peoplefluent

PeopleFluent Learning

Text Customization Guide

Contents

About this Document 3
System Configuration for Language 4
Labels and Keys 5
Identifying Label Keys 8
File Encoding 10
Creating Language Variants 11
Troubleshooting Text Customization 15
Legal Notice 16

About this Document

Introduction

This guide provides information to assist Administrators in customizing the text/labels in the user interface in PeopleFluent LMS.

Document Information

Revision Information	
Revision Date:	April 25, 2024
Revised Document Version Number:	2.0
Details of Revision:	Initial publication.

System Configuration for Language

Language Property in ekp.properties

The LMS supports over 40 languages. Depending on your license, the required languages can be configured via the `system.languages` property in the `webapps\ekp\WEB-INF\conf\ekp.properties` file:

```
System.languages=English, en_GB, en_CA, zh_HK, zh_CN, zh_TW, fr_Fr,
de_DE, \
ja_JP, es_ES, es_CO, nl_NL, el_GR, ar_SA, vi_VN, pt_BR, ms_MY, pl_PL,
ko_KR, \
tl_PH, in_ID, iw_IL, cs_CZ, hu_HU, pt_PT, ru_RU, sk_SK, th_TH, it_IT,
en_US, \
fi_FI, da_DK, sr_RS, et_EE, nl_IF, bs_BA, sl_SI, ar_AE, bg_BG, fr_CA,
nb_NO, \
ro_Ro, es_MX, sv_SE, tr_TR
```

- To enable a language, include its language code in the property.
- To disable, remove the corresponding code from the property.
- The LMS must be restarted for any changes made in `ekp.properties` to take effect.

The order in which the languages are specified only matters if the license comes with a limited number of languages. For example, if the license covers English and 3 extra languages, then only the first three languages (in addition to English) will be loaded. English cannot be removed even if its code is deleted from the property. Moving its order in the list will not affect the default language or the number of licensed languages.

Default Language

The default language in the LMS is US English. The associated properties files are embedded within the `ekp.jar`. If the language files for the logged in user's language (selected at **Settings > User Preferences**) are not found in the locale directory, then US English will be displayed. Similarly, if the files are present but translations are missing, then the System will use the corresponding US English messages to replace the strings that cannot be rendered.

`standard.properties` Files

All the text / labels displayed in the LMS are stored in the `\webapps\ekp\WEB-INF\classes\com\ netdimen\locale\standard.properties` file. Each supported language has its own `.properties` file and file naming convention. The file name is represented by four characters: the ISO 639-2 two- character language code in lower case followed by the ISO 3166 two-character country code in upper case. For example, the file name for Canadian French is `standard_fr_CA.properties`.

Labels and Keys

Each label shown in the LMS is identified by a key, and the actual text displayed will be dependent on the locale set for the logged-in user:

Key	Locale	Label
heading.program	US English	Program
heading.program	UK English	Programme
heading.program	Spanish	Programa

Thus for the same key, US English users will see "Program", UK English users will see "Programme" and Spanish users will see "Programa".

Customizing Labels

There are two approaches to customizing text labels:

1. Creating `custom.properties` files: recommended when bulk changes are required, especially when every occurrence of a specific word needs to be replaced by another, e.g. using "Package" instead of "Program" system wide. (Requires a restart for new labels to take effect).
2. Using the Search / Customize Language Strings Function: recommended for isolated changes when only a few labels need to be changed.

Do not place customized labels in `standard.properties` or `standard_xx.properties files` as these will be overwritten during upgrades. Use only the methods above for customizing labels.

