Help with Translation

Batocera comes in a variety of local languages, and relies on the community to help with the translations. We need you for this!

For translators

Translate for a new language

1. See what is the current status of your language. You can check on this page to see what's the % of strings that are currently translated for each supported language in the latest stable version of Batocera.
2. Download the current translation file from this directory. It's an `emulationstation.po` text file with all the strings to be translated.
3. Compile your `emulationstation2.po` file into `emulationstation2.mo`. You can use the Poedit program on your desktop, or online with the Poeditor tool.
4. Connect to your batocera through SSH.
5. Copy your `emulationstation2.mo` file to `/usr/share/locale/{your_language_code}/LC_MESSAGES/` – for instance `/usr/share/locale/pt_BR/LC_MESSAGES/emulationstation2.mo` for Brazilian Portuguese.
6. Open the command console (SSH terminal) and execute the command `batocera-save-overlay` to keep your changes upon reboot.
7. Restart your Batocera.
8. Once you're happy with your translation, you can submit a PR via Github, or send your `.po` file back to the dev team on the #translations channel of our Discord server. Only the `.po` files need to be uploaded, not the `.mo` files.

Translate missing strings for an already existing translation

1. Open the `/usr/share/locale/{your_language_code}/LC_MESSAGES/emulationstation2.po` file for your chosen language with either POEdit or an ordinary text editor like Notepad++.
2. Make your translation edits (your translation should be in the `msgstr “”` part in the double-quotes (“”)) and save the file, then run `batocera-save-overlay` from SSH/terminal to keep them after rebooting.
3. Get your `.po` file and put it into the #translations channel on our Discord server, mentioning which language it is for. Only the `.po` files need to be uploaded, not the `.mo` files.
4. That's it.

Thank you for your help!

Add a comment in the code for translators

If you are coding something new in Batocera and think that the string to be translated might be a bit ambiguous for translators (remember, they will only see the string in isolation, which might not make sense outside of its context), you can add a comment just for translators to see when they get to that string. In EmulationStation or Batocera's es_features, add the following comment right before the code in which the string appears:

```
/* TRANSLATION: Short comment that explains the context of the string. */
```

For example, this is something that has been added to `batocera-emulationstation/es-app/src/guis` in the source code:

```
/* TRANSLATION: For general system information, related to the machine. */
informationsGui->addGroup(_("INFORMATION"));
```

What if I wanted to edit an English string?

Generally editing already-existing English strings in the CPP files is discouraged, as it will remove the translation that was made for it (if it exists). However, there may be times when the English string is misspelled or just plain incorrect and needs to be amended, despite it already being translated.

