ASTRANSAC - TOSHIBA MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM

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Toshiba has been involved in the research and development of machine translation (MT) systems for nearly two decades. Since its introduction in 1987, our first commercial English-to-Japanese/Japanese-to-English system ASTRANSAC has served professional translators by supporting the entire translation process, from text input by OCR to DTP output.

Witnessing the recent dramatic changes in the computer field, particularly in terms of the improved performance of personal computers and the rapid spread of the Internet, we newly developed MT products for more general users, which now come in four types each tuned for specific purposes, document type, and platform, as listed in Table 1. At the exhibition, there will be a demonstration of our PC-based systems.

ASTRANSAC for Internet, the latest of our series, assists Japanese PC users in reading English pages on the World Wide Web (WWW) by working with a WWW browser such as Netscape Navigator[1] or Microsoft Internet Explorer. The quality of translation is maintained by its standard translation dictionary with 230,000 entries, including 3,000 Internet terms. Figure 1 shows the system's sample output with the translation result on top and the source text at the bottom. In addition, the current version carries a Japanese-to-English engine as well.

This July, we started machine translation services on the Internet[2]. Upon users' request either by e-mail or through the access to our homepage, the system carries out translation and sends back the result by e-mail, along with a list of candidates for user-defined terms. Users who wish to update their dictionaries may provide the corresponding translations so that they can be added to each user's dictionaries which are all managed at the service center.

Table 1. Product List of ASTRANSAC

Product Name	Platform	Document	Purpose
ASTRANSAC	EWS	Text	Industry Translation
ASTRANSAC C/S[3]	EWS	Text	Network-based service
ASTRANSAC/Web	EWS	HTML	Network-based service
ASTRANSAC for Windows	PC	Text	Personal Use
ASTRANSAC for Internet	PC	HTML	Personal Use

Figure 1 Translation Example by
ASTRANSAC for Internet

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[1] Here Netscape Navigator is used. Netscape Navigator is a trademark of Netscape Communications.

[2] The service is available at http://softpark.jplaza.com.

[3] C/S stands for "Client Server Model." The client program runs on a UNIX-based WS and a Windows-based PC.