Tools inside Blends framework

Andreas Tille

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Overview

1. Debian Pure Blends
   - Short introduction
   - Blends features
2. Used techniques
   - Metapackages
   - Web sentinel
   - Team analysis
   - Misc UDD tools
   - Outreach
3. Future
   - Planned features for Blends

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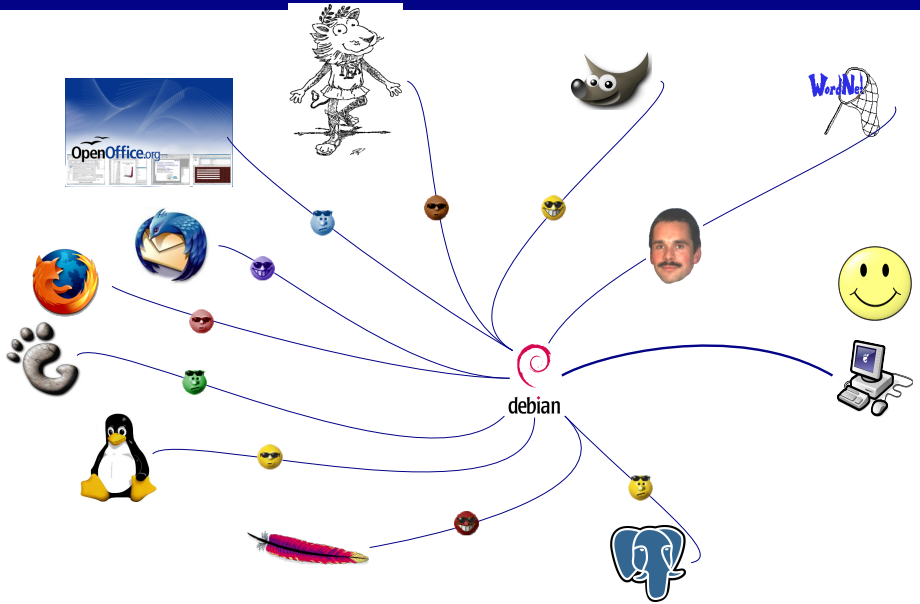

Role of Blends to attract specific users

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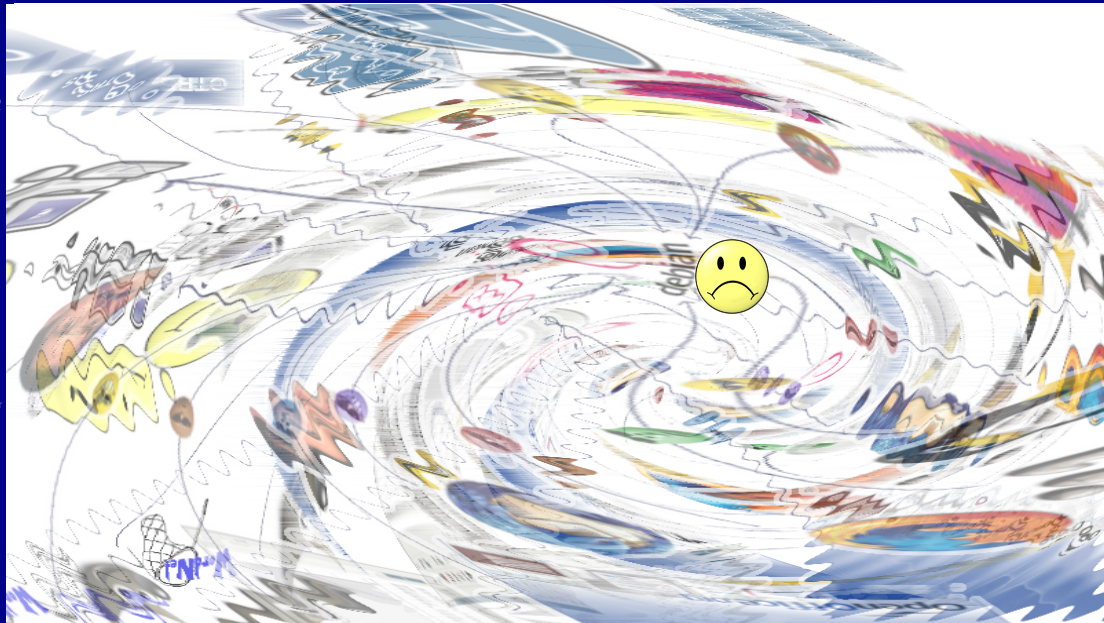

