How Applications Speak Fluently

– Introduction to FOSS I18n and L10n

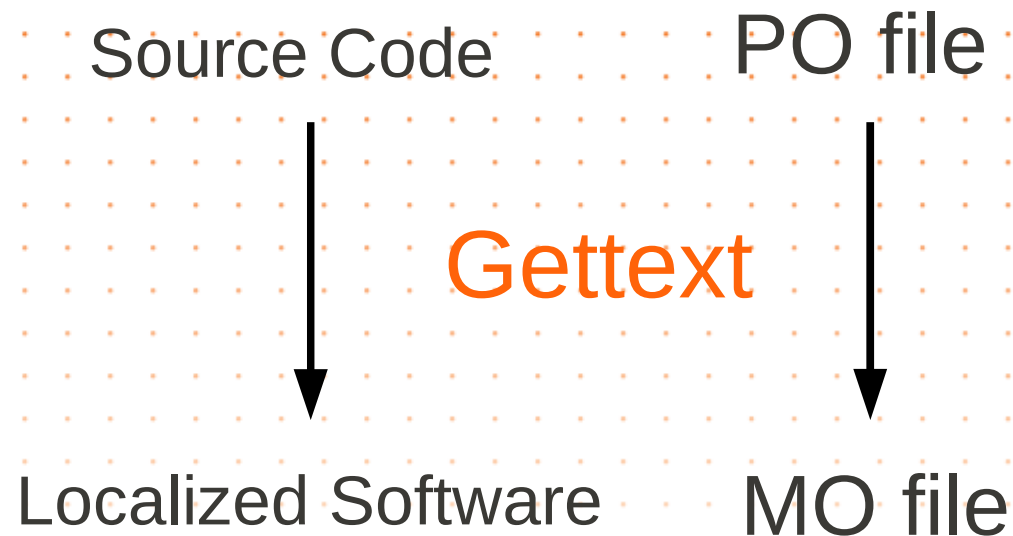Eleanor Chen
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$$I18n = \underbrace{I\text{nternationalizatio}}_{18}\,n$$

$$L10n = \underbrace{L\text{ocalizatio}}_{10}\,n$$

- **GNU Gettext:**

  The infrastructure that makes I18n happen.

  Source Code   PO file

  Gettext

  Localized Software   MO file

- **Translators and Translation team**

  Bilinguists who make localization into reality.

i18n-zh	Translation Project
GNOME Translation Team	KDE Traslation Team
Mozilla Translation Team	OpenOffice/LibreOffice Translation Team
Ubuntu Translators	Fedora Localization Team
Individual translator	Other project specific teams

- Fix translation bugs in time for an Ubuntu release.

- Backport upstream translations.

- Harmonize translations accross Ubuntu.

- Translate native applications.

How translations get into Ubuntu?

