Debian Science Blend
Scientific research using Debian

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Overview

Debian Pure Blends

- Formerly known as "Custom Debian Distributions"
- Specific adaptations to certain workfields
- **No derivative** from Debian but reside completely inside Debian

Basic idea: Do not make a separate distribution but make Debian fit for special purpose instead

Specific scientific Blends

Debian Med
: Strong focus on Microbiology

Debian GIS
: Geographical Information Systems (especially GRASS)

DebiChem
: Chemistry

Why not more?

- Idea of Debian Pure Blends needs some time to penetrate
- Advantages are not widely known
- Nobody likes to do the grunt work
- Umbrella to form more in the future

Debian Science Blend

- Blends provide straightforward access to package pool
- No need for searching interesting packages
- Engagement for packaging more scientific Free Software
- Further add-ons like user menus, preconfiguration, . . .
- Installer with adapted tasksel options
- Tasks web pages
- Specific bugs overview

Science specific metapackages

- science-astronomy
- science-biology
- science-chemistry
- science-electronics
- science-engineering
- science-geography
- science-linguistics
- science-mathematics
- science-meteorology
- science-neuroscience-cognitive
- science-physics
- science-robotics

Common science utilities

- science-dataacquisition
- science-imageanalysis
- science-statistics
- science-typesetting
- science-viewing

Development

- science-astronomy-dev
- science-engineering-dev
- science-mathematics-dev
- science-meteorology-dev

Tasks files for `blends-dev`

- Done in two Extremadura meetings
  - Thanks to the *Junta de Extremadura*
  - Thanks to *Frederic Lehobey* and *Dominique Belhachemi*
- Sensitisation of debian-science mailing list
  pure packaging + user questions
  $\longrightarrow$ become a Blend which provides a *solution*

Some URLs

`http://wiki.debian.org/DebianScience`:

Debian Wiki

`http://wiki.debian.org/DebianScience/...`
`...ContributingToDebianScience`:

Contributing To Debian Science

`http://debian-science.alioth.debian.org/...`
`...debian-science-policy.html`:

Debian Science Policy

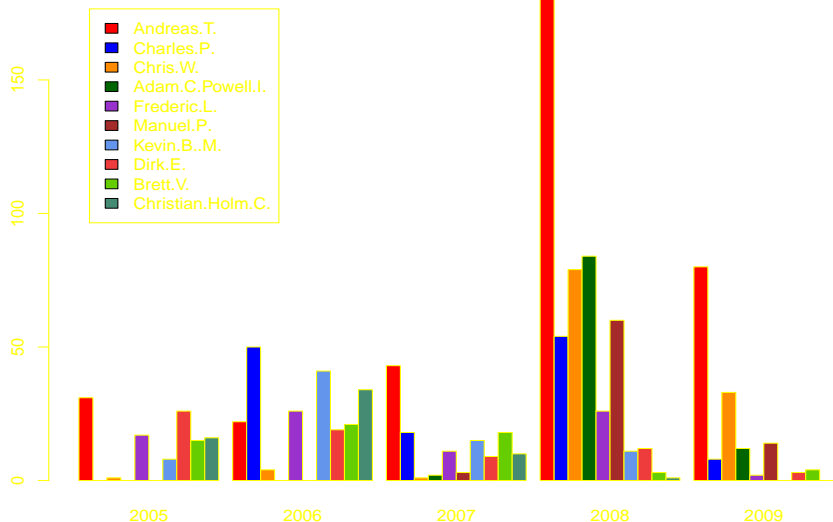`http://blends.alioth.debian.org/science/tasks/`:

Tasks overview

`http://debian-med.alioth.debian.org/`:

Future web features like in Debian Med possible

Top 10 posters on *debian-science@lists.debian.org*

List activities for science list

Legend:
- Andreas.T.
- Charles.P.
- Chris.W.
- Adam.C.Powell.I.
- Frederic.L.
- Manuel.P.
- Kevin.B..M.
- Dirk.E.
- Brett.V.
- Christian.Holm.C.

Using the web tools provided by Blend framework

- Blend framework uses tasks files to build task information pages
- Porting the QA tools of Debian Med Blend to all other Blends
- Forming an instance for upstream developers of scientific software
- Working on the Todo list of not yet included packages

How to help

- Go translating package descriptions
- Go Screenshotting
- Go Debtagging
- Bother authors of non-free licenses

Todo

- Go on with the nice work
- Increase support of single sciences to create more specific Blends
- Advertise the support of sciences in Debian to scientists
- Invite derivatives to join the effort

This talk is available at
http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/
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