



ITI-LRG Newsletter



Issue 37

[www.iti-
lrg.org.uk](http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk)

May 2014

From the Editor

Welcome to the Spring edition of the LRG Newsletter!

This issue features several reviews of three interesting events that have taken place in the past few weeks, including LRG's annual Meet the Client evening and a transcreation workshop. I would like to thank the many LRG members who kindly have taken the time to write and to contribute all of these reviews.

In the next few pages you will also find a profile of

translator Peter Linton, who shares with us his experience and highlights of working as a translator in London. Peter has also kindly contributed another Tech piece featuring "heartbeat", which is not a medical term but a computer error or "bug"!

I look forward to meeting you and to hearing from you if you have any comments on the Newsletter.

I wish everyone a happy Spring and a good summer!

Lina Molokotos-Liederman, Editor

Forthcoming LRG Events

The LRG offers a regular programme of CPD and social and networking events for its members. We also welcome non-members to these events.

For updates on all upcoming events, please always check the following sites:

Website: <http://www.iti-lrg.org.uk>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ITI-London-Regional-Group/420785661324621?ref=hl>

E-group: uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/iti-lrg/

To subscribe to the LRG e-group: iti-lrg-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk

Twitter: @ITILRG

Joint LRG/EU Revision Workshop

**Monday, 23 June 2014, Europe House
10am – 12:45pm, 1:45pm – 4:30pm**

Europe House, 32 Smith Square, SW1P 3EU
Nearest tube stations: St James Park,
Westminster.

Peter Workman, a senior translator and reviser working for the DGT's English Language Department in Luxembourg, will lead the workshop.

There will be two identical sessions – one in the morning, one in the afternoon – which will enable participants to practice and discuss revision techniques. The workshops will be identical in content and format and will focus on revising translations into EN of FR, DE, ES and IT source texts.

Participants will gain an insight into revision

work and learn about EU revision guidelines and practice. The workshop will be of value to freelance as well as staff translators and revisers, and will also help anyone who has to carry out revision work on his/her own or other people's texts.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and light refreshments will be served at the start of each workshop.

The workshops – sponsored by the generosity of the EU Commission and the ITI London Regional Group – are free.

This event is almost fully booked; please check the Eventbrite link for remaining places.

<http://eu-revision-workshop.eventbrite.co.uk>

NB: Advance booking is essential: no admissions on the door.

Joint LRG / UCL Event

A talk by John Hutchins on Machine Translation

Tuesday, 20 May 2014, 5 – 6 pm

UCL Bloomsbury Campus, Malet Place, Foster Court, room 2.16 (TransCluster), London WC1E 6BT (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/maps>). Nearest tube stations: Goodge Street, Euston Square, Euston, Warren Street.

UCL/LRG are honoured to welcome John Hutchins at UCL (the new home of the MSc Translation, formerly based at Imperial College), where John will give a talk on machine translation.

About John Hutchins:
<http://www.hutchinsweb.me.uk>

This event is free for LRG members and UCL students.

LRG members: please register (this is for security reasons) by sending an email to Daniela Ford (dford@softrans-ltd.com) by Monday, 19 May 2014.

UCL students do NOT need to register.

Annual LRG Pub Crawl

A pub walk around the fascinating Smithfield area of central London, home to markets and fairs since Medieval times.

Thursday, 24 July 2014

Full details on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.

LRG Guided Walk with Roger Bone

Wednesday, 20 August 2014

Meet at 5:45 pm for a prompt 6pm start.

Meet at the Black Friar pub almost opposite Blackfriars station (District and Circle lines).

We are repeating our now very popular annual guided walk in London with our favourite guide. Roger will take us on a literary-based Southwark pub walk by the river. We will stop at three pubs for a drink and rest – the Black Friar, the Market Porter or the Anchor Inn and the George. Roger will also book a table (depending on attendance numbers) at the City Tandoori Restaurant at the back of the George Inn to conclude our evening with a meal.

This event is free for LRG members, £5 for non-LRG members (for the walk only). The meal is optional and at participants' cost. Maximum number of participants is 20.

Please register by 15 August 2014 for both the walk and the meal via Eventbrite.

We will provide the link nearer the time.

Public Service Interpreting in the UK

A talk by Danielle d'Hayer, Associate Professor at London Metropolitan University

Thursday, 11 September, Devereux pub, 6.30 for 7pm

Devereux Pub, Devereux Court, Essex Street, near Strand, London, WC2R 3JJ.

