

Trados Studio apps/plugins for machine translation

For a long time now, I've been intrigued by the very large number of apps/plugins in the Studio appstore which give access – free or paid – to various types of machine translation services and facilities. Since I have lately found that the use of MT may give surprisingly good results at least for En > Sv (as well as completely useless ones), I was curious to know more about all these various options. Below is a brief overview of what I found trying to explore them to the best of my ability.

Some general observations:

- Several of the plugins offer to build MT engines based on your own TMs (with some of them, that's the only option) and, in some cases, also termbase data. This requires fairly big TMs – typically at least 80,000 TUs – for reasonable usefulness. This type of service of course also means full confidentiality (you are its only user). However, normally such an engine suffers the same problem as other MT engines: it is not updated while you translate; you have to rebuild the it with the new TM data – and that will take some time. Newer engines, however, gives the possibility of adding fragments as you go (SDL's Adaptive MT does this automatically, but only for some language combinations), but for full usage of all new TUs, the engine must be rebuilt.
- Some plugins require you to sign up for an account, free or paid, but details about that is not always provided with the plugin/app. Others require purchase of a specific tool, or purchase of internet-based services – but again, this is not always stated in the presentation of the app.
- Those details are sometimes not the only thing that is lacking. I have tried to provide such information below; in some cases extensive text is necessary, and if so, it is provided in the Studio manual.

I have not been able to try all plugins – in particular, I have not had any MT engines built based on my own TMS – but generally I believe that for most common language pairs, you may get unexpectedly good results from the “big” options: SDL Language Cloud, Google Translate, and Microsoft Translator (which means that also MyMemory may be a good option).

This document will of course be updated (e.g. prices and availability of language pairs will change), so any comments/additions/corrections are more than welcome.

Note on confidentiality: “Full” means that the service provider (if that is the case) will not make your data available to others. But as with the data on your own computer, they are of course susceptible to hacker and similar attacks. And of course, for services over the internet you need a safe (https) connection.

App name	Comment	Web page for account/API key/order/info	Language combinations	Price	Confidentiality
AltLang MT for language varieties	For automatic adaptation of content into different varieties of the same language.	API key by asking help@prompsit.com.	Aimed at language variant conversion (e.g. American English-British English). Supports variants for Spanish (es_ES-es_LATAM),	Free. (Enhancement or adaptation comes at a cost.)	Full.

			French (fr_FR-fr_CA), Portugueses (pt_PT-pt_BR) and English (en_UK-en_GB) ; see AltLang Main Page .		
CMLess Trados Studio	An instruction booklet for the Studio plug-in, SYSTRAN CMLess Trados Studio, can be obtained by asking for it via e-mail (support.team@systrangroup.com). In Studio, this app is listed as "SYSTRAN". Documentation sent on request.	Systran.io link or Enterprise server link	19 languages (mainly major European languages + some minor ones). 34 language pairs.	Free (systran.io); paid (Enterprise Services, which has many options).	The free service is not secured. The paid service is.
Convertus Automated Translation	Engines can be updated with user's TM.		Swedish/Finnish > English, English > Swedish	Free.	Full.
Google Translate	Not an app. Offered by default as one of the TMs listed when you select Use. It is also available via the MT Enhance Trados Plugin; that plugin offers further provider options (see below). The results are often suprisingly good.	Open account or sign in at cloud.google.com ; then Go to console > Getting Started > Enable APIs and get credentials like keys.	> 100 languages; see Language Support .	Per month pro rata; for 0–1.5 bn characters it is \$20 per mn. See Pricing . Trial (to days, up to \$300 value) is free. There is also a Premium edition.	"When you send Google text for translation, we must store that text for a short period of time in order to perform the translation and return the results to you. The stored text is typically deleted in a few hours, although occasionally we will retain it for longer while we perform debugging and other testing." For more, see Data confidentiality .
Iconic Machine Translation Plugin	In Studio, this app is listed as "IPTranslator Plugin". For information, see link .	Link for contact	En <>9 languages incl. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian. See link .	Depends on need. "A company has a translation need for a particular use case and come to us and we assess the suitability / feasibility of the project from our perspective, and from an MT perspective in general."	Full.
KantanMT API connector for Trados Studio	API Key obtained by subscribing. Your own TM(s) can be used to customise the engines.	Video instruction here . Subscription at €499/month . Subscription at €999/month .	Over 580 language pairs.	Pricing from €499/month.	Full.
Microsoft Translator API	Not an app. Available via the MT Enhance Trados Plugin and the RyS Microsoft Translator plugin. The API is obtained via the Windows Azure Marketplace. Information/overview in pdf here . The results are often suprisingly good.	Azure link	52 (including 2 Klingon variants)	Free for < 20 mn characters per month. See this Data page .	"Microsoft Translator does not use the text you submit for translation for any purpose other than to provide and improve Translator, including improvements to the quality and accuracy of translations provided by Translator. (...) The text we use to improve Translator is limited to a sample of not more than 10% of randomly selected, non-consecutive sentences from the text you submit, and we mask or delete numeric strings of characters and email addresses that may be present in the samples of

