

How to add multi language support to wordpress with qTranslate

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Lately, I have to deal with some wordpress based installs in big part of my working time. One of the *wordpress sites needed to have added a multi language support.*

My first research in Google pointed me to **WPML Multilingual CMS** *The Wordpress Multilingual Plugin*

WPML Multilingual CMS looks nice and easy to use but unfortunately its paid, the company couldn't afford to pay for the plugin so I looked forward online for a free alternative and stumbled upon **QTranslate**

QTranslate is free and very easy to install. Its installed the wordpress classic way and the installation went smoothly, e.g.:

1. Download and unzip QTranslate

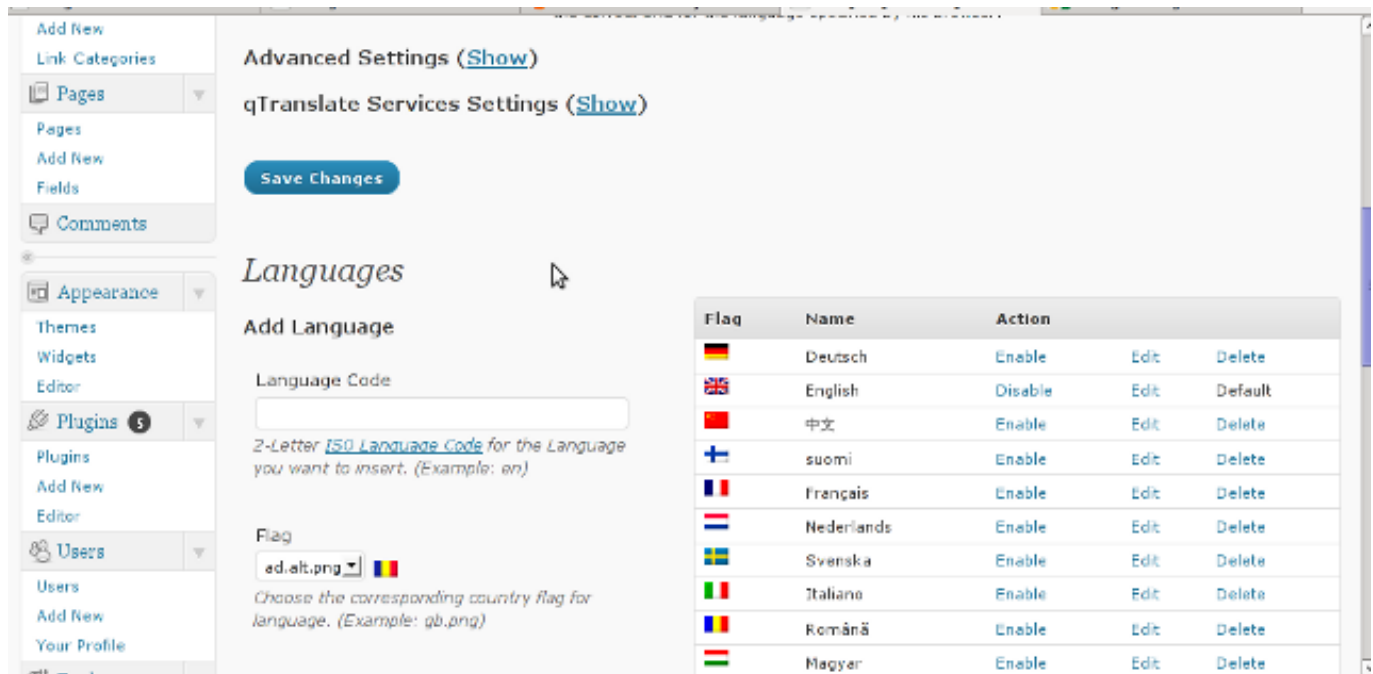
```
# cd /var/www/blog/wp-content/plugins
/var/www/blog/wp-content/plugins# wget http://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/qtranslate.2.5.24.zip
...
/var/www/blog/wp-content/plugins# unzip qtranslate.2.5.24.zip
...
```

Just for fun and in case the plugin disappears in future, [a mirror of Qtranslate 2.5.24 is found here](#)

2. Enable QTranslate from wordpress admin

Plugins -> Inactive -> qTranslate (Activate)

After activating the plugin, there is a **Settings** button from which **qTranslate**'s various plugin parameteres can be tuned.



In my case my site had to support both English and Arabic, so from the settings I added support for Arabic translation to the wordpress install.

