

KirzeN, the international dictionary

Balázs Sipócz



Balázs Sipócz is COO of KirzeN. He heads the production of the site and defines strategies to achieve the allotted goals. He has been working on Web projects with Docler Holding, including some of the largest Websites on the Internet, since 2004.
sipocz.balazs@kirzen.hu

KirzeN is a business partner of K Dictionaries.

KirzeN Hungary Ltd. is the youngest division of Docler Holding, one of the most successful and continuously growing companies in Hungary. It was founded and is owned by György Gattyán.
<http://kirzen.com>
<http://docler.com>

Photo of the new Docler building in Budapest.



KirzeN is an innovative online dictionary created by an ambitious company in Hungary that dared to dream big. The idea of the Website stemmed from an urge to create something that could become unique, useful and positively exciting. After a long period of studying the current market leaders in online translation and the main dictionary sites, it was concluded that the overwhelming majority use either a multilingual dictionary core or language pairs that can be selected at the main input field to allow two-way searches between two languages. Furthermore, we noted the meagre availability of “minor” languages and the lack of functions for non-verbal information. Thus, we decided to develop an online dictionary that includes a wider range of languages, actually aiming to cover as many living and extinct languages as possible, and that provides users with an easy-to-handle interface in different languages—for free.

KirzeN is not only a tool for looking up words and phrases in diverse languages; it is based on a brand-new concept that combines high-quality and well-structured lexicographic data together with the advantages of social networking and file sharing. The site is now available on the Internet under several domains (.com, .net, .eu, .us, .in, .cn, etc.) in 16 interface languages. It is possible to search for translations and definitions in more than a million items in over 40 languages, including most of the European languages and the major Asian ones. Each word and phrase has its own sub-page that is easily accessible by clicking on the relevant record. The page contains all of the available lexicographic content as well as the uploaded multimedia content for that word or phrase. After the registration process, users can fill out their own profile and contact other members of the community. Registered members gain access to the KirzeN Workshop, where the action takes place. There they need to choose a mentor to cooperate with. They

can upload new translations, definitions, pronunciation samples, pictures or videos for any entry. Since we are committed to allowing only quality content to appear on the site, there is a strict reviewing system. Each uploaded item has to gain the approval of two reviewers before being registered in the records. The reviewer, who should be an active member of the community and who contributes often to editing the entries, may become a mentor. The mentor makes decisions about questionable content and helps newcomers to become acquainted with the rules. Members gain rewards for quality work, in the form of points that are redeemable for valuable gifts in the KirzeN Shop. Points are given for approved content according to the difficulty level and language competence. In addition to the community functions, users can communicate through a private messaging system, and soon we will launch our own instant messaging system as well. In view of the success of Wikipedia and YouTube, we strongly believe in the power of the community and that our members will share and gain knowledge through such a dictionary.

After nearly one year of preliminary work developing an appropriate database structure and the interfaces for searching, uploading and editing content, most of the planned functions are up and running. At present the site's main goals are to attract mentors, extend the number of the languages in the database, and bring to perfection the grammatical component of the entries in the dictionary. Obviously, KirzeN is not only for surfers who need just a quick translation; it has more to offer to users worldwide who are generally interested in a language, wish to discuss their experiences and ideas, and are ready to elaborate the dictionary by contributing to or editing new entries. Moreover, professional lexicographers, experts on “minor” languages and students are all welcome to make their comments on KirzeN and have their work recognized and appreciated worldwide.

We realize it is becoming more and more difficult to find an online dictionary that suits your needs, and we hope and believe that with KirzeN such needs will be fulfilled. Admittedly, we cannot forget that developing a site requires continuous hard work, so we do our best to enhance the present features and attain the planned ones. Hopefully, the presence of KirzeN, the international dictionary, on the World Wide Web will satisfy many users.