`Custom.properties` Files

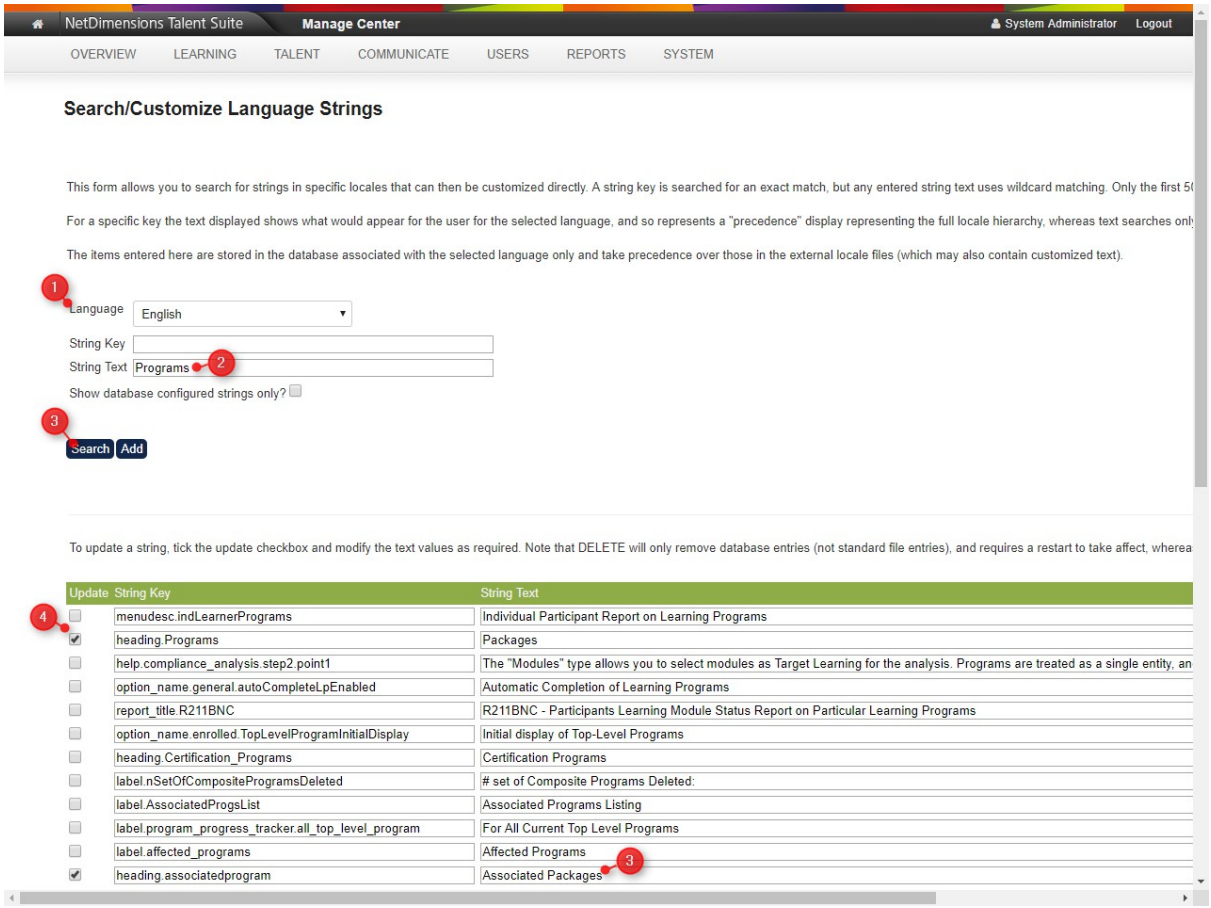
To customize text labels, create `custom.properties` files adhering to the naming convention containing keys and their corresponding customized text. For example, to use "Package" instead of "Program", you would customize the label with the key "`heading.program`" for all installed languages using custom.properties files:

- A `custom.properties` file containing `heading.program=Package`
- A `custom_es_ES.properties` file containing `heading.program=Paquete`
- A `custom_fr_FR.properties` file containing `heading.program=Paquet`
- ...

For consistency, all labels referring to "Programs" would need to be customized to refer to "Packages" instead. The files should be placed in the `\webapps\ekp\WEB-INF\classes\com\netdimen\loc ale` directory.

Once applied, US English users would see "Package", Spanish users see "Paquete", and French users would see "Paquet".