Adding *Arabic* is done in the following way:

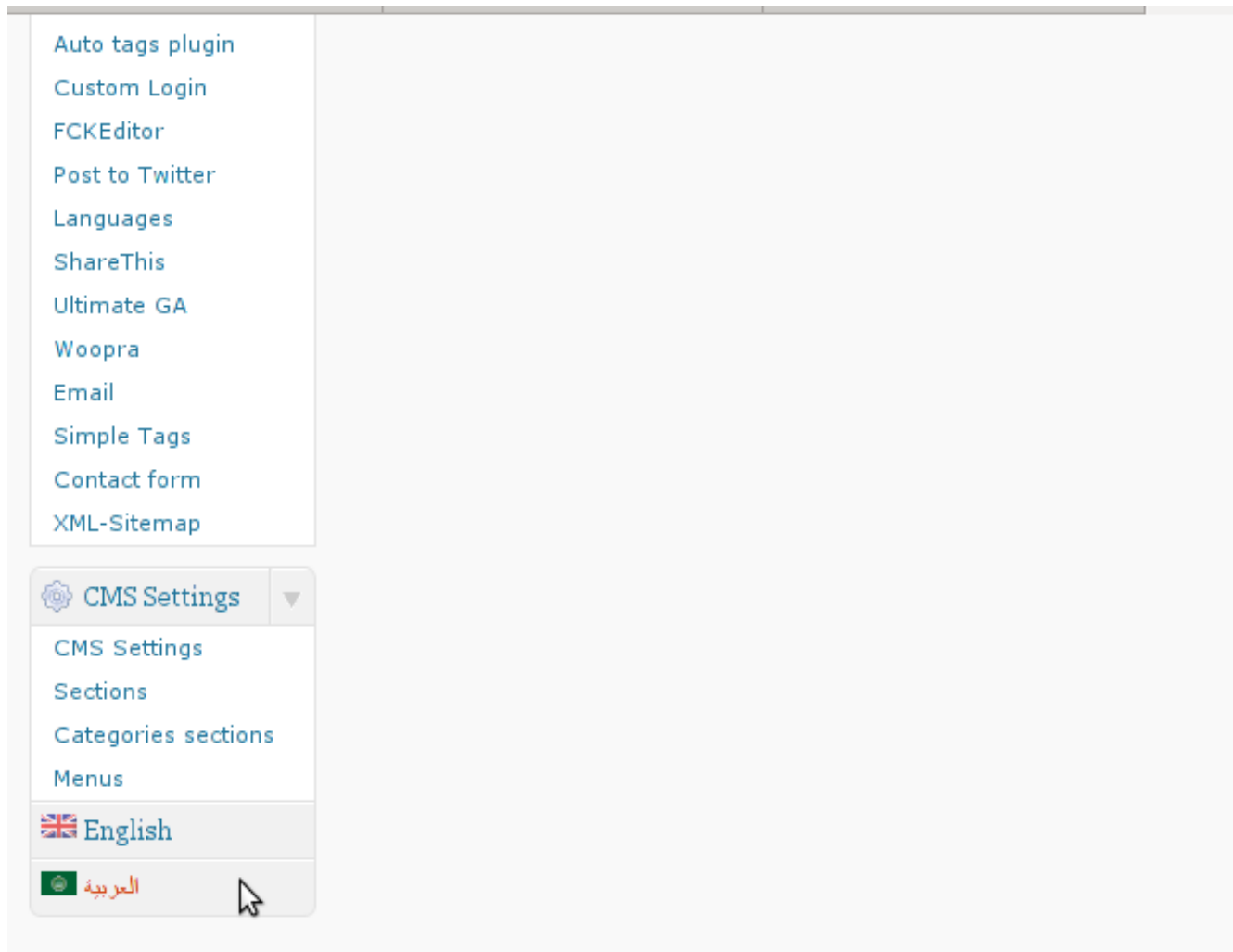
a. From the Language Management (qTranslate Configuration) from the **Languages** menu and the *Languages (Add Languages)* I had to choose a *language code* (in my case a language code of *ar* - for Arabic). Next I had to choose the Arabic flag from the follow up flag list.

In next text box *Name* , again I had to fill Arabic, for Locale *en_US.UTF-8*

The following **Date Format** and **Time Format** text boxes are optional so I left them blank.

To complete the process of adding the Arabic as a new language wordpress should support I pressed the **Add Language** button and the Arabic got added as a second language.

Afterwards the Arabic was added as second language, on the bottom of the left wordpress menu pane a button allowing a switch between English, Arabic appeared (see below screenshot):



Finally to make Arabic appear as a second language of choice on the website I added it as a *Widget* in the **Widgets menu** from the AWidgets menu:

Appearance -> Widgets

In widgets I added **qTranslate Language Chooser** to the Sidebar without putting any kind of Title for *qtranslate widget* .

I found it most helpful to choose the **Text and Image** as an option on how to display the Language switching in the wp.