

Computer-assisted translation

Computer-assisted translation, **Computer Aided Translation** or **CAT** is a form of [translation](#) wherein a human translator translates texts using [computer software](#) designed to support and facilitate the [translation process](#).

Computer-assisted translation is sometimes called machine-assisted, or machine-aided, translation.

Computer-assisted translation vs. Machine translation

Although the two concepts are similar, computer-assisted translation should not be confused with [machine translation](#) (MT).

In computer-assisted translation, the computer program supports the translator, who translates the text himself, making all the essential decisions involved, whereas in machine translation, the translator supports the machine, that is to say that the computer or program **translates** the text, which is then **edited** by the translator, or not edited at all. Difficulties with such unedited output are described at [machine translation](#).

Overview

Computer-assisted translation is a broad and imprecise term covering a range of tools, from the fairly simple to the more complicated. These can include:

- Spell checkers, either built into [word processing](#) software, or add-on programs;
- Grammar checkers, again either built into word processing software, or add-on programs;
- [terminology](#) managers, allowing the translator to manage his own terminology bank in an electronic form. This can range from a simple table created in the translator's word processing software or spreadsheet, a database created in a program such as [FileMaker Pro](#) (almost a standard in the translation industry) or [Microsoft Access](#), or, for more robust (and more expensive) solutions, specialized software packages such as LogiTerm, MultiTerm, Termex, etc.
- Dictionaries on [CD-ROM](#), either unilingual or bilingual
- Terminology databases, either on CD-ROM or accessible through the Internet, (such as [TERMIUM](#) or [Grand dictionnaire terminologique](#) from the [Office québécois de la langue française](#))
- Full-text searches (or indexers), which allow the user to query already translated texts or reference documents of various kinds. In the translation industry one finds such indexers as Naturel, ISYS and dtSearch.
- [Concordancers](#), which are programs that retrieve instances of a word or an expression in a monolingual, bilingual or multilingual corpus.

- [Bitexts](#), a fairly recent development, the result of merging a source text and its translation, which can then be consulted using a full-text search tool.
- [Translation memory](#) managers (TMM), tools consisting of a [database](#) of text segments in a source language and their translations in one or more target languages.

External links

CAT Discussion groups

- [Trados 6.5](#)

Translation memory packages

- [Alchemy Catalyst](#)
- [D_u Vu](#)
- [CATCount](#)
- [Heartsome Translation Suite](#)
- [MetaTaxis](#)
- [MLTS](#)
- [MultiCorpora MultiTrans](#)
- [MultiLing Fortis Translation Suite](#)
- [OmegaT](#)
- [Passolo](#)
- [SDLX](#)
- [STAR Transit](#)
- [Trados Translators Workbench](#)
- [Traid](#)
- [T-Remote Memory](#)
- [WordFast](#)

Other tools

- [CATCount](#)

Computer Assisted Translation Tools Indexes

- [Translation tools index by Translatum](#)
- [Translation tools index by Google Directory](#)

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