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.

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

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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
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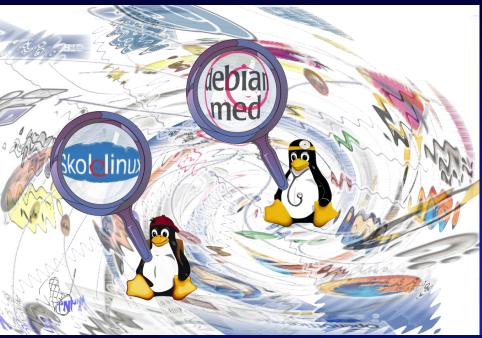
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Reasons for deriving

- 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?

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Successfully "competing" Debian?

- Extra distribution costs extra effort
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- Are you able to cope with innovations inside Debian?
- Infrastructure (BTS, Mirrors)

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Number of derivatives

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

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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?
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- 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

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This talk is available at

http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/

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