					text." For more, see the Translator Privacy Statement
Moses plug-in for SDL Trados	<p>You need a pre-built Moses engine. Jon Olds tells me that there are various options:</p> <p>1) Buy Slate Desktop, which is a version of Moses for Windows. PrecisionTranslationTools is the vendor.</p> <p>2) Install VirtualBox and build a Moses machine on a Ubuntu VM. This works well for translating, but the training stage may be less successful unless you have a lot of RAM. This option would cost you nothing other than time.</p> <p>3) Use Amazon Web Services and work with Moses in the Cloud. There's a small per hour charge by AWS.</p> <p>(In Studio, this app is listed as "Link up a Moses server with SDL Trados".)</p>		Any – depends on your engine.	None, I think (but the use of the app needs a pre-built engine which may entail costs).	Full. since you use your own data.
MyMemory	<p>Uses (1) your own uploaded TM [if any], (2) public TMs, (3) Google and Microsoft.</p> <p>Also Pro version with CustomMT; it includes an "Adaptive MT" function. Offers free TMs in .tmx format. Further information here and here.</p> <p>See also text in the Studio manual.</p>	MyMemory link	Very large number.	Basic version free. Pro version €0.004/source word (but a free trial for 7000 words).	Basic use: Option not to update segments, in which case there is full confidentiality. If you update them, they will be available to other translators (but not Google or Microsoft). You can also select to use your private TM in which case that is what is updated, giving full confidentiality.
Prompsit MT Plugin	Uses the free/open-source platform Apertium for rule-based machine translation systems.	Get API key by asking via email (help@prompsit.com).	Aimed at <i>related</i> -language pairs (e.g. Swedish-Danish). 43 pairs from 29 languages (leaning towards Romance, Scandinavian and South-Slavic languages with some outsiders); see the Apertium Main Page .	Free. (Enhancement or adaptation comes at a cost.)	Full.
RyS Google Cloud Translate (NMT)	<p>Gives "reliable and quick access to Google Neural Machine Translation System" and "comes with a robust, while easy-to-use, pre-and-post-editing feature that will instruct Google NMT not to translate some elements in a source segment, terms or sensitive information, for example, but to return position information instead and let the plug-in itself fill these 'gaps' later with the information you provide in the plug-in's Pre-and-Post-Editing List".</p> <p>Google's neural MT is not available for all language pairs; but the post-editing function seems interesting.</p> <p>(In Studio, this app is listed as "Google Cloud Translate by RyStudio".)</p>	User instructions provided on request (I recommend you to do so).	As for Google Translate.	For use of the app: US\$18 per license.	Same as for Google Translate above. You can select not to return translations.
RyS Microsoft Translator	Can use your own TMs as well as Microsoft Translator. The results seem to be very much the same as MS	User instructions provided on request (in this case you can manage without).	As for Microsoft Translator.	For use of the app: US\$8 per license.	Same as for Microsoft Translate above. You can select not to return translations.

	Translator via the MT Enhance Trados Plugin (see above). (In Studio, this app is listed as "Microsoft Translator by RyStudio".)				
SDL Language Cloud	Built into Studio. Offers both "basic" MT and specialised MT engines. Also allows use of termbases. For detailed information, see the LC homepage and the Trados Studio manual.	Via Studio. (Or start here.)	A lot, but for non-European languages only pairs of Xx > En are supported.	Free or paid (staggered) depending on what serviced you require. Price list here.	Full.
Slate Desktop translation provider	The app gives access from within Studio to the Slate Desktop software, which creates MT engines (no limit) based on your own TMs and termbases. Video instructions here. For user experiences, see for instance here and here.	Start here.	32 languages; 992 language pairs.	Slate Desktop lifetime license. One language pair: \$269 All language pairs: \$549 30-day trial period with money-back guarantee.	Full.
Sunda Translator	Uses Sunda's own MT engines.		En <> Fi	€44 for one month in either direction. More prices in Price List . For free trial, see Sunda Translator in SDL Trados Studio .	Full.
Tauyou Machine Translation Plugin	The app gives access from within Studio to the tauyou software, which creates MT engines (no limit) based on your own TMs and termbases.	Request account at info@tauyou.com .	"Many language combinations" including combinations of all the major languages.	€990 per month and server; includes up to 20 engines, up to 1 mn words/ month and 4 hrs of ongoing improvement. No free demo, but trial period can be requested.	Full.
Tilde Machine Translation plug-in	Creates custom MT engines based on your own TM and terbase data, providing the full range of professional customization services. Users can also customize their own engines on the Tilde MT platform using resources from Tilde's multilingual data repository.	Link for free trial.	Any language combination.	Free 30 day trial period (includes customization of client's system). After that monthly subscription fee with a price per engine.	Full.
Transistent API Connector	Creates MT engines based on your own TM and terbase data.		Any language combination.	A charge for "training" of the engine based on your TM; depends on volume. For use: ca .01/word.	Full.
VERTO LinguaCustoda	Uses customised MT engines. No reply to repeated questions for information.		Probably depends on your material.	See here.	Probably full.

In future, I would like to be able to supplement this information with the corresponding data about MT plugins for other CAT tools, starting with Déjà Vu, memoQ, and Memsource. For the time being, I know that these are the plugins for:

- *Déjà Vu*: PROMT, Omniscien
- *memoQ*: Google Translate, Microsoft Translator, itranslate4.eu, SYSTRAN, LetsMT!, Omniscien, MyMemory, KantanMT, Crosslang MT, Slate Desktop, PangeaMT, MyDutchPal, Tauyou

- *Memsorce*: Google Translate, Microsoft Translator, SYSTRAN, tauyou, Apertium, Omniscien, KantanMT, LetsMT, PangeanMT, Safaba, MoraviaMT, NICT, PROMT, Tilde, SDL LanguageCloud, tauyou.