Nearest tube station: Temple or buses to The Strand

Full details on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.

London Language Show, Olympia Exhibition Centre, Kensington, London

Friday to Sunday, 17 – 19 October 2014

Once again, the London Regional Group will be supporting ITI at the London Language Show. We will help to find volunteers for the ITI Stand and will be inviting people to fill in a Doodle poll to indicate their availability.

It is a great way to meet fellow translators and interpreters, talk to people about your professional life and experience and gain CPD points.

We will also be presenting an enhanced, 'A day in the life of a translator' with a slightly new format this year, which will allow participants to meet members of the panel and exchange information and ideas in smaller groups.

Look out for more information in the next Newsletter (August) and on the LRG website.

Talk on MemoQ – a popular online MT system

Wednesday, 26 November 2014

Provisional – full details to be confirmed on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.

ITI London Regional Group 20th Anniversary and Christmas Party

Wednesday, 3 December 2014

Mark your diaries now!

Yes, it's true. This year sees LRG reach the grand age of 20! We are, in fact, one of ITI's youngest regional groups, the North-East having been the first to be established in the very earliest days of the Institute.

For a while, a group of West London-based translators and interpreters met in Chiswick, at the house of Guyonne Proudlock or Pamela Mayorcas, as the Really Interesting Coffee Evening (RICE). After a couple of years, it was agreed that we should join the many networks and regional groups springing up for different languages, subject specialisations and geographical areas. Thus, the ITI London Regional Group was born, under the chairmanship of Philip Hanlon, then Head of Translation at United Distillers, in Hammersmith.

We have become one of the largest of the local groups, with members in London, some of the neighbouring counties and overseas and covering a wide variety of mother tongue and target languages. We organise many CPD and social events for members and non-members; we also publish a regular Newsletter and feature at the London Language Show. We work in close cooperation with the European Commission's DGT at Europe House, the University of Westminster, UCL and LMU.

Look out for news of our exciting 20th Anniversary Party celebrations in the next issue of the Newsletter and on the Yahoo group and website.

Pamela Mayorcas, Co-Chairman, ITI London Regional Group

Recent Event Reviews

LRG Mini-Meet in Chiswick

15 March 2014, Tabbard Pub, Chiswick

The Spring LRG meet-up was scheduled for Saturday, 15 March. Rather unfortunately, this was also the date on which a plethora of transport works occurred across London. For that reason, there were but three of us present: Pamela Mayorcas, Karen Netto and Olivia Clark. This did not, however, restrict the number of topics covered, which ranged from translator identity fraud to rationalising expenditure and even the birth of Olivia's new kittens!

We talked about education, specifically modern languages, which involved mention of the Stephen Spender Trust translators in schools workshop (run by Robina Pelham Burn at Roehampton University on 30 April). We also explored quite extensively the subject of machine translation and suggested that perhaps rewriting and editing assignments could sometimes in fact be the result of machine translation (MT) – something to be wary of! Another very interesting observation made by Pamela was the favourable attitude displayed by journalists towards MT – rather surprising given their authentic understanding both of the complexities of language and the depth of skill required to write good copy. We also covered the pros and cons of various translation software currently available on the market, along with the merits and complexities of using ProZ, which led us (once again!) to the topic of prioritising translator expenditure (on marketing, CPD and qualifications, accountancy, insurance, professional memberships, etc.).

It was very interesting to learn from Pamela and Karen that the tight deadlines and high volumes expected of translators by agencies are in fact unreasonable. Those new to the profession could easily fall into the trap (and perhaps already have) of assuming that these are the output levels generated by other freelancers, thus feeling obliged to work under duress (late

at night) without realising that the best course of action is to try to negotiate a more reasonable timeframe and rate from the outset.

We also talked about various translator qualifications within the context of a lack of a unique and unified, internationally-recognised translator certification. Once again, this was relevant to the subject of prioritising translator expenditure.

At an administrative level, we ventured into the murky territory of VAT numbers in the UK and abroad, as well as payments from abroad. An information leaflet detailing the complexities of this area would certainly be extremely useful to fledgling and accomplished freelancers alike – any experts out there willing to contribute? We also talked about liability insurance and coverage, especially when working with US-based clients. It is interesting to note that some insurance companies are only willing to cover a limited percentage of work for US-based clients (no doubt due to the high risk of litigation) while others categorically do not cover projects involving the US. This is something to consider when bidding for work with US-based clients or when choosing liability insurance coverage.