Search/Customize Language Strings



To use the function, go to **Manage Center > SYSTEM > SYSTEM UTILITIES > Search/ Customize Language Strings** (requires the "Allow Custom Language String Editing" role access control to be enabled). First, locate the key to be customized:

1. Select the **Language** you want to search in.
2. Enter some or all of the label into **String Text**.
3. Click **Search**. All key and label pairs matching the text entered will be listed.
4. Check the label(s) that you want to update.
5. Amend the label text in String Text.
6. Click **Update**.

The customized text will take effect immediately.

Order of Precedence

When customizing locale text there is an order of precedence for the handling of language strings with the same key:

1. Labels entered for the locale via the "Search / Customize Language Strings" page.
2. Labels entered for the locale via the "custom_xx_XX.properties file (these files are intended to hold client custom text and are never updated on LMS upgrade).
3. Labels entered for the locale via the "standard_xx_XX.properties" file (these files hold the LMS reference text, and are always updated on LMS upgrade).

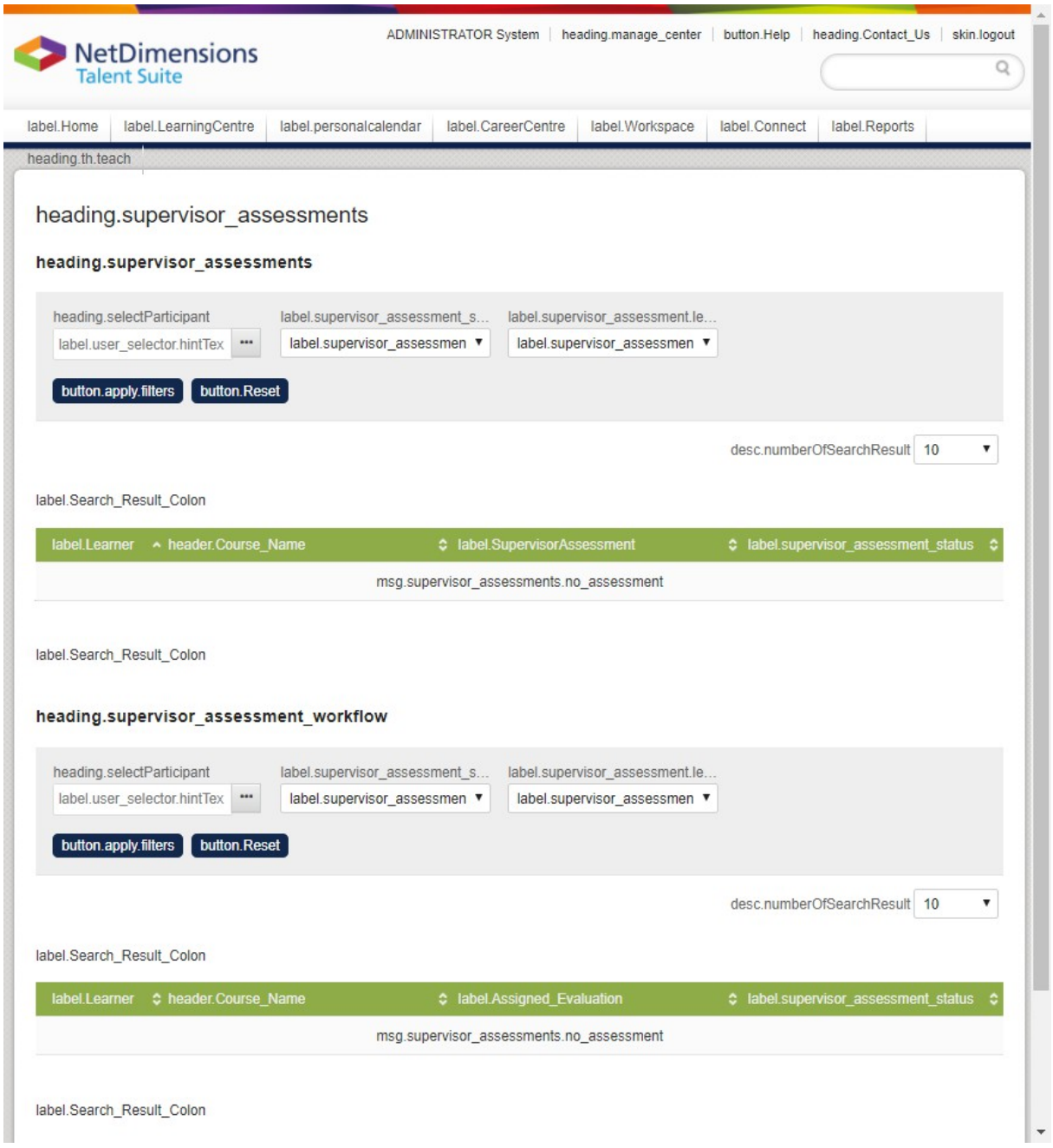
Thus if a label has been customized with both approaches then the label defined with the Search / Customize Language Strings Function will prevail.

