

Language Issues and Other Notes for International Users

Because AminoCow[®] supports several different languages and is designed to run in a number of different locales, users will from time to time encounter language and locale related issues. The following paragraphs are designed to briefly address these issues.

First, AminoCow works within the broad parameters defined by the Windows[®] operating system. In general, there are two areas of concern. The first is the base language of the Windows operating system and the second is the locale as defined by the “Regional Settings” option of the “Control Panel”.

The base language of the operating system defines the language of the user-interface. For example, if the base language is Japanese, the interface is Japanese while if the base language is German, the interface is German. Beyond, their selection of an operating system when they purchase a machine, users typically have very little control over any of the features defined by the base language of the operating system.

On the other hand, users have a great deal of control over locale. In Windows, a locale is defined in terms of a language and several other parameters with many languages appearing as part of a number of locales. For example, English is a part of the definition of the Canadian, Australian, American and British locales while Spanish is a part of the Mexican, Spanish, and most Latin American locales.

In terms of languages, locales also account for important regional differences. For example, if the locale is Spanish – Mexico, Windows assumes that the decimal separator is the “.” and that the general date format is mm/dd/yy. On the other hand, if the locale is Spanish – Spain, Windows assumes that decimal separator is the “,” and that the general date format is dd/mm/yy. In Windows, the locale is changed or modified via the “Regional Settings” option in the “Control Panel”.

AminoCow is based on the assumption that the large majority of users will not change “Regional Settings”, even if they work with different languages in AminoCow. However, since AminoCow is designed to allow the import and export of data between users without restriction to language, it is quite possible that a German user will send data to an English user or that a Japanese user will send or receive data from an English user. AminoCow is designed to handle these data transfers as seamlessly as possible, but there are a few things users need to be aware of.

AminoCow is only sensitive to the date and number formats and always use the date and number formats specified at the operating system level. For example, if you use “Regional Settings” to change your system language from Spanish – Mexico to Spanish – Spain, the decimal separator will switch from the decimal point to the comma and the date format will switch from mm/dd/yy to dd/mm/yy, and these changes will be automatically picked up by AminoCow. AminoCow will ignore any other changes including language and currency symbol changes made via “Regional Settings”

Support for the Japanese language is also a special issue. In general, Windows 98 users of AminoCow can only use Japanese as a language, if they have a Japanese version of the operating system. Non-Japanese, Windows 2000 and XP professional users simply have to install support for the Japanese language through the “Regional Settings” option. No special language packs or upgrades are required. In addition, users must specify Japanese as the non-Unicode language for programs in order for AminoCow to properly display Japanese characters.

Because of a limitation in the programming language used to develop AminoCow, Japanese users are confined to using Japanese or English. When a machine is setup in Japanese, special characters such as the German umlaut are not handled properly.

For the large majority of users of AminoCow, the operating system is a non-issue as once set, users seldom switch any of the “Regional Settings” parameters. However, users may very well transfer data

between machines with different “Regional Settings”, and since this is equivalent of changing “Regional Settings”, the following list summarizes what changes and what does not change.

1. Date formats and number formats always reflect the “Regional Settings” of the computer on which AminoCow is running. When data is transferred between machines, the date and number format of the data is automatically converted to match the settings on the importing machine.
2. The language of the data, for example Feed names, does not change when data is moved between machines or when the machine’s language is changed in “Regional Settings”.
3. Only those machines, set up to display Japanese characters will be able to display AminoCow data that is in Japanese. If a machine cannot display Japanese characters, the data will appear as a series of “?”.
4. On Windows 2000 and Windows XP systems, all AminoCow languages are available, though Western users will have to install supporting fonts from the Windows CD for Japanese.
5. Because of some limitations in the programming language used to develop AminoCow, only Japanese and English are available on Windows 2000 and Windows XP machines set to support Japanese.

Language Sensitivity in AminoCow

When AminoCow is first run, users select a default language and several other parameters that can later be altered via the Setup utility. The following list indicates what changes and what does not change when the language is changed in AminoCow.

Changes

1. All feed names in the standard feeds database switch to the new language.
2. The user interface including menus, text boxes and labels, reports, and most messages also switch to the new language.
3. The Balancer Feed List names and all standard feeds in them, switch to the new language.

What does not change

1. The date and number format – this always reflects the “Regional Settings” of the computer.
2. The currency symbol –this can be changed separately on the Setup screen.
3. Any user defined data – including user defined feed names, the names of user feeds, custom mix names, prices and any data in existing rations and feed lists.
4. Particularly in Windows 98, a small number of system level messages used by AminoCow will always appear in the “native” language of the operating system.