We also covered the ITI workshop on transcreation, delivered by Percy Balemans, plus another held by Creative Culture in Fulham (both of which were attended by Karen and Olivia). We discussed the very interesting topic of transcreation, namely at which point translation enters into the realm of transcreation. We also wondered who first coined the term. I consequently briefly researched this topic, but did not uncover any definitive etymology. I did, however, find a very nice quote on the subject from Humphrey Tonkin's *The Translator as a Mediator of Cultures*: "... the transcreator is a choreographer of semantics, always moving and multi-dimensional. Transcreation should foment dialogue within languages and constitute an intertext among language systems."

All in all, it was a very enjoyable and informative session, providing much food for thought and gems of wisdom for newcomer translators.

Olivia Clark

If you would like to organise a mini-meet in your area, feel free to use the LRG Yahoo group to announce date, time and venue.

Meet the Client

20 March 2014, University of Westminster

As students coming to the end of our MA course, we are starting to think about the next step. The LRG Meet the Client event, held at our very own University of Westminster, was perfectly timed. It gave us an opportunity to meet people already working in the industry, as well as others who are just starting out.

The event began with time for a quick drink and a chat with the speakers and other attendees. Then there were presentations from each of the four speakers: Claire Suttie from Atlas Translations, James Powell from Transperfect, Lindsay Bywood from Voice & Script International (VSI) and Louise Killeen of Louise Killeen Translations, after which we were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Following a short networking break, the speakers moved around the tables to talk to groups individually and the questions certainly did not stop flowing. It was not only interesting to be able to ask the speakers more specific questions, but also very valuable to hear some stories from other attendees already working as interpreters and translators. As we are relatively new in the field, there are issues we had not yet thought of and speaking to more experienced translators was extremely helpful. These issues ranged from how to work out rates for translation work to whether employers welcome EuroPass CVs (the general consensus is that they do not!).

Our speakers gave us valuable insights into the do's and don't's for CVs and applications. They emphasised the importance of presenting yourself well and showing that you have done your research. Employers are more likely to take notice if you tailor your application to their company so mass emails should be avoided at all costs. We also received advice on how to

structure our CVs and make them stand out. Including hobbies and interests could really make a difference by giving the employer a better impression of your personality and skillset. Louise Killeen mentioned one applicant who managed to impress her with a unique CV despite having little experience in the profession. Lack of experience is one of our main worries, so it was reassuring to know that it is not the only factor employers take into account. Although our speakers gave us similar advice, it is worth noting that each agency has a different application process and some employers may have their own preferences. For instance, anyone applying to VSI should bear in mind that for Lindsay Bywood, sending applications on the weekend is a big no-no. Your email is likely to get lost in her stack of Monday morning emails!

We received some fantastic advice on how to go about gaining experience. LRG's Claire Harmer (a Westminster alumna) talked to us about the mentoring programme on Proz.com, where new translators can gain confidence through feedback and support from a mentor. Nathalie Reis, also from the LRG, had actually been a mentor through that very programme, so we were able to hear about this opportunity from both sides. Although most companies require previous experience for internship positions, there are other opportunities to help graduates get on the career ladder. Transperfect offers proofreading and quality assessment positions, offering newly-qualified translators an alternative way to learn about and experience the translation industry. Louise Killeen Translations employs recent graduates to work in-house and provides them with training and mentoring, which sounds like an ideal opportunity for anyone starting out. VSI offers a range of services including subtitling and dubbing, and there are full-time (albeit unpaid) internship opportunities available for those interested in working in this field.

Hearing the presentations and meeting the speakers in small groups was a great way to find out as much information as possible. The event gave us the opportunity to ask all the questions we could possibly think of about translation and interpreting. There is no doubt

the evening proved extremely successful and we can now all look forward to the next LRG event.

Sarah Nurgat, Freya Jennings

LRG Transcreation Workshop **with Percy Balemans**

4 April 2014, the Devereux Pub, London

What exactly is Transcreation? This was the question on the minds of many of us at the LRG's very well-attended Transcreation Workshop. Two hours later we were certainly a lot wiser as a result of Percy Balemans' very enjoyable and informative workshop.