Post Upgrade/Update Actions

If you have customized labels, these should be reconciled with the `standard.properties` file at each update. Since each new build can add new messages, change existing messages, and remove obsolete messages, it is best to carefully review your customized labels against the new messages before restoring to ensure new information is not lost.

Identifying Label Keys

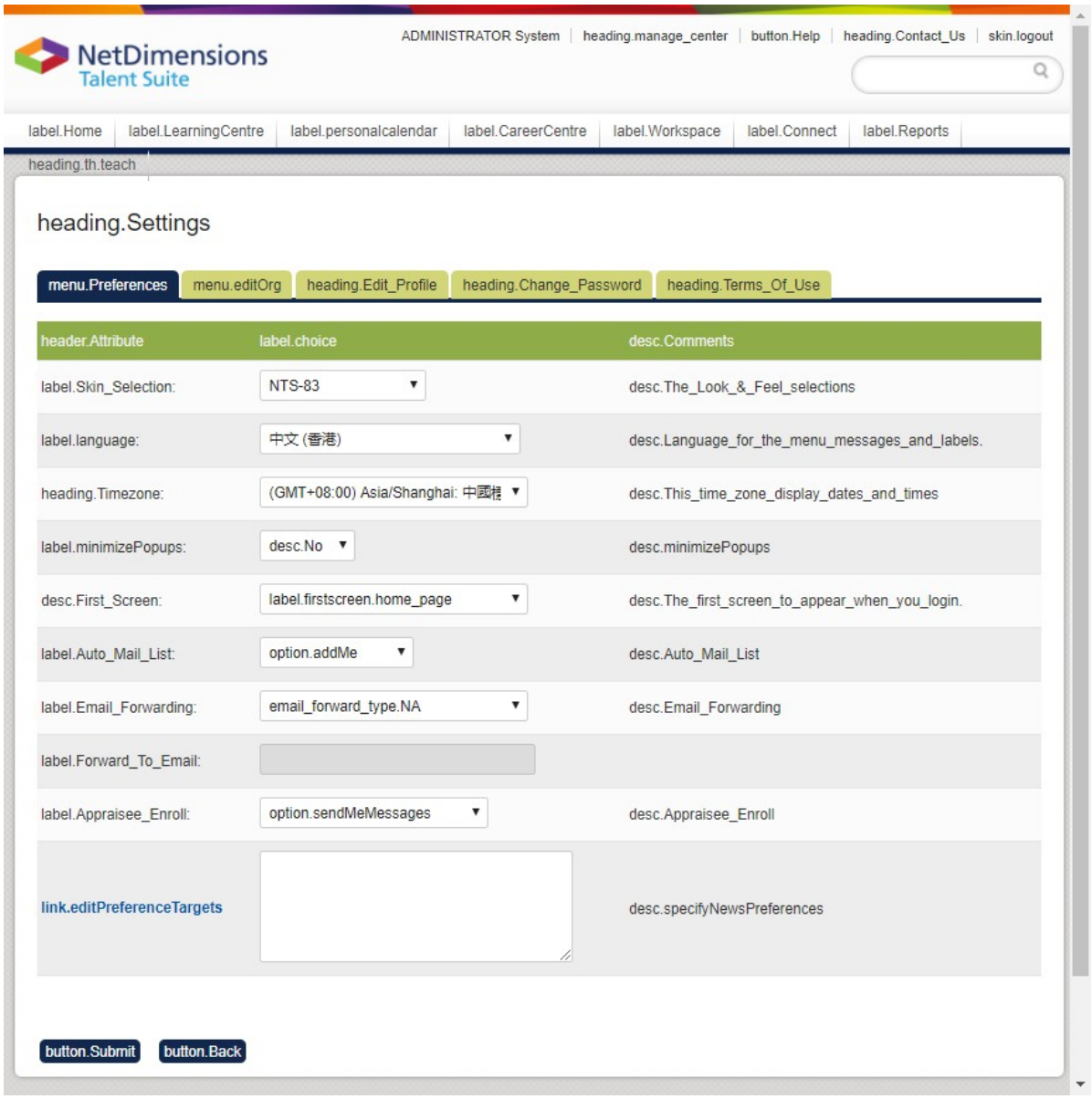
When customizing label text, it can be useful to determine via the UI the label key in question.