ubuntu

upstream projects

launchpad
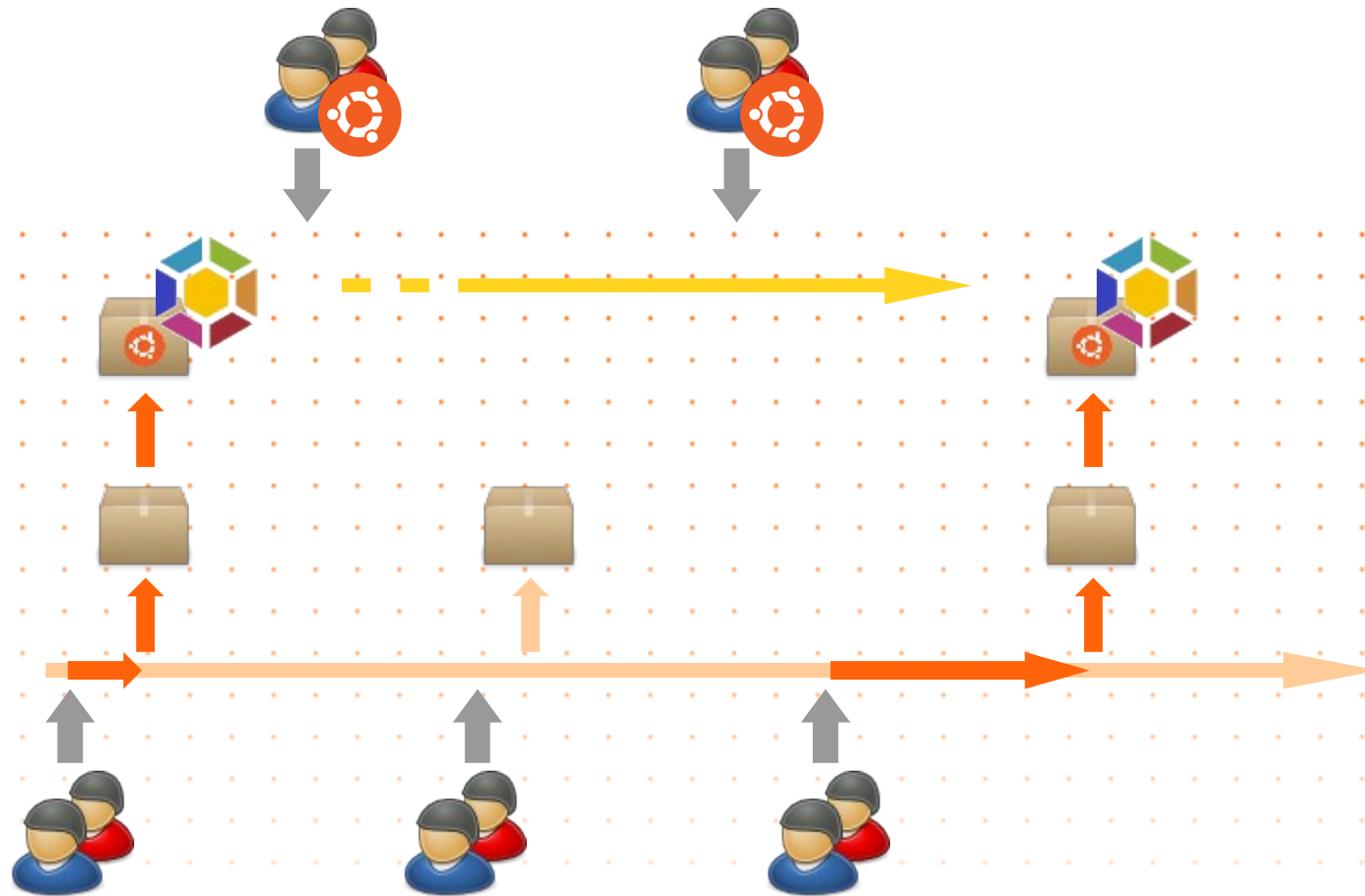source package

langpack-o-matic

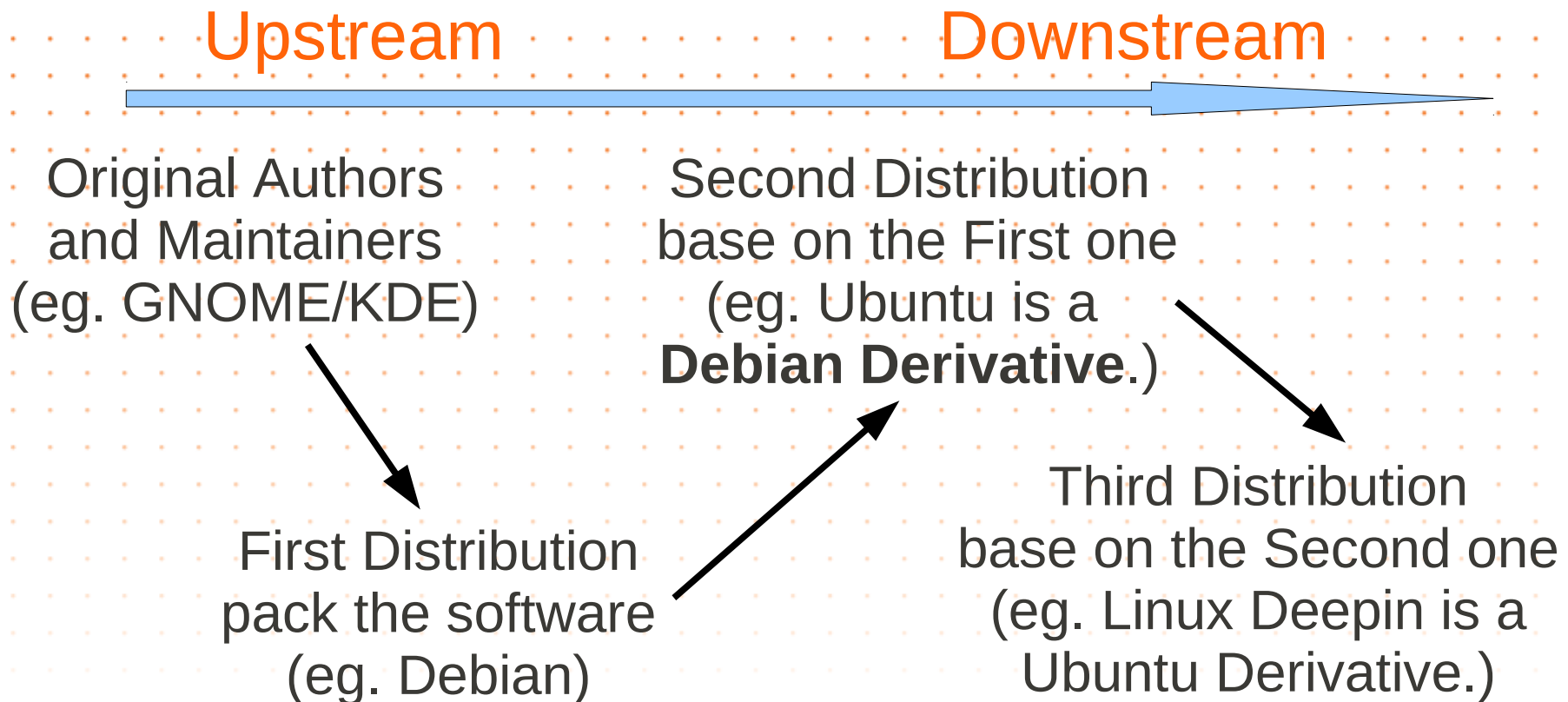ubuntu language pack

How translations get into Ubuntu?

launchpad translations

upstream VCS

What is upstream and Downstream?

- Workflow of FOSS distribution is like a river.

Upstream   Downstream

Original Authors   Second Distribution
and Maintainers   base on the First one
(eg. GNOME/KDE)   (eg. Ubuntu is a
                                          Debian Derivative.)

First Distribution   Third Distribution
pack the software   base on the Second one
(eg. Debian)   (eg. Linux Deepin is a
                                                Ubuntu Derivative.)

Upstream relations.

Pros:

- Launchpad has friendly web interface for newcomers to pick up with.

- Many Ubuntu translators are also upstream translators.

Cons:

- Danger of wasted time by duplication of work.

- Lack of information to send translation upstream.

ubuntu®

Upstream relations.

Ideal solutions:

- Participate upstream first, downstream second.
- Coordinate upstream and downstream work.
- Upstream use Launchpad.

Thanks!