

Hennie Brugman – ELAN Releases 2.0.2 and 2.1

The version 2 is a major upgrade. Elan's viewer and media handling internals are completely re-engineered, as is the handling of user commands. The user interface is completely redesigned, including shortcut keys.

Main new features and changes:

- All viewers for one annotation document are now shown in one document window. The video panel can be detached into a second window. This can for example be useful to display MPEG-2 video on a separate monitor.
- Several new and/or revised viewers (for details see: <http://www.mpi.nl/tools/elan/release-notes.html>)
- 'Save As' is now supported.
- Time selections are now made or modified in a completely new way. Next to dragging and shift-click in the time line viewer or wave form panel Elan now has a special 'selection mode': all time navigation and playback buttons modify either the begin or the end of the selection when in selection mode.
- Two time-synchronized video panels are supported now. The user can specify the begin time for each of the two separately.
- Media files do not have to have the same name as the matching .eaf file anymore, and do not have to be in the same directory either. When files can not be found at the locations stored in the .eaf file, first the eaf file's directory is checked, then the user is prompted to specify a location.
- Elan's user interface can be localized on the fly. Currently supported languages are English and Dutch. It is now easy and straightforward to support other languages. Volunteers for translation of English user interface texts to some other language are welcome.
- Formats (for details see: <http://www.mpi.nl/tools/elan/release-notes.html>)
- Time accuracy: all times in all viewers are correct, and synchronized at all times. There is one annoying issue that can not be fixed on the short term: when playing a time selection, playback of the video continues a few frames after the end of the selection. How much depends on the computer or operating system running Elan. Right after this 'overshoot' the media time is set to the exact end time of the selection, resulting in a little jump in the video playback. Audio does NOT have this problem.
- Support for template documents to make reuse of tier setups easier.

- New Unicode input methods for Korean, Georgian and Turkish.
- Preferences are now stored between Elan working sessions. These are both preferences for Elan (like last used directories for eaf files, media files, shoebox type files) and preferences for individual documents (like media time, selection, active tier, etcetera).
- Even if media files for some eaf file are completely missing the document can still be opened for inspection and modification.
- A 'shift' mode is added to help alignment of imported data. Unlike the already existing 'bulldozer' mode gaps between annotations are maintained.