To do this, create a language variant, or identify a locale that can be reused for this purpose and then install it in the same way as any other language customization. For example, to reuse the Chinese (HK) locale for this purpose:

1. Download the attached `keys.properties` file from this page, and rename to `custom_zh_HK. properties`. This file is simply a text file consisting of the keys in the LMS in which the label is also the key itself.
2. Copy the renamed file to the `\webapps\ekp\WEB-INF\classes\com\netdimen\locale` directory.
3. Restart the LMS

4. Select the corresponding locale of the `custom.properties` file in **Language**: (in this example, the locale of `custom_zh_HK.properties` is) on the **Settings > User Preferences** Tab.
5. Once **Submit** is clicked, the keys will be displayed instead of the text labels:



File Encoding

Java requires the `.properties` files to be encoded in "escaped" Unicode - this is especially important for non-Latin languages. Once you have defined your custom labels in the `custom.properties` files, you can use native2ascii, a program provided in the Java Development Toolkit (JDK), for converting the character set formats. This tool is usually located under the `JAVA_HOME\bin` directory, and can be run via the command line. For example:

```
native2ascii -encoding UTF8 sourcefile destfile
```

Please refer to your JDK documentation for more details.

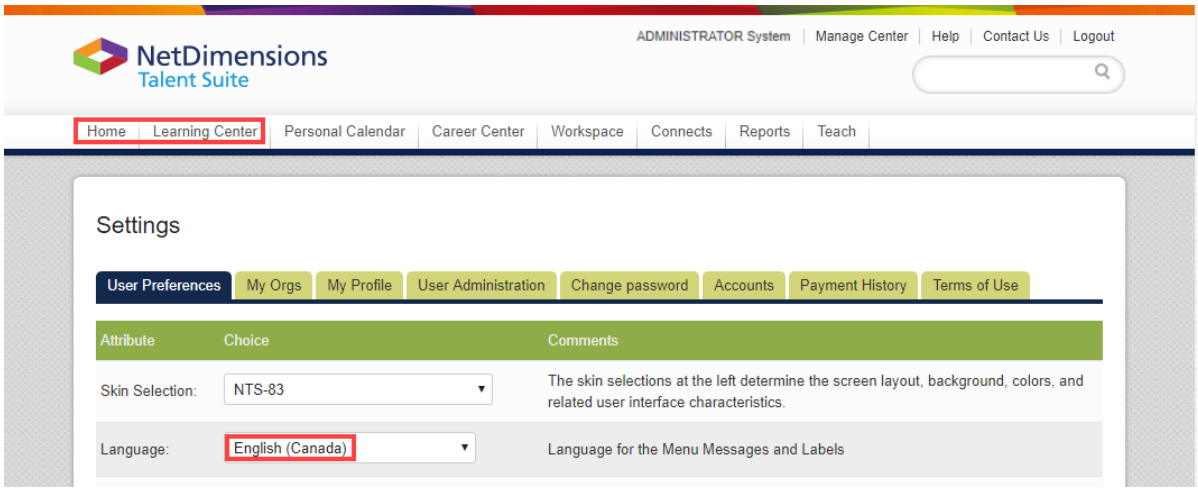
Creating Language Variants

The LMS supports more than 35 different languages. When two groups of users using the same language would like to use the LMS in a different language style and want to rewrite some of the labels into their own "language", the system will need another set of custom strings of the same language - we call these "Language Variants".

