Engineer Software

Built an English/Danish i18n system

Established an English/Danish internationalization system carrying 12,027 messages per locale across 458 namespace files, with linter-enforced vocabulary and a 400-line budget per file.

2025

12,027

messages a locale, in English and Danish

Situation. The platform runs in English and Danish, and translation systems have a way of sprawling into a mess. The files grow without limit, keys leak — present in one locale, missing in the other — and the language-specific conventions get applied unevenly, so one locale ends up reading like it was translated by a committee that didn't talk to each other. For a professional product that's not a small blemish; it reads as carelessness.

Task. The internationalization setup had to scale — keeping both languages consistent and correct, and the files something a person could still maintain a year in.

Action. It's built on next-intl with rules the tooling actually enforces. The Danish side has a locked vocabulary and style — literal æøå, the informal "du", the right imperative accents, and semantic mappings for compound nouns so they're translated by meaning rather than word-for-word — and a linter holds it to that. There's a hard 400-line budget per namespace file, with a split-and-merge approach so a big area divides into nested files that merge back cleanly instead of one file growing forever; that budget is why 12,027 messages per locale live in 458 files rather than a handful of enormous ones. A linter check compares keys across locales so nothing leaks or goes missing. And stored overrides are merged catalogue-driven rather than with fragile top-level fallbacks — the same deep-merge idea used for preferences.

Result. Both locales stay correct and consistent at 24,054 messages between them, and the files stay maintainable as the string count climbs. Tooling enforces the recorded vocabulary, style and catalogue rules on every commit; assessing each translation's meaning and idiom still requires contextual reading. The budget is the load-bearing part: without a limit per file, 458 files would have been twelve, and nobody would open them.

Bring this experience to your project

Use "Built an English/Danish i18n system" as a starting point for a similar challenge in your organisation. The services behind this work are available for your project. Interfaces that load quickly, work on a phone and behave the same in every browser your customers happen to use.

Explore our services Get in touch →

Look behind the result

Read the situation, decisions and result in this example. We can discuss which parts transfer to your constraints and which need another approach. Built an English/Danish i18n system — 12,027 messages a locale, in English and Danish

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Going multilingual without the mess?

Talk through your project with the engineer responsible for delivery. We agree the scope, price basis and handover in writing before work begins.

Role context: Full Stack Engineer. It draws on Frontend Engineering, Full-Stack Development, Automation & CI/CD, Internationalization and Documentation. And while you are here, we are rather good at Frontend Development and Internationalization & Localization.

Get in touch Explore our services

One piece of **a longer record** — and it is all on this site.

Every entry is written the same way: the situation, the task, what we did and what changed.

See the whole record

Define the improvement you need

Describe the workflow, the existing interfaces and the users who need the change. We can define a testable delivery and a handover that lets your team maintain it.

See what it costs Get in touch →

Going multilingual without the mess?

Ask about the decisions behind “Built an English/Danish i18n system”. You will speak with the people who can explain the work and assess your own project.

Explore our services

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Contact card

Carefully Crafted With Love by D.

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