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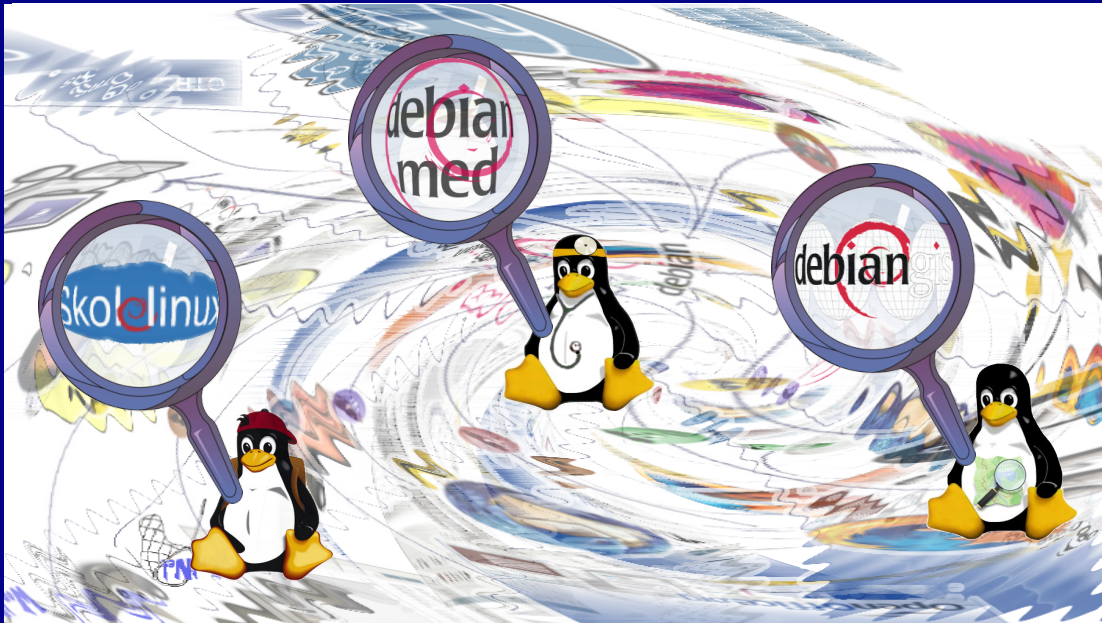

Med-bio task of Debian Med

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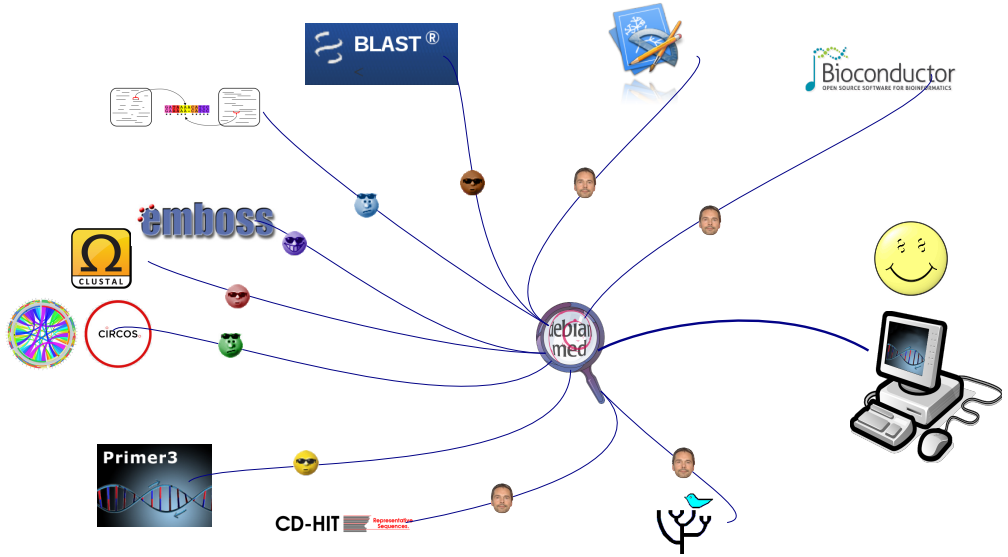

Upstream - Debian Developer - User

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- 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

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Attracting people to use Blends

Developers

- Acceptance of new methods higher if the techniques provided are convincing enough
- Simple way to categorise packages (“tasks files”)
- Key documentation feature
- QA pages (Bugs of relevant packages, DEHS)