To start us off, Percy quoted a definition of this branch of translation provided by Ira Torresi in her book *Translating Promotional and Advertising Texts*: "A type of adaptation that involves copywriting and, possibly, prompting the creation of new visuals for the promotional material, rather than relying on the same verbal and visual structures of the source text." Someone asked what the difference was between localisation and transcreation, and the answer was that it is mainly a question of context, localisation being used for the software and computer games industry and transcreation for the advertising industry, though there are other differences. Texts susceptible to the transcreation treatment might be advertising slogans, promotional material, catalogues, newsletters or blogs.

Percy translates from English and German into Dutch, mainly in the fashion, art and tourism sectors. She mostly works directly for advertising agencies as she finds that they understand the transcreation process much better than do translation agencies which are more used to handling traditional paid-by-the-word assignments. Transcreation is much more akin to copywriting than straightforward translation and so the creative process cannot realistically be charged on a per-word basis. For adverts, Percy will negotiate a fixed fee in advance. The work involves delivering not just the translated text but also several alternative solutions, plus a back-translation and also a rationale for the

choices made, e.g. wordplay, associations, cultural adaptations, etc. so the client can see how she has arrived at her versions. In addition to excellent creative writing skills and cultural knowledge, transcreators need to be up-to-date with current trends, jokes and expressions, cultural references and lifestyles. They also need to know and understand the target audience well – if you're writing about fashion, read fashion blogs and hang out in the Top Shop! While traditional translation jobs often come with a minimal brief (if any), a transcreation brief is vitally important and can run to several pages. It will provide detailed information on the profile of the target consumer (age, sex, social/economic background, interests, etc.), brand information, medium, layout, accompanying visuals, etc.

Percy showed us some interesting examples with slogans for well-known brands in different languages, and also a couple of slogans that were quite wrong, because they were too literal. To see if we could do any better, we then split off into our different language groups to have a go at writing captions to some adverts. It was a surprisingly challenging task that threw up some inventive solutions. Firstly, we had to analyse what was going on, what the message was, the verbal and non-verbal elements at work, and then judge if and how the same effect could be achieved in our target language. Along the way we found ourselves negotiating puns, rhymes, alliteration, quirky pictures and national eating habits. Other factors that had to be considered were: available space, matching words to visuals, whether the slogan should be universal or local, multi-purpose or one-off, made us see how important it is to have a detailed brief. Percy's advice was to be inventive, dare to be different, don't be too formal, break grammar rules if necessary, talk to your target audience and, most importantly, make sure you know what your client really wants, so you get it right.

Jane Jones

Trade Fairs – A discussion on the LRG Yahoo group forum

As a member of the LRG Committee, I am always interested in reading the different topics raised and covered by our members on our Yahoo group forum (iti-lrg@yahoogroups.co.uk) as they truly reflect their issues, needs and interests.

The latest topic raised on our forum has been "Trade Fairs". Attending trade fairs has come up recently in various ITI communications and events. Chris Durban, author of the *Prosperous Translator*, recommended attending trade fairs in her Masterclass at the 2013 ITI Conference on finding direct clients. This was followed up by an article in the *ITI Bulletin* written by two MITIs (Arline Lyons and Rose Newell) who reported on attending Gamescon, a computer games fair in Cologne. And let's not forget Judy Jenner's 'No Pain No Gain' workshop, organised by the LRG in London last November in which this "entrepreneurial linguist" promoted the trade show strategy as one way of obtaining direct clients.

So it was not really a surprise to see it raised by Alison Penfold, one of our members, who took the generous initiative of passing on her approach to getting information about trade fairs in and around London. Alison has decided to try registering with the mailing lists of London's many trade fairs venues (Olympia, Earls Court, Excel, Alexandra Palace, etc.) to start receiving publicity and then decide which to attend. Another LRG member, Karen Netto, equally helpful, shares her different approach with us. Karen attends various fairs and leaves her business card with people who might be potential clients. Subsequently she gets emails from those prospects telling her when and where they will be exhibiting next. Karen organises her time to attend one to two trade fairs a month. For example, in May Karen will be attending The Business Show and Infra Rail.

