finland	17
FrSwiss	18
GrSwiss	19
Greece	20
Iceland	21
Malta	22
Cyprus	23
Turkey	24
YugoCroatian	25

However, it is worth noting that there are currently only localisation's for US and Japan.

Within JavaScript it is possible to access the interface region through the global property `fwRegion`. Using this property it is possible to write JavaScript that is localised to the interface. Consider the following example:

```
if (fwRegion = 14)
  alert("魚")
else
  alert("Fish")
```

NOTE: the `fwRegion` property is **different** from the page encoding `fwEncoding`. The page encoding gives the encoding (may well be Japanese) that the page is. This is not related to the interface. You can for, example, prepare Japanese pages on an English version of Freeway and vice versa.