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- Bundling software that builds a complete working environment
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- Turn these into installable code (metapackages)
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  - Create proper `debian/control` file to build valid metapackages
  - Create `tasksel` control file `<BLEND>-tasks.desc`

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Using *blends-dev*

debian/rules

```
#!/usr/bin/make -f
include /usr/share/blends-dev/rules
```

debian/control.stub

- *debian/control* will be autogenerated
- Only information for *source* packages is in *stub*
- See */usr/share/doc/blends-dev/examples/tasks*

*tasks/**

See */usr/share/doc/blends-dev/examples/tasks* or other Blends for working examples

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Example tasks file

Control file

```
$ cp -a /usr/share/doc/blends-dev/examples/tasks .
$ cat tasks/README
$ edit tasks/task1
Format: https://blends.debian.org/blends/1.1
Task: task name
Description: short description
 long description as in any debian/control file
Depends: dependends1, dependends2, ...
Recommends: recommends1, recommends2, ...
Suggests: suggests1, suggests2, ...  (optional)
$ cp tasks/task1 tasks/<meta-package-name>
```

Create a tasks file for every task

Working example: `apt-get source debian-med`

Calculating packaging files

`make dist`

- Check existence of package mentioned as Depends / Recommends in testing (== final target of the metapackages)
- If package is not in testing it will end up as Suggests inside metapackage.
- `*-all` metapackage / task
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  `Format: https://blends.debian.org/blends/1.1`
  `Depends` remain
- Format 1.1 is available since *`blends-dev (>= 0.7)`*

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Tasksel files

- Build process includes package `BLEND`-tasks
- Includes tasksel description files
- Hopefully presented in installer process of buster
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Tasks statistics

- `blends-dev (>= 0.7)` contains method to add json data file with package statistics
- Useful to graph tasks development
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Number of Packages in selected tasks

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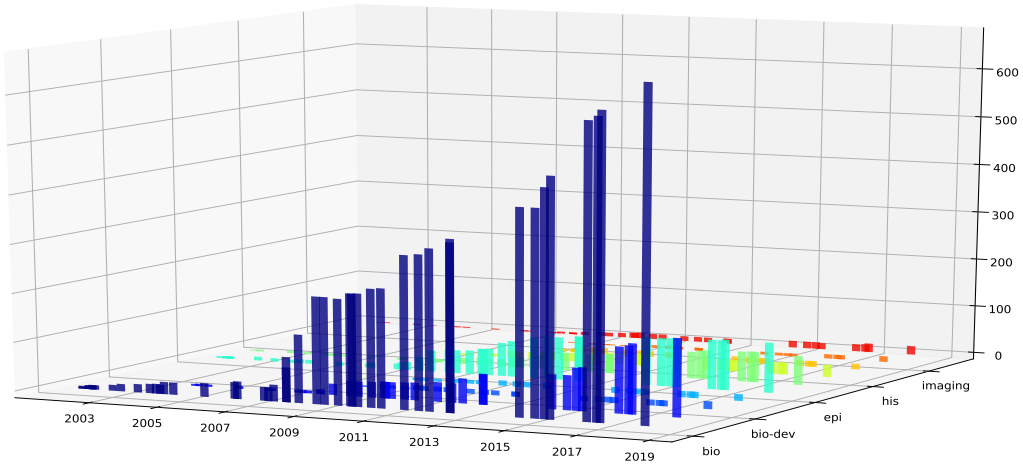

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Tasks, bugs and external health pages

- Providing information about packages in tasks
- Information gathered from UDD
- Some more user oriented, others developer oriented

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Tasks pages - show off what we have

- Key entry point for users
- Quick overview about what's inside Debian regarding specific work field
- Might contain todo list (prospective packages)
- Turned out to be QA tool for developers as well

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➜ Demo `http://blends.debian.org/med/tasks`

Bugs pages - direct people to work to do

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- Colouring according bugs weight
- Attract competent people to bugs by sorting these into workfields
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Bugs pages - direct people to work to do

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➜ Demo `http://blends.debian.org/med/bugs`

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Who is in the team and what period of activity