Other trade fairs mentioned by our members include:

<http://www.ecobuild.co.uk/>
(Sustainable construction)

<http://www.greatbritishbusinessshow.co.uk/>
(Starting or Growing a Business)

<http://www.infrarail.com/>
(Railway Infrastructure)

<http://www.ad-techlondon.co.uk/>
(Digital marketing)

<http://www.marketingweeklive.co.uk/>
<http://www.infosec.co.uk/>
(Information security)

<http://www.internetworld.co.uk/>
(Marketing, IT and Technology)

<http://www.cloudexpoeurope.com/>
(Cloud Computing and Big Data)

<http://www.learningtechnologies.co.uk/>
<http://www.t-f-m.co.uk/>
(Technology for Marketing and Advertising)

The obvious reasons for attending a trade fair include:

- Networking (a great way to exchange business cards and be face to face with the prospects)
- Finding interesting/relevant prospects (for you and your specialist subjects)
- CPD and subject knowledge (the perfect way to stay up to date with the industry developments)

Attending a trade fair is time-consuming – you are away from your desk and you also need to plan and research ahead of the event to make it worthwhile. But it is an affordable (tickets are often free if you book early) and potentially rewarding strategy. After all where else would you find so many companies under a single roof and so many potential customers who you can approach and speak to individually?

If you are tempted to try this, why don't you share your research and your experience on our forum?

Nathalie Reis

LRG Member Profile

Peter Linton – Translator

LRG member since 2003.

What made you embark on a career in translation?

In a nutshell, redundancy and opportunity. In 2001 I was working for a huge American company, General Electric, on e-commerce projects. Suddenly in that year many companies, including mine, ran into financial difficulties. Fortunately, I had an "escape plan" – if made redundant I would take advantage of my lifetime experience of business, plus my knowledge of languages, to forge a new career even at a late stage in my working life.

I had several advantages – I was brought up bilingually in Swedish thanks to being born in Sweden (Swedish mother, English father). Strictly speaking, Swedish is my mother tongue, but all my education and working life have been in the UK, so I explain that I translate into English, my father tongue.

Another advantage is that I have a degree in German and speak reasonably fluent French. Thanks to a large redundancy payoff I was able to finance a couple of additional degrees. In 2001 I pursued an MA Degree in Scandinavian Translation at UCL, followed in 2002 by an MSc in Technical Translation at Imperial College (now at UCL). So I seemed well-equipped for a career in translation.

Did you always want to work as a linguist or did you come into the profession through another activity or job?

Despite my background in languages, fate sent me down very different paths. My first job was as a studio manager in BBC Radio, doing sound effects on radio plays. For example, one play was set in the Middle Ages and involved a monk writing something using a quill pen on parchment. I found that a piece of polystyrene scratching on the back of a clipboard produced a realistic medieval sound. The play was broadcast live, so I had to stand near the microphone with the script and

start scratching as and when required.

Later I switched to a very different career, becoming a financial reporter. Every day of the week I was preparing and broadcasting financial news on BBC Radio 4 or the BBC World Service. That taught me a lot about writing crisp accurate English – it has stood me in good stead in translation.

What difficulties did you encounter in your first three years working as a translator and how did you overcome them?

Getting work. Despite a suitable background, it took over a year to get a steady flow of work. In hindsight, some sort of training course in becoming a freelance translator, particularly the business and marketing aspects of the job, would have been useful. But as I recall, there were fewer such training courses in those days.

What was your first break in translation? What was it like? What were some of the highlights and low points of your time as a translator?

My first translation job came some months after starting. It was a break-through, and gradually work began to build up.

Did your work as a translator lead to unexpected experiences or events in your life?

Translation, though intellectually stimulating, is a fairly placid existence. But two jobs have stuck in my mind. One was a request to go to an investment bank in London's Canary Wharf and translate parts of a Swedish annual report for a financial analyst. The closest I have ever got to interpreting.

Another very satisfying job was to translate a large technical user guide from German into English. That raised a lot of terminological questions and I persuaded the customer to pay for a three-day trip to their headquarters in Munich. The first problem word was a deceptively simple one – how to translate the German word *Achtung* (meaning Warning). English user guides may have words like "Note!" or "Caution". I travelled home with a substantial list of agreed terminology, including

“Warning” for Achtung. Incidentally, I travelled to Munich three days early to get some German immersion and see the sights. So it was three days at their expense and three days at my expense.

In your view how has the translation profession changed since you started? How do you think the profession is evolving and what are your thoughts on its future?

