

Debian Edu Blend

Making Debian the distribution of choice for schools

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Overview

- 1 Debian Edu as a Debian Blend
- 2 Demonstration of Blends tools
- 3 Future

History: 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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- SkoleLinux started as a Debian derivative in 2000
- Independently internal project Debian Edu in Debian
- DebConf 2003 Oslo: Debian Edu is dead long live Debian Edu
- SkoleLinux is merging back to Debian
- LinEx: *All* schools of Extremadura are using a Debian derivative
- Educational branch of LinEx joins Debian Edu/SkoleLinux effort
- Merging both projects back to Debian nearly completed

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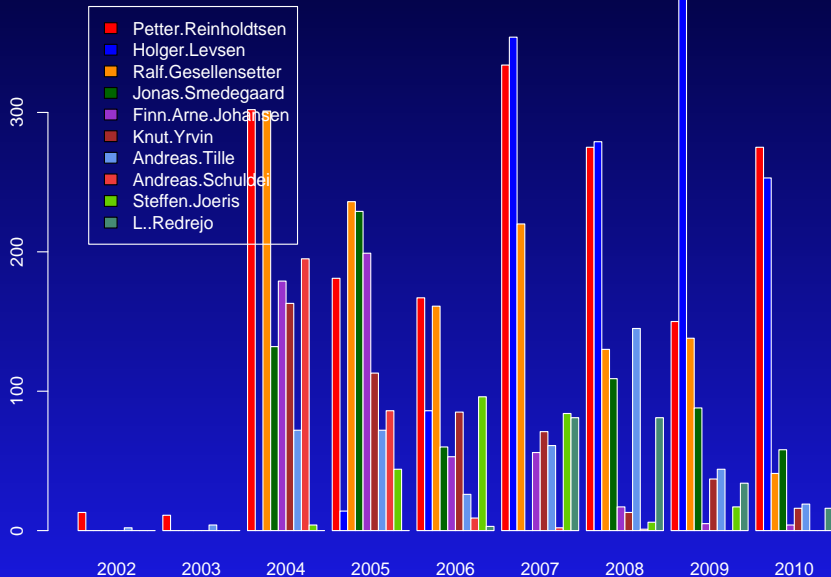
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List activity on Debian Edu mailing list



Debian EzGo

- Debian for schools in Taiwan
- Strong cooperation with Debian Edu
- I18n
- Applications for Taiwanese desktop

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Other Blends

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

Other Blends

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Basic goal of Blends

- Debian > 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
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- Provide an easy to use school server
- Simplify management of users (LDAP management)
- Work on old hardware used as thin clients
- Easy access to educational software
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Using Blends techniques in Debian Edu

Attracting Users

- I18n-ed web pages displaying relevant packages
- Promoting software that builds a complete educational environment
- Rise user interest by providing ready to install educational software

Attracting developers

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Simple way to categorize packages (Debian Edu)

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- Simple way to categorise packages (“tasks files”)
- Key documentation feature
- QA pages (Bugs of relevant packages)

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Future of Debian Edu

- Become a *pure* Blend
- Needed changes will make Debian more flexible
- Other Blends will profit as well

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- Blends techniques need to be enhanced to enable customised installers
- Generalisation of *education-menus* for all Blends
- Live CD generation (using metapackages)

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- Tendency to ignore the 100% inside Debian principle and to derive again for certain implementations
 - Reasons
 - Small crew with too few manpower
 - Limited knowledge of Debian and Blends internals
 - Short deadline for release
 - Just deriving and making changes might be faster than changing something at the Debian root
- We do not need to be fast – we need to be **sustainable**

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