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Contributions per package

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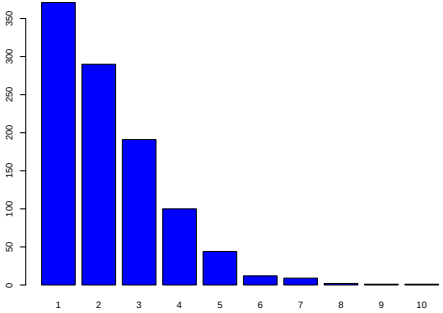
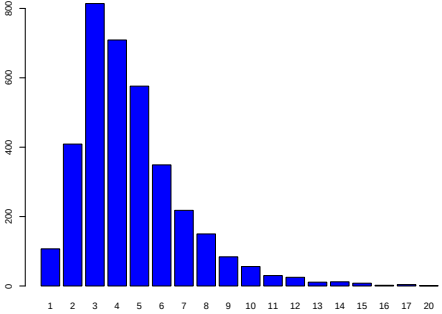
Debian Med

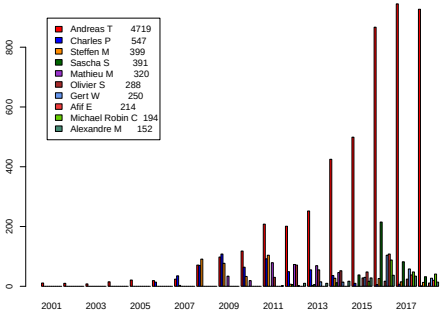


pkg-perl

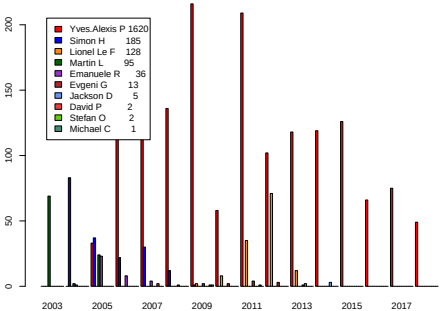


Top 10 uploaders

Debian Med



debian-xfce



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So far undocumented simple SQL scripts

- Search UDD for packages of team that are not in any task
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Month	Student	Package	Uploaded?	Visible in the team after 1 year
02.2012	Luis Ibanez	fis-gtm	yes	handed over to Amul Shah
03.2012	Scott Christley	libswarm	no	no
06.2012	Eric Maeker	libquazip	yes	yes
11.2012	Tomás Di Domenico	python-csb	yes	yes
02.2013	Sukhbir Singh	hunspell-en-med	yes	remained in Debian (not in Debian Med)
12.2013	Lennart C. Karssen	probabel	yes	yes
01.2014	Jorge Sebastião Soares	snp-sites	yes	no
03.2014	Stephen Smith	phyutility	yes	no
06.2014	Ian Wallace	openemr	no	no
09.2014	Corentin Desfarges	camp	yes	handed over to Flavien Bridault
02.2015	Paul Novotny	opensurgsim	yes	yes
03.2015	Yves Martelli	dwvexplorer	no	no
04.2015	Malihe Asemani	manila	-	no
05.2015	Afif Elghraoui	kmer-tools	yes	yes (even mentoring himself)
06.2015	Alba Crespi	r-cran-fastmatch	yes	yes
07.2015	Julien Lamy	dcmtk++	yes	yes
08.2015	Malihe Asemani	king-probe	yes	no
12.2015	Martin Uecker	bart	yes	yes
10.2016	Kerim Ölçer	emperor	no	no
11.2016	Çağrı ULAŞ	deepnano	yes	no
05.2017	Nada Ghanem	qupath	no	no
08.2017	Cedric Lood	bandage		
10.2017	Nadiya Sitdykova	gatb-core	yes	

Debian Med has attracted one developer per year

According to a *questionnaire* in Wiki

- Debian Med has 38 DDs+DMs (not all active any more)
- 19 DDs *because* Debian Med exists;
  4 DDs before Debian Med started
- 10 out of the 19 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
- 14 out of the 19 above are active in Debian Med

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MoM Conclusions

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- No student for each month so the workload is bearable
- Students have just read recent documents which I did ten years ago → I can learn new stuff from them
- Major advantage: training upstream to pool their knowledge about the code with ours about packaging is **very efficient** for the hard packages
- About 50% of students had strong connection to upstream and requests for upstream changes went very smoothly

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https://wiki.debian.org/DebianPureBlends/SoB

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Enhancing the web sentinel

- Enhancing the Web layout
- Better web layout
- The web layout should be enhanced
- Some more info like Lintian report overview, may be Ubuntu bugs . . .
- . . . in a better web layout
- Volunteers???

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Enhancing blends-dev code

- Provide more officially usable code to maintain Blends more easily

Link to extensive Blends doc

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https://blends.debian.org/blends/

This talk can be found at
http://people.debian.org/~ tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>