



ObjectFarmSpell.service

...unleashes the power of ispell on Mac OS X!

What is it?

As with Mac OS X 10.1 Apple only provides spell checking for the english (or better us-english) language. To work around this shortcoming I decided to wrap the command line spell checker Ispell [2] in a nice Mac OS X bundle so you can easily perform a simple drag-install. The cool thing with Mac OS X is that once an additional spell checker is installed all Cocoa based applications can use it. So for example Mail can spell check your emails written in german! The cool thing with Ispell is that you can get dictionaries for a lot of languages.

This release (Version 0.9.1) is considered as BETA SOFTWARE. You should not use this release on a production system since ObjectFarmSpell might have undiscovered bugs that may cause loss of data. However due to the spell checking architecture of Mac OS X's Cocoa frameworks a worst case scenario e.g. loss of data seems unlikely. If ObjectFarmSpell should crash you get a 'Can't connect to Spell Cecker' dialog displayed on the screen - the application using the spell service should not be affected. For more info see the Revision History below. Please provide feedback if ObjectFarmSpell causes any trouble or inconvenience for you.

System requirements:

You need Mac OS X. The classic Mac OS is not supported you might consider using Excalibur [8]. ObjectFarmSpell was developed and tested with Mac OS X 10.1 but should also work with 10.0.x.

Installation:

Use the Finder to copy **ObjectFarmSpell.service** into **/Library/Services**. If the **Services** directory doesn't yet exist in **/Library** create it.

Unfortunately there is a bug in Mac OS X 10.0 to 10.1 (build 5G64) which prevents automatic startup of custom spell services. This bug is reported to Apple and will hopefully be fixed for a future release of Mac OS X. For now you have use one of the following

workarounds:

For **Mac OS X 10.0.4** you need to add a startup item to **/Library/StartupItems** which is supplied with the ObjectFarmSpell distribution (the **ObjectFarmSpell** folder inside the **Documentation** folder). Copy this **ObjectFarmSpell** folder into **/Library/StartupItems**. You have to reboot to activate the spell service login/logout doesn't work.

For **Mac OS X 10.1** you also need the above mentioned StartupItem or go to **System Preferences: Login Items** and add **/Library/Services/ObjectFarmSpell.service**.

Limitations:

Ispell custom user dictionaries are currently not supported but you learn and forget words from within the Spelling panel (*Edit->Spelling->Spelling...*). Mac OS X's spell checking architecture maintains a list of learned words for each user and language (*~/Library/Spelling/<language-name>*) which ObjectFarmSpell supports.

Currently you can't add/remove languages to/from ObjectFarmSpell. This will be added and documented in Version 1.0.

Language Support:

Currently only german [4], spanish [5], italian [6] and french [7] are supported languages. Other languages will follow soon (as long as Ispell dictionaries exist). You can check out the International Ispell Homepage [2] for a list of available languages. If you think you can't live without a spell checker for a particular language listed there drop me a note.

Copyright:

ObjectFarmSpell - a Mac OS X spell service using Ispell

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To be honest my contribution to ObjectFarmSpell.service is minimal compared to work done by others who wrote Ispell and compiled the dictionaries. So you have to read and

agree to the Copyright information of Ispell and the dictionaries:

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German dictionary [4]:

igerman98 - dictionaries for german language
Copyright (C) 1999-2000 Björn Jacke.

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Spanish dictionary [5]:

espa~nol-1.7 - dictionaries for spanish (español) language
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Italian dictionary [6]:

ispell-it - dictionaries for italian language

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Italian dictionary and affix file for ispell. This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License.

This version unify the 2 different development from
- Antonio Palam

- Marco Roveri
I (Loris Palmerini) had the agreements of authors to do this work.
This is an improved version of their common affixes found in the Italian language. It's still not final. This is the equivalent of a beta version. The dictionary is not complete either but include around 160.000 words-

French dictionary [7]:

Francais-GUTenberg-v1.0

Copyright (C) 1999 Christophe Pythoud and l'Association GUTenberg.

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Source Code:

Starting with version 1.0 the source code of ObjectFarmSpell will be public. Currently the code needs to be cleaned up and documented. However if you think you really need the source of version 0.9.1 feel free to contact me.

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Revision History:

Version 0.9.1 First public release. **THIS IS BETA SOFTWARE** (see note above)

Problems with Version 0.9.1:

- When forgetting a learned word there seems to be a memory leak. Strangely the leak seems not to be in my code:
*** *malloc[<Service-PID>]: Deallocation of a pointer not malloced: 0xff008; ...*
When the Forget-button is pressed the above message appears before the NSSpellServer's delegate method -spellServer:didForgetWord:inLanguage: gets called.

References:

- [1] ObjectFarmSpell.service: <http://www.objectfarm.org/objectfarmspell>
- [2] International Ispell: <http://ficus-www.cs.ucla.edu/geoff/ispell.html>
- [3] GNU General Public License: <http://www.fsf.org/copyleft/gpl.html>
- [4] *Björn Jacke*, German dictionary: <http://www.suse.de/~bjacke/igerman98/>
- [5] *Santiago Rodríguez* and *Jesús Carretero*:
http://www.datsi.fi.upm.es/~coes/espell_readme/
- [6] *Loris Palmerini* et al.:
<http://members.xoom.it/trasforma/ispell>
- [7] *Christophe Pythoud*: <http://www.unil.ch/ling/cp/frgut.html>
- [8] Excalibur The LaTeX-Aware Spelling Checker: <http://www.eg.bucknell.edu/~excalibr>