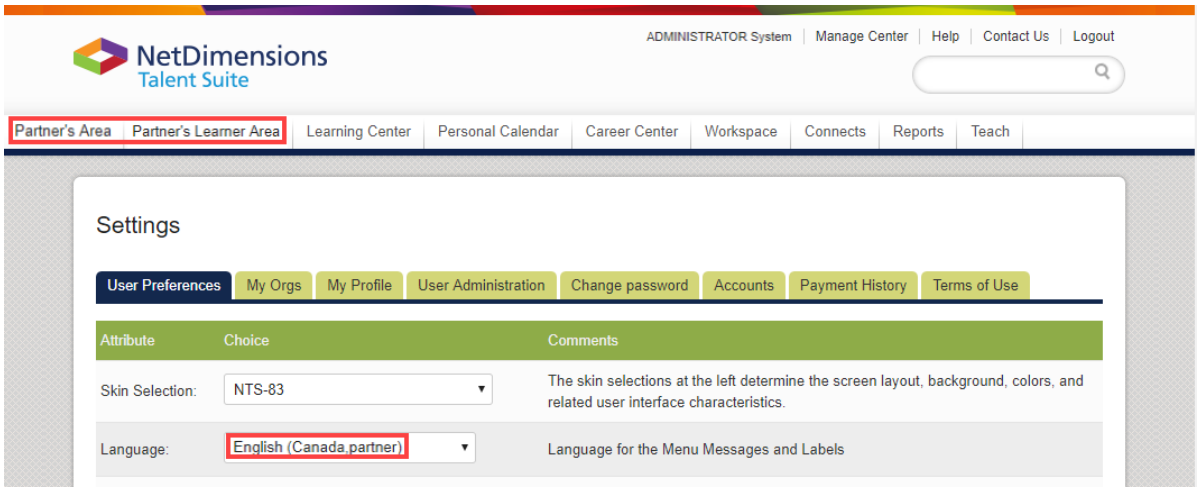
To illustrate, let's assume there are two groups of users: partners and clients that both use Canadian English (en_CA). The partner group use their own terminology while the client group uses another. To enable this, you create variants for the system-defined languages, and provide different sets of custom strings for these user groups e.g.

- English (Canada, partner)
- English (Canada, client)
- English (Canada, all other users)

The steps below describe how to create a language variant of Canadian English for partners, where users with "English (Canada)" will see the regular "Home" and "Learning Center":



While partners should see "Partner's Area" and "Partner's Learner Area":



Step 1: Create Database Entry

The database table "code_language" is used to store information of languages variants.

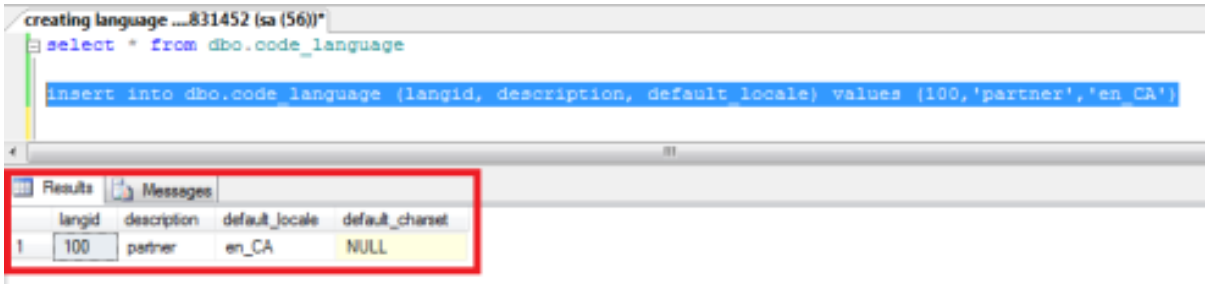
Column	Description
langid	Language ID (must be 100 or above to prevent a conflict with the IDs from the system-defined languages)
description	Name of the variant language (e.g. "partner" or "client"), any string less than 50 characters
default_locale	ISO code of the base language (e.g. "en_CA" or "zh_HK")
default_charset	NULL (Not used)

