

Debian Pure Blends

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Overview

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Derivative or Blend?
- 3 Future

Rename: CDD → Debian Pure Blends

- Term Custom Debian Distributions was always misunderstood
 - Main misunderstanding: CDD was regarded as “something else than Debian” even if people were told that it is a concept *inside* Debian explicitly
 - Dropped the misleading name in favour of a name where you just have to read the docs
- **Debian Pure Blend (in short Blend)**: a subset of Debian that is configured to support a particular target group out-of-the-box.

Examples of Blends

- Debian Jr
- Debian Med
- Debian Edu
- Debian Science
- Debian EzGo, BrDesktop
- Debian Accessibility, DebiChem
- Debian Lex, Debian GIS
- Debian Multimedia?
- ...

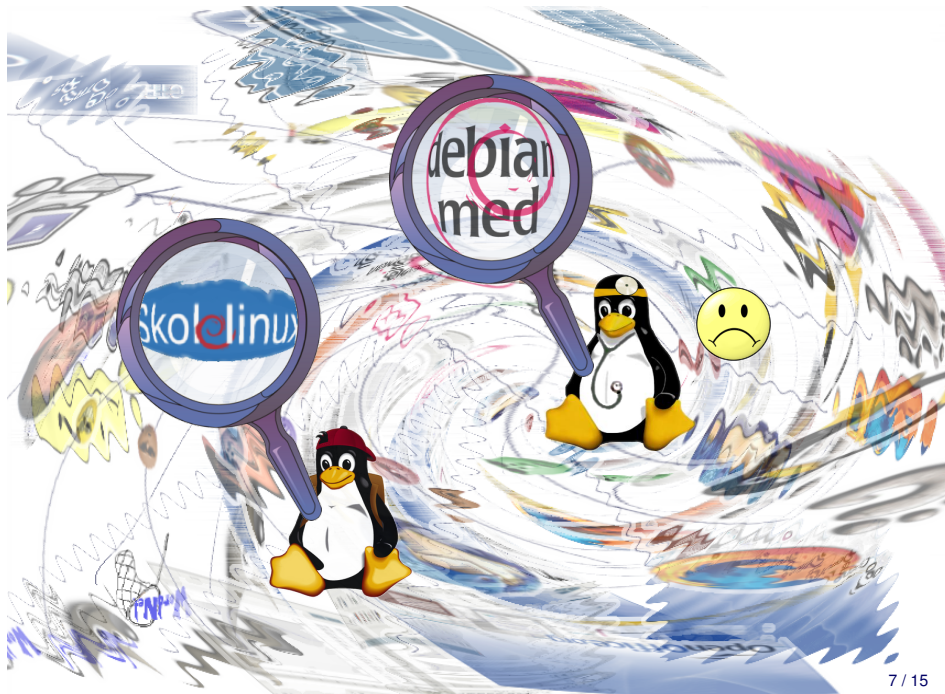
Basic goal of Blends

- Debian flat pool of > 29.000 packages
- Users interested in *subset*
- Groups of specialised users
- Easy installation and configuration
- While Debian stays general support specialists as well
- **No derivative** from Debian

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

Upstream - Debian Developer - User

- Tie a solid network of Debian developers, upstream developers (“developing experts”) and users
- Rationale: Experts in this field need help in build system / packaging
- Upstream anticipates enhancements of build system and security audit
- Finally support upstream developers to become Debian maintainers
- Penetrating specific work fields with Linux makes it even more acceptable in general



Reasons for deriving

- Do you feel a need to derive from Debian?
- Define your problem why you can not stick to pure Debian!
- Have you contacted Debian about this problem?
- Do you think other people might have the same problem?
- Is the number of these people large enough to form a team?

Successfully “competing” Debian?

- Extra distribution costs extra effort
- Are you sure you can maintain all QA means of Debian?
- Are you able to cope with innovations inside Debian?
- Infrastructure (BTS, Mirrors)

Number of derivatives

Old distrowatch.com statistics (pre-Ubuntu times)

Based on Debian GNU/Linux:	129 Distributions
Based on Fedora Core/Red Hat Linux:	63 Distributions
Based on Knoppix:	50 Distributions
Other bases:	<30 Distributions

- Something to be proud about?
- Diversion and confusion of users is growing for no reason
- Ubuntu now shares the same problem
 - growing number of *buntus, or distribution derived from – and named after – Ubuntu, rather ridiculous
 - Trademark and logo misuse issues
 - Suggested procedure: Remix

Example for derivatives: *Dreamlinux*

- Just picked a recent announcement of a Debian derivative
- Developed in Brazil
- Features:
 - OS X like dock implemented for Xfce
 - Installation on portable devices
 - Easy installation of non-free components

Why not rather working together???

- Isn't it more clever to fix the problem at the root?
- Could you imagine to do the adaptation inside Debian?
- If any needs for deriving might remain this will be simplified drastically
- Are you aware of the Do-O-Cracy principle inside Debian?
- The doer decides - just be the doer yourself and enhance Debian

Cover more workfields

- Find more supporters for different workfields
- Enhance Blends framework techniques to make its usage more attractive
- Try to bring back external projects to Debian by providing attractive tools

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