In my view it has changed surprisingly little. People still need translation and interpreting services. Diplomacy, international trade and academic research could not exist without translators and interpreters. For example, we sometimes read that Prime Minister David Cameron has spoken to President Putin or the Chinese President about some vital issue. That could not happen without an interpreter. Yet sadly that is little appreciated outside our profession. The majority are simply unaware of this. Fortunately a minority – politicians, professors and authors – are well aware of our importance.

A good example of this involved the Swedish author Henning Mankell and his Wallander series of novels. In an interview he described his translators as “heroes”. A successful translation will suddenly open up new and much larger readership in the English-speaking world, bringing fame and fortune to lucky translators.

How is the present economic climate likely to affect translators and the professions themselves? What are some of the issues to look out for?

Translation (including interpreting) is such a small and scattered cottage industry that it is pretty well impossible to get any broad or global view about trends, in particular the supply of, and demand for translation and interpreting services. But it does seem that the growing demand for translation is more than matched by the influx of new translators and interpreters from university translation courses, leading to a surplus of translators and, therefore, continual downward price pressure.

What do you think are the most important attributes that a translator should have and what advice would you give to someone starting out?

- A business-like attitude
- A sound knowledge of your source and target languages
- Some specialist knowledge, either from previous careers or acquired
- Familiarity with suitable electronic tools, in the following order of preference:
 - Electronic dictionaries and encyclopaedias
 - Term bases, including your own
 - Optionally, labour-saving tools, such as speech recognition
 - Computer-Aided Tools (CAT)
 - Accounting software for invoicing

This sounds like a formidable list, but a good knowledge of all these aspects will increase your productivity, sometimes quite substantially. You will notice that I have not mentioned the word “quality”. Translators often boast about the quality they offer – even though many customers want no more than adequate quality, in order to keep the price down. This is where you need a business-like attitude – deliver what the customer wants, not what you think the customer should want.

Finally, a piece of advice, which I suspect will not be popular: I recommend specialisation, but more importantly not just specialist subject matter, but also languages. Many translators are proud to know several languages and list them in their CVs, even though translation agencies do not believe them. You cannot be equally competent in several languages so why offer anything but your best source language? Better to be a master of one language rather than a jack of several.

Peter Linton

LRG Tech

Heartbleed or Heartbeat?

Does "Heartbleed" affect you and/or the ITI website? Now that things have settled down a bit we can get a better perspective on what is going on, and what, if anything, we can or should do about it.

One key point is that Heartbleed (correct name is Heartbeat) is not a virus, Trojan or suchlike. It is a simple computer error or "bug" which was never intended to be harmful. In fact is remarkably harmless – except for one situation that makes it extremely dangerous.

Heartbeat is part of a package of software for implementing SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), indicated by <https://> and a padlock in your browser. It only matters if and when you connect to a server that needs a higher level of security such as a bank. Many websites such as <http://iti-lrg.org.uk> do not use SSL because there is no need – the information is not secret. If you try <https://iti-lrg.org.uk> you just get an error message. So that is working correctly.

"Heartbeat" is a simple little computer system whose purpose is to verify that the recipient (another computer system) is awake and responding. In effect, Heartbeat sends out a signal intermittently, like a pulse, perhaps once a second, saying "Hi. You OK?", hoping for a reply saying "Yes, all OK." Hence the nickname "Heartbeat" – quickly renamed "Heartbleed" by overexcited journalists.

The LRG's website lives on a server operated by an ISP called uk2.net, and they have assured me that they fixed this bug the day after they heard about it. Heartbeat cannot affect you, there is no password to change, and no further action is needed, though as everyone tells us, this would be a good moment to change any other passwords you use on other servers.

This is why Heartbeat can be dangerous:
Heartbeat is a software that can be used in SSL.

Basically it sends a short message to the server saying "HELLO" or similar, and asks the server to reply with that word of five letters, to indicate your server connection is still alive. The bug is that there is nothing to stop an SSL connection saying "HELLO" and asking for a reply with up to 64K characters, not 5. The server pulls data randomly out of RAM, which may eventually include by chance some vital data that reveals the secret keys used in SSL, allowing the bad guys to eavesdrop and decrypt your data.

PKI

Heartbeat has also directed attention to some related issues such as PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) also used by Heartbeat. This is a system for the safe transmission of encrypted data, such as your current bank balance. It relies on each party having two keys – a public key and a private key, both of which are different but mathematically-related prime numbers.

To take a simple example: you would not need much time to multiply two prime numbers, say 31 and 37. But if you were asked to find the roots of 1147 it would take you rather longer. The larger the number, the longer it takes.