Insert an entry into the table 'code_language' using the following script:

```
 insert into code_language (langid, description, default_locale) values
([langid],'[name]', '[ISO code]')
```

For example:

```
 insert into code_language (langid, description, default_locale) values (100,
'partner', 'en_CA')
```



Step 2: Create a .properties File

Create a new .properties file for the custom strings with the following name format:

custom_[ISO code]_[name].properties

And then place the file into the directory "\webapps\ekp\WEB-INF\classes\com\netdimen\locale"

For example:

`custom_en_CA_partner.properties`

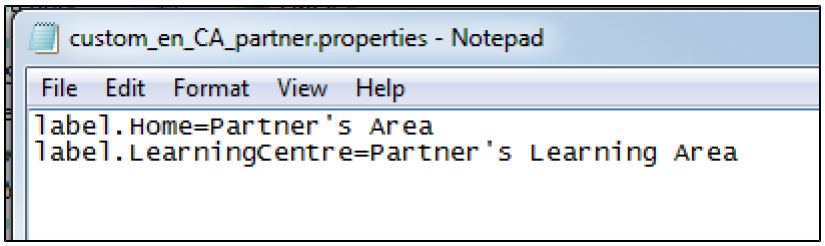
Step 3: Insert Custom Strings

Add all custom strings into the .properties file created in Step 2.

For example:

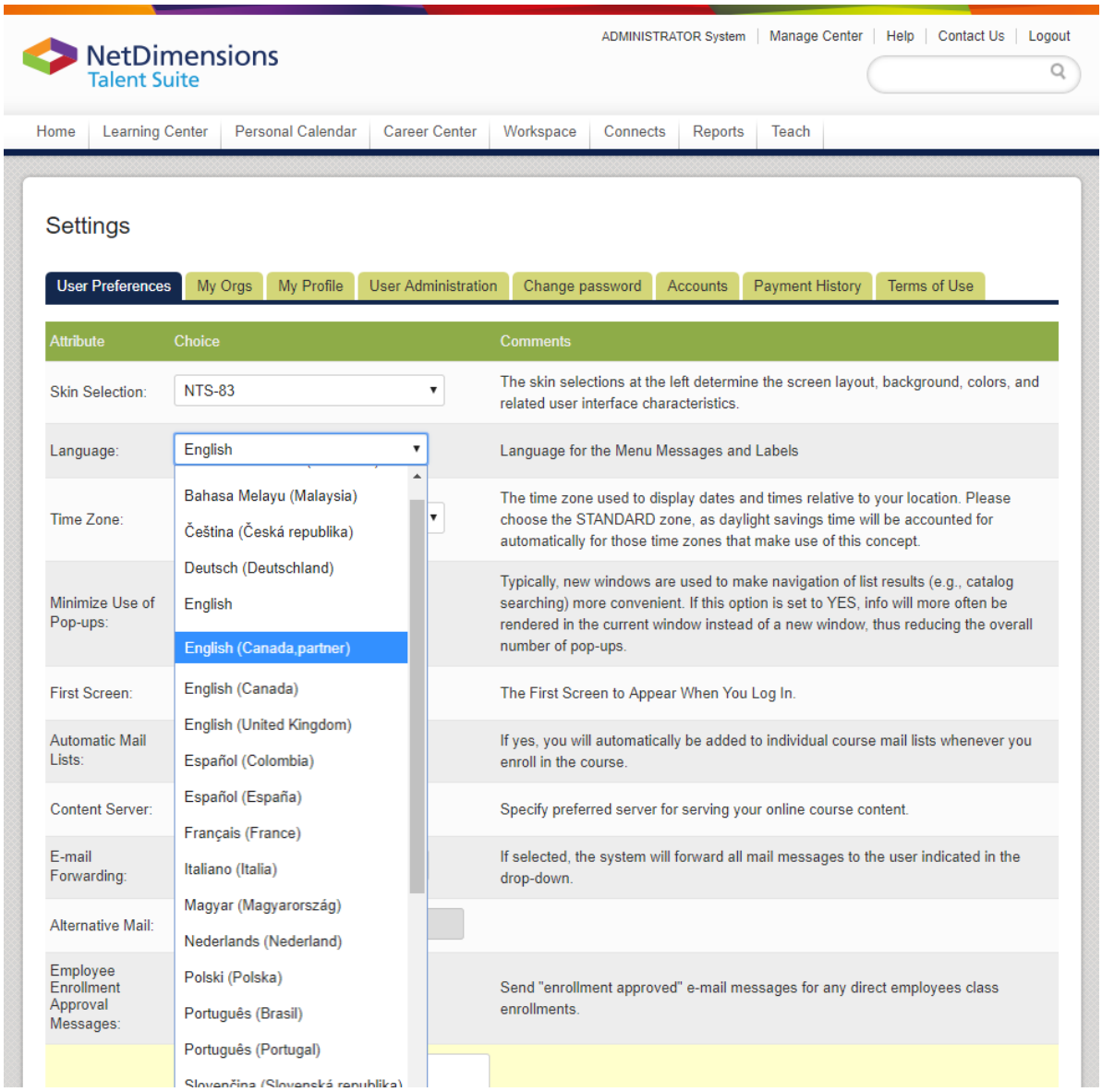
```
label.Home=Partner's Area

label.LearningCentre=Partner's Learning Area
```