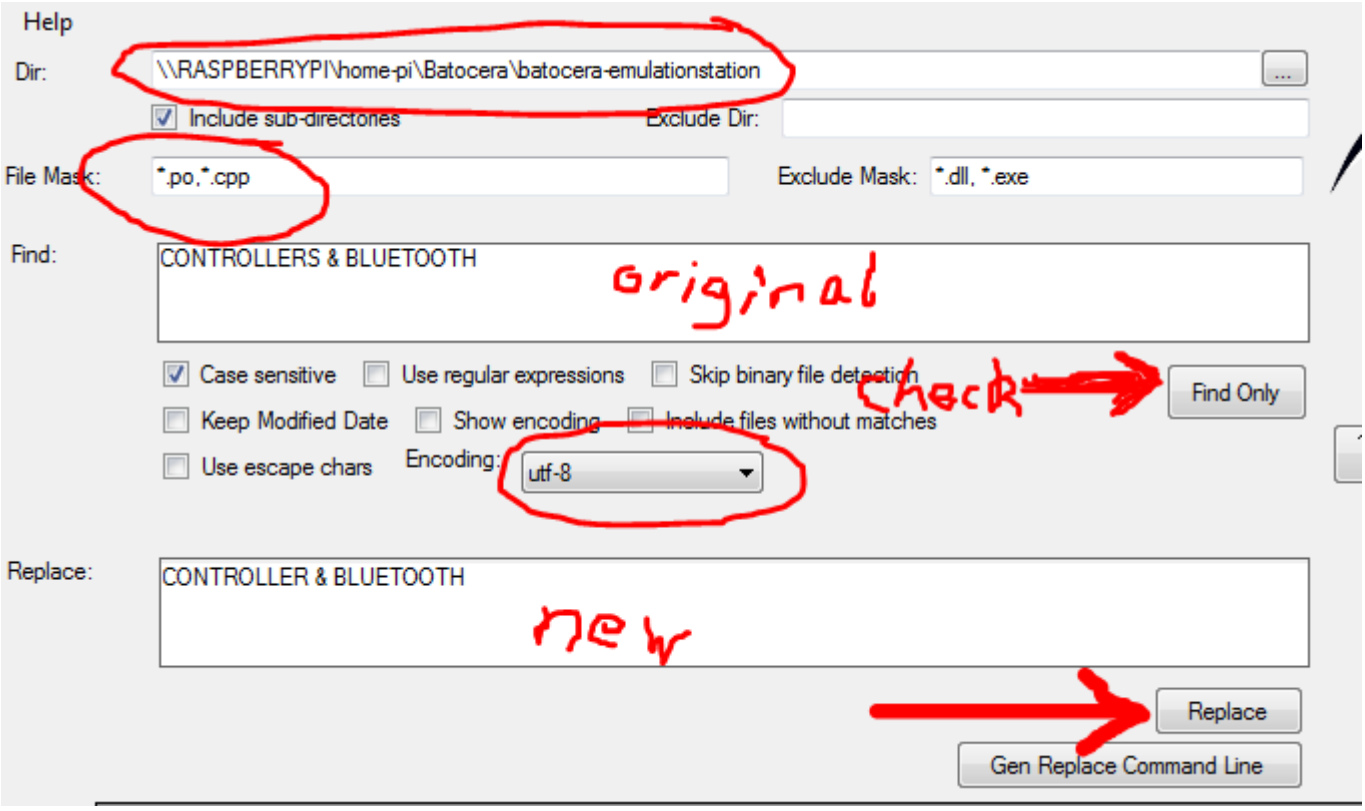
The best way to go about this is to compile batocera-emulationstation, as that will automatically run the `xgettext` and `msgmerge` submodules used to generate the `emulationstation2.pot` and subsequent PO files. You can then use a program like POEdit or just a plain text-editor to restore the translations (old translations are moved to being comments).

Understandably, this is a lot of work, especially with how many languages Batocera supports. So here's a mini-tutorial on how to automate the process (on Windows):

This method does cause corruption when re-imported back into POEdit, so double check that first before re-merging.

1. Download and install the Find and Replace tool and Notepad++.
2. Run `fnr.exe` from the ZIP file.
3. Set the **Dir** to the root of the `batocera-emulationstation` folder.
4. Add `*.po` to your **File Mask**. If you want to also use this tool to edit the string in the CPP itself, you can instead use `*.po,*.cpp`.
5. Set **Encoding** to `utf-8`. Note that this isn't actually the correct encoding, but it's close enough.
6. Put in the original string you want to replace into the **Find** textbox.
7. Click **Find Only** to test to see which strings it finds. This is important, especially if also editing CPP files, as it ensures you aren't accidentally overwriting code. If you want to be safe, enclose your find text in double-quotes (“”).
8. Put in the new string you want to replace it with into the **Replace** textbox.
9. Click **Replace** (the button… not the textbox label).

If you aren't sure of the setup, here's a professional grade pictograph detailing the settings that have been changed from default:



Since you've already cloned batocera-emulationstation, you can just push the PR to merge it. But what's this? You've noticed that after running `git diff` (as every good developer does before merging a commit I'm sure), every file you've edited now has an additional, invisible character at the beginning that you're sure you didn't insert yourself? That's because Find and Replace is actually not so good with encoding text files so it inserts the Windows 16-bit signature into all the UTF-8 text files at the beginning. This is easy enough to fix.

1. Open the afflicted text file with Notepad++.
2. Click **Encoding** → **UTF-8**. You'll notice that it was originally on “UTF-8-BOM”.
3. Save the file.
4. Rinse and repeat for all afflicted text files.

This should get rid of the extra character at the beginning of the text files.

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