

Custom Debian Distributions in general

A user centric view on Debian

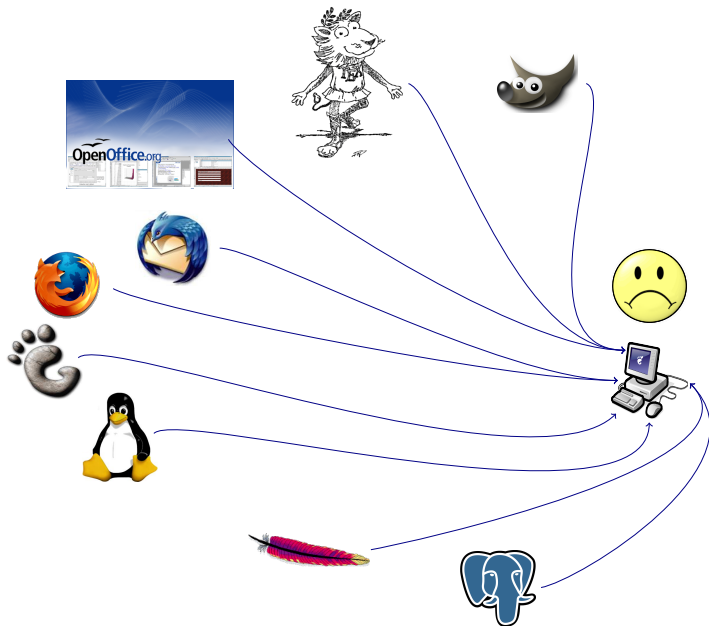
Andreas Tille

LSM Amiens, 12.7.2007

Gliederung

- 1 Distribution
- 2 Distribution for Specialists
- 3 Custom Debian Distributions

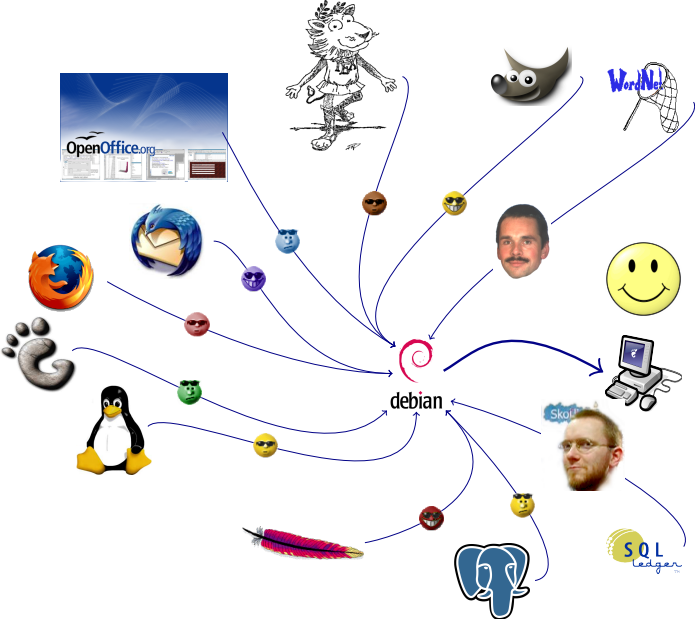
Linux from scratch



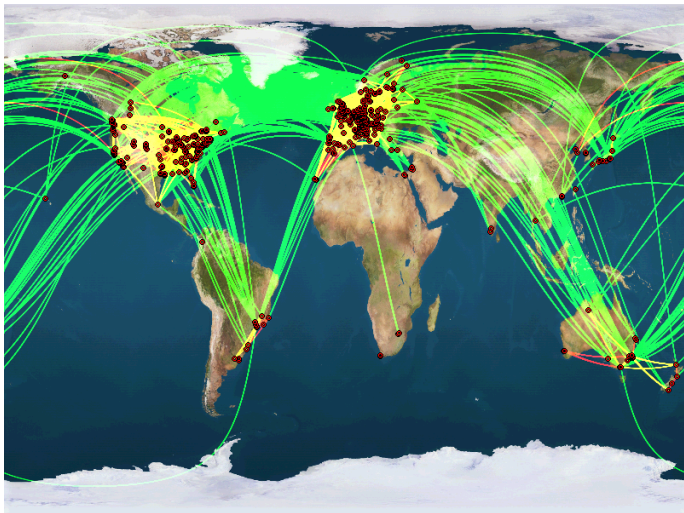
Distribution



Debian



Web of trust



Specialists in the evolution

- Development of Free Software is evolutionary process
- Very successful in case of many users
- Special software has small user base
- Profile of the envisaged user:
 - Unreasonable effort to install upstream programs
 - No interest in administration
 - *Specific subset* of available free software
- Profile of administrators:
 - Limited time frame
 - Lack of specialist knowledge



Nomen est omen?

- Unfortunately not in „*Custom Debian Distributions*“
- Often interpreted as “something else” than Debian
- Definition: Completely integrated into Debian
- Former „*Debian internal projects*“

Debian Derivatives

- Debian → Progeny, Xandros, Mephis, Ubuntu, . . .
- Fedora → RedHat / OpenSuSE → SuSE
- Advantages of free base distribution
- Support of base by derivative?!

CDD: Techniques

- Meta-packages
- Tasks
- DebTags
- Toolkits

Meta-packages



Tasks

- *tasksel* first user interface
- *debconf* pre-seeding
- **Make usage of `Recommends` instead of `Depends`**

DebTags

- Packages like books in a library
- Debtags \longrightarrow keywords
- Debtags-based installation

CDD-dev and CDD Toolkit

- Tools to support CDD techniques
- *cdd-dev* exists
 - Building meta packages easily
 - User menus
- CDD Tk better designed but not yet working
 - Features as in *cdd-dev*
 - Runtime installation
 - Create installation media

Everything's going to be fine

- Premature for euphoria
- Developers really appreciate support
- Just join the effort and package your special applications

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