Step 4: Restart the LMS

For the changes to take effect, restart the LMS. After restarting, the "new language" will be available for selection at User Preferences:


NetDimensions
Talent Suite
ADMINISTRATOR System | Manage Center | Help | Contact Us | Logout
Home | Learning Center | Personal Calendar | Career Center | Workspace | Connects | Reports | Teach
Settings
User Preferences | My Orgs | My Profile | User Administration | Change password | Accounts | Payment History | Terms of Use
Attribute
Choice
Comments
Skin Selection:
NTS-83
The skin selections at the left determine the screen layout, background, colors, and related user interface characteristics.
Language:
English
Language for the Menu Messages and Labels
Time Zone:
The time zone used to display dates and times relative to your location. Please choose the STANDARD zone, as daylight savings time will be accounted for automatically for those time zones that make use of this concept.
Minimize Use of Pop-ups:
Typically, new windows are used to make navigation of list results (e.g., catalog searching) more convenient. If this option is set to YES, info will more often be rendered in the current window instead of a new window, thus reducing the overall number of pop-ups.
First Screen:
The First Screen to Appear When You Log In.
Automatic Mail Lists:
If yes, you will automatically be added to individual course mail lists whenever you enroll in the course.
Content Server:
Specify preferred server for serving your online course content.
E-mail Forwarding:
If selected, the system will forward all mail messages to the user indicated in the drop-down.
Alternative Mail:
Employee Enrollment Approval Messages:
Send "enrollment approved" e-mail messages for any direct employees class enrollments.
Bahasa Melayu (Malaysia)
Čeština (Česká republika)
Deutsch (Deutschland)
English
English (Canada,partner)
English (Canada)
English (United Kingdom)
Español (Colombia)
Español (España)
Français (France)
Italiano (Italia)
Magyar (Magyarország)
Nederlands (Nederland)
Polski (Polska)
Português (Brasil)
Português (Portugal)

Troubleshooting Text Customization

I have selected another language in "Settings", but the LMS still displays in English.

- The LMS has not been restarted after setup.
- `.properties` files were not copied to the correct locale directory. Verify the directory structure of the LMS installation.

Variant Languages have been loaded into the locale, but they are not listed in the User Preference section of the LMS:

- `ekp.properties` file was not updated.
- The LMS has not been restarted after setup.

I see a mix of English and other language:

- One or more of the `.properties` files might not been copied into the locale directory, or a message file might be corrupted. Verify that all files are present and readable for the selected language, and that all the file names are correct. Then restart the LMS.
- If this happens in only a few places, it is likely that the text in question has not have been translated yet or the build was released before the related messages had been fully translated. New translations are automatically included in later builds and will be available on site update.

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