



Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Meet the Technical Committee



Current tech-ctte members

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- **Sean Whitton** (spwhitton, chair)
- Christoph Berg (myon)
- Matthew Vernon (matthew)
- Helmut Grohne (helmutg)
- Matthew Garrett (mjg59)
- **Stefano Rivera** (stefanor)
- Timo Röhling (roehling)
- Craig Small (csmall)

(Red \Rightarrow present at DC24)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Simon McVittie
(2018-03-16–2023-12-31)

- Gunnar Wolf (2018-01-02–2022-12-31)

- Niko Tyni (2017-06-21–2022-12-31)

- Elana Hashman
(2020-05-28–2022-07-31)

- David Bremner
(2017-04-13–2021-12-31)

- Margarita Manterola
(2016-07-07–2021-12-31)

- Phil Hands (2016-04-16–2020-12-31)

- Tollef Fog Heen
(2015-03-05–2019-12-31)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Didier Raboud
(2015-03-05–2019-12-31)
- Sam Hartman (2015-03-08–2017-11-09)
- Keith Packard (2013-11-29–2017-12-31)
- Don Armstrong
(2009-01-11–2016-12-31)
- Andreas Barth (2006-01-05–2016-12-31)
- Steve Langasek
(2006-01-05–2015-12-31)
- Bdale Garbee (–2015-12-31)
- Colin Watson (2011-08-24–2015-03-05)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Ian Jackson (–2014-11-19)
- Russ Allbery (2009-01-11–2014-11-16)
- Manoj Srivasta (–2012-08-12)
- Anthony Towns
(2006-01-04–2009-01-05)
- Raul Miller (–2007-04-30)
- Wichert Akkerman (–2006-01-05)
- Jason Gunthorpe (–2006-01-05)
- Guy Maor (–2006-01-05)
- Dale Scheetz (–2002-09-02)
- Klee Dienes (–2001-05-21)



What is the Debian Technical Committee?

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Debian Constitution §6.1 The Technical Committee may:

- §6.1.1 Decide on any matter of technical policy
- §6.1.2 & 6.1.3 Decide any technical matter where Developers' jurisdictions overlap
 - Only body that can decide to change the maintainer of a package
- Make a decision when asked to do so
 - Tie-breaking
- §6.1.4 Overrule a Developer
 - Requires a 3:1 majority
 - Last resort
- §6.1.5 Offer advice



Constraints

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- §6.1 No power to override decisions by DPL delegates
- §6.1 No explicit disciplinary power
- §6.3.3 Public discussion and decision-making
- §6.3.5 No detailed design work
- §6.3.6 TC makes decisions only as last resort



Picking options

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Constitutionally, we are asked to *break ties* amongst available options

After all efforts to solve it via consensus have been *tried and failed*



Offer advice and make our views known

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

The TC can offer **you** advice.



The Debian Technical Committee is a...

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Self-nominated
- DPL-appointed
- Last resort
- Conflict resolution and advice-providing body



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf23

(<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Membership bugs

- #1065810 Membership of Craig Small
- #1069890 Voting for the TC Chair
 - spwhitton



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf23 (<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Decided

- #1050001 Migrate from merged-/usr to new alternative filesystem layout
 - The proposal was rejected.
- #1053901 Repeal merged-/usr file movement moratorium
 - The moratorium was repealed.
- #1060700 The impact of problems caused by aliasing on declared Conflicts
 - The TC discussed the issue and supplied advice.



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf23 (<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Closed without a formal resolution

- #1052460 Including Selinium Manager in python3-selenium
 - Closed as too early for TC involvement.
- #1052697 Change to apt-listchanges algorithm needs expert consideration
 - Closed as too early for TC involvement.
- #1065170 File deletion by glib2.0 postrm during t64 transition
 - Issue resolved itself in the interim.



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf23

(<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Current

- #1065416 linux-libc-dev claims to provide linux-libc-dev-ARCH-cross, but it doesn't do that completely



Term expiry §6.2.7

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

On January 1st of each year the term of any Committee member who has served more than 42 months (3.5 years) *and* who is one of the two most senior members is set to expire on December 31st of that year.

■ 2024

■ Sean Whitton

■ 2025

■ Christoph Berg

■ 2026

■ Helmut Grohne
■ Matthew Vernon

■ 2027

■ Matthew Garrett

■ 2028

■ Stefano Rivera
■ Timo Röhling

■ 2029

■ Craig Small



Need fresh blood

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

We are roughly looking for 1-2 new members per year.

§6.2.1: The Technical Committee consists of up to 8 Developers, and should usually have at least 4 members.



Don't worry – Not so draining

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Our regular issues are *not at all* like #727708
The point of the TC is *not* to get involved in long fights
The workload is not that bad



A typical month on the TC

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A



TC work is

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Often more *social* than technical
- About *disagreements* and conflicts
- At the *broad* technical level
- *Listening* to what people have to say
- Sometimes taking hard decisions
- Essentially political



Required skillset

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Empathy
- Technical agility
- Mentorship
- Responsiveness
- Social sensitivity
- Cool-headed



The TC needs more diversity.

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A



We need nominees!

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else



Talk to us

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Come talk to us if you have worries, questions or else!
We are just developers.



Q&A

Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Time for Q & A!

Thanks!

`debian-ctte@lists.debian.org`

`https://people.debian.org/~spwhitton/talks/2024/tech-ctte.pdf`