So if you want to send a secret message, you can encrypt the data using your recipient's public key, knowing that the message can only be decrypted by the recipient's private key. But this is where Heartbeat comes in. Ultimately the private key must be stored somewhere in a computer. It is unlikely, but not impossible, that this key happens to be stored in a part of memory that the server pulls out of RAM. Suddenly all messages can be decrypted by anyone who exploits the programming bug in Heartbeat and manages to extract that secret key.

So what can be done? Two things: the server administrator needs to patch the server to catch the bug. And, once that is done, you need to change the password (if any) you use to connect to that server. After that, continue to remain vigilant.

Peter Linton

LRG News

Grants for attending ITI CPD events

In the last LRG Newsletter, we announced that grants are available for LRG members wishing to attend the ITI conference or an and to extend this support to members wishing to attend the ITI translation workshop.

The next ITI conference is planned for Newcastle/Gateshead on 23-25 April 2015. There is currently no information available on the next ITI Translation Workshop.

There are two grants of £100 each for the conference and two of £50 each for the Workshop. Grant recipients will be asked to share their experience of the events with fellow LRG members by making a short presentation at an LRG meeting or during one of our evening networking events, or writing a short piece for

the LRG Newsletter. In your application, you should indicate your preference (presentation or write-up). Grant applicants will also be asked to provide a brief description of their current professional situation and career plans, and state how they would expect to benefit from attending the event.

The LRG Newsletter editor can provide guidelines on length of copy, deadline and samples of previous reports. Talks are normally given at the Devereux pub, where we hold many of our meetings.

We will always try to ensure successful applicants are notified in sufficient time to apply for the Early Bird prices.

Watch out for more news on the LRG website, the ITI website and on ICE!

Welcome to our new LRG Members!

Shara Atashi, Carla Davidson, Catlin Fu, Nynke A.H. Hendriks, Fausto Mescolini, Sarah Nurgat, Rachel Smith, Cristina Spano, and Karen Watkins.

We look forward to meeting you at one of the upcoming LRG events!

Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 23 June 2014 10am – 12:45pm, 1:45pm – 4:30pm	Joint LRG/EU Revision Workshop Europe House, 32 Smith Square, SW1P 3EU Nearest tube stations: St James Park, Westminster
Tuesday, 20 May 2014 5 – 6 pm	Joint LRG / UCL Event A talk by John Hutchins on Machine Translation UCL Bloomsbury Campus, Malet Place, Foster Court, room 2.16 (TransCluster), London WC1E 6BT. Nearest tube stations: Goodge Street, Euston Square, Euston, Warren Street.
Thursday, 24 July 2014	Annual LRG Pub Crawl Full details on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.

Wednesday, 20 August 2014 Meet at 5:45 pm for prompt 6pm start	LRG Guided Walk with Roger Bone Meet at the Black Friar pub almost opposite Blackfriars station (District and Circle lines).
Thursday, 11 September 6.30 for 7pm	Public Service Interpreting in the UK A talk by Danielle d'Hayer, Associate Professor at London Metropolitan University Devereux Pub, Devereux Court, Essex Street, near Strand, London, WC2R 3JJ.
Friday to Sunday, 17 – 19 October 2014	London Language Show, Olympia Exhibition Centre, Kensington, London
Wednesday, 26 November 2014	Talk on MemoQ – a popular online MT system Full details to be confirmed on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.
Wednesday, 3 December 2014	ITI London Regional Group 20th Anniversary and Christmas Party Full details on the LRG Yahoo group and LRG website.

LRG Committee Contacts

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To write to the owner of the LRG e-group (currently Peter Linton): iti-lrg-owner@yahoo.co.uk

To go to the LRG e-group, edit your LRG e-group membership e.g. from individual messages to daily digest, or to edit your email address, or to leave the LRG e-group: uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/iti-lrg/

To post a message to the LRG e-group: iti-lrg@yahoo.co.uk

The email address from which you send your posting must be registered in your Yahoo account, i.e. the one to which Yahoo sends your e-group digests, as otherwise the posting will not be accepted. The alternative is to log in to the Yahoo website and enter your posting there directly.

To unsubscribe from the LRG e-group (you will not receive any updates/notifications regarding LRG events from the e-group and will not be able to take part in discussions, etc.): iti-lrg-unsubscribe@yahoo.co.uk