



Meet the
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Meet the Technical Committee



Current tech-ctte members

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Q&A

- Matthew Vernon (matthew)
- Helmut Grohne (helmutg)
- Matthew Garrett (mjg59)
- Stefano Rivera (stefanor)
- Timo Röhling (roehling, chair)
- Craig Small (csmall)
- Paul Tagliamonte (paultag)
- David Prévot (taffit)

(Red $\Rightarrow$ present at DC26)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

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- Christoph Berg
(2021-11-03–2025-12-31)
- Sean Whitton (2020-03-03–2024-12-31)
- 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)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

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- Phil Hands (2016-04-16–2020-12-31)
- Tollef Fog Heen (2015-03-05–2019-12-31)
- 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!

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- 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?

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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

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- §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

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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

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The TC can offer **you** advice.



The Debian Technical Committee is a ...

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Q&A

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



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf25 (<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

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Membership bugs

- #1121059 Membership of David Prévot (taffit)
- #1124639 Voting for the TC Chair
 - spwhitton



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf25

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

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Decided

- #1113774 Disabling -fcf-protection in sudo for bookworm
 - The proposal was accepted.



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Closed without a formal resolution

- #1124117 Seeking advice on fixing openconnect despite multi-developer dispute
 - Issue resolved itself in the interim.
- #1106402 dpkg-source, native source package format with non-native version
 - Issue resolved itself in the interim.



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf25 (<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

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Current

- #1141909 tech-ctte: dh_installtmpfiles-generated dependencies



Term expiry §6.2.7

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.

■ 2026

- Helmut Grohne
- Matthew Vernon

■ 2027

- Matthew Garrett

■ 2028

- Stefano Rivera
- Timo Röhling

■ 2029

- Craig Small

■ 2030

- Paul Tagliamonte

■ 2031

- David Prévot

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Need fresh blood

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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

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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

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TC work is

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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

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



The TC needs more diversity.

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We need nominees!

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- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else



Talk to us

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



Q&A

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Time for Q & A!

Thanks!

`debian-ctte@lists.debian.org`

`https://people.debian.org/~dprevot/talks/2026/tech-ctte.pdf`