StarDict dictionaries

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About

Imagine that you want to have fast, offline access to a dictionary. To multiple dictionaries, glossaries, and encyclopedias. Perhaps you want to store this data in a way that can be used across multiple systems, without relying on a local dictionary server (like dictd or dicod). Perhaps you would like the option of using either a simple, scriptable command to query those dictionaries, or a full GUI.

The primary StarDict project is stardict-3.

Dictionary storage

User dictionaries are stored in ~/.stardict/dic; system dictionaries in /usr/share/stardict/dic.

As an example, the following files exist in ~/.stardict/dic/stardict—wordnet—3.0.0/:

- wordnet.idx
- wordnet.syn
- wordnet.dict.dz
- wordnet.ifo

Dictionaries are gzip compressed (the dz file).

Client software

- For command line queries I recommend sdcv; use the following in a script or shell alias.

  sdcv < 0.5 (requires colorit in the dict package in Debian):
  sdcv —n ——utf8—output ”$@” 2>&1 | fold ——width=$(tput cols) | colorit | less —FRX

  sdcv ≥ 0.5.0:
  sdcv —n ——utf8—output ——color ”$@” 2>&1 | fold ——width=$(tput cols) | less —FRX

- GUI: GoldenDict

Dictionary sources

A good source for dictionaries in StarDict format: http://download.huzheng.org/

Recommended dictionaries:

- stardict-acronyms-2.4.2
- stardict-BritannicaConcise-2.4.2
- stardict-CIA09-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-bouvier-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-gazetteer2k-counties-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-gazetteer2k-places-2.4.2

- stardict-dictd-gazetteer2k-zips-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-jargon-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-moby-thesaurus-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd-vera-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_elements-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_foldoc-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_gcide-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_wn-2.4.2
- stardict-dictd_www.dict.org_world95-2.4.2
- stardict-eng_irregular-2.4.2
- stardict-EnglishEtymology-2.4.2
- stardict-thesaurus-ee-2.4.2
- stardict-wordnet-3.0.0

The GoldenDict site has a list of dictionary sources.

Wikipedia and Wiktionary

Two obvious sources for dictionaries are Wikipedia and Wiktionary; perhaps someday there will be a way to convert these to StarDict format. Note that Babylon provides a Wikipedia glossary which seems to be an abbreviated Wikipedia.

Regarding Wikipedia database conversion, the following links may be interesting:

- Wikipedia Database download
- Ways to process and use Wikipedia dumps
- bz2multistream toy
- Wikipedia offline reader with Perl/Python/PHP
- MediaWiki to MarkDown with Python
- Offline Wikipedia on Mac OS X
- Fastwiki
- Kiwix
- Okawix
- Hyperopia

Converting a dictionary to StarDict format

The KTranslator project provides 'dictconv', a tool for converting between dictionary formats. It converts Babylon, Freedict, and Sdictionary formats to StarDict. In Debian, just install dictconv.

The stardict-3 project provides 'stardict-tools'; these can convert DICT, wquick, mova, and pydict formats to StarDict. In Debian, just install stardict—tools.

Stardicter is a Python tool for converting various dictionary formats to the StarDict format.

See also

- Old SourceForge project: http://stardict.sourceforge.net/