

NAME

Enchant – enchant language tags, ordering files and personal word lists

LANGUAGE TAGS

Enchant identifies dictionaries by their language tag. A language tag is typically an IETF BCP 47 language tag of the form *LANGUAGE_COUNTRY*; for example, *en_US* or *zh_SG*. Multiple dictionaries may be used together by giving a comma-separated list; for example *en_GB,fr_FR*. This can be useful for checking multi-lingual text, or for using specialised word lists for a particular subject, project or document (these might have names such as *en-medical* or *en-my-novel*).

ORDERING FILE

File Formats Manual

ENCHANT(5)

Enchant uses global and per-user ordering files named *enchant.ordering* to decide which spelling provider to use for particular languages. The per-user file takes precedence.

The ordering file takes the form *language_tag:<comma-separated list of spelling providers>*. To see what dictionaries are available, run *enchant-lsmod-2*. ‘*’ is used to mean “use this ordering for all languages, unless instructed otherwise.” For example:

```
*:aspell,hunspell,nuspell
en:aspell,hunspell,nuspell
en_GB:hunspell,nuspell,aspell
fr:hunspell,nuspell,aspell
```

PERSONAL WORD LISTS

Personal word lists are simple plain text files with one word per line. The name of the file starts with the language tag and ends *.dic*. Each personal word list has a corresponding exclude file, ending in *.exc*, which lists words that are found in the dictionary but that the user wants to be considered invalid. The files are stored in an Enchant configuration directory; see **FILES AND DIRECTORIES** below. Lines starting with a hash sign ‘#’ are ignored.

SHARING PERSONAL WORD LISTS BETWEEN SPELL-CHECKERS

It is possible, and usually safe, to share Enchant’s personal word lists with other spelling checkers that use the same format (note that other spell-checkers may not support comments!). The spell-checkers known to be compatible are Hunspell, Nuspell and Ispell. (Although Enchant does not support Ispell as a provider, it’s still fine to share word lists with it.) Other spell-checkers supported by Enchant are either incompatible, or have no personal word list mechanism. There may well be yet other spell-checkers, unknown to Enchant, that use the same format.

Some applications use Hunspell or Nuspell, but store the personal word list under another name or in another location; Firefox and Thunderbird do this. Firefox also seems to reorder its word list when updating it; again, this is OK, as the result is still in the same format.

To share word lists with Enchant, find the other spelling checker’s word list file, e.g. *~/hunspell_fr_FR* or *~/config/nuspell/fr_FR*, and merge it with the corresponding Enchant file, in this case *~/config/enchant/fr_FR.dic*. Use the following command, replacing *ENCHANT-DICT* and *OTHER-DICT* with the corresponding dictionary file names:

```
cat ENCHANT-DICT OTHER-DICT | sort -u > merged.txt
```

Take a look at *merged.txt* to check the merge has worked, then

```
mv merged.txt ENCHANT-DICT
rm OTHER-DICT
ln -s OTHER-DICT ENCHANT-DICT
```

to replace the other dictionary file with a link to the Enchant dictionary, again filling in the name of the dictionary files.

ENVIRONMENT

The following variables affect the behavior of Enchant:

ENCHANT_CONFIG_DIR

A directory in which Enchant should look for configuration files. See below.

G_MESSAGES_DEBUG

Enchant uses GLib's log functions, with the domain *libenchant*, to output messages useful for debugging. Setting *G_MESSAGES_DEBUG* to *libenchant* will cause Enchant to output debugging messages to standard error. See the GLib documentation for more details.

FILES AND DIRECTORIES

Enchant looks in the following places for user files, in decreasing order of precedence:

ENCHANT_CONFIG_DIR

(If the environment variable is set.)

XDG_CONFIG_HOME/enchant (non-Windows systems)

Default: *~/config/enchant*

CSIDL_LOCAL_APPDATA/enchant (Windows systems)

Default: *C:\Documents and Settings\username\Local Settings\Application Data\enchant*

Dictionaries for some providers are looked for in a subdirectory with the same name as the provider, for example *~/config/enchant/hunspell*. Currently this works for Hspell, Hunspell, Nuspell and Voikko.

Providers also look in specific system directories, and in some cases and user directories, for their dictionaries; see the documentation for each provider.

In addition, Enchant looks in the following systems directories for ordering files:

/etc/enchant-2

(Or the equivalent location relative to the enchant library for a relocatable build.)

/usr/share/enchant-2

(Or the equivalent location relative to the enchant library for a relocatable build.)

SEE ALSO

enchant-2(1), **enchant-lsmod-2(1)**

AUTHOR

Written by Dom Lachowicz and Reuben Thomas.