Debian-Med

A Custom Debian Distribution for medical care

Andreas Tille

Debian

Debian Conference 5, Helsinki, 16. July 2005

Structure

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1. From start to today
   - Four years ago
   - The bright side
   - The dark side

2. Medicine is not only done by your doctor
   - How we see Debian-Med
   - What is the problem with Free Software for medicine

3. Prospectus

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Bordeaux wine (1)

DebConf 1

Bordeaux wine (2)

DebConf 1

Molecular Biology and Medical Genetics

- No orphaned packages
- Number of packages twice as at the beginning
- Quite important packages available
- Others waiting as unofficial for inclusion

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- Computed tomography simulator
- MNI medical image format

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- GnuMed at horizon, but it's only beta
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Top ten misconceptions about Debian-Med

1. Debian-Med *is* a practice management system *itself*
2. Only interesting for doctors
3. Not interesting for micro biologists / medical physicists
4. It is a different distribution than Debian
5. Debian-Maintainers are programming software for doctors
6. Debian-Med does not need helping hands
7. Can be used also with SuSE, RedHat etc.
8. Medical software can never be free
9. Debian-Med is just ready
10. Debian-Med is the Philosophers Stone

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Debian-Med - a Custom Debian Distribution

1. **Our special users: people working in medicine**
2. Addresses all tasks in medical care
3. Quite strong in micro biology / medical imaging
4. Completely integrated into Debian
5. Debian-Maintainers evaluate and package medical software
6. Debian-Med can need any help
7. Sorry, we do not work for SuSE, RedHat etc.
8. There is a certain amount of medical Free Software
9. Debian-Med just began working
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Who deals with medical software?

- Free Software development $\longrightarrow$ evolutionary process
- Needs a critical mass of supporters which are
  - programmers
  - users
- Limited set of users (medical staff)
- $\longrightarrow$ Limited set of programmers

We have to attract both groups to get it working ...

We are the missing link between upstream developers and users

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How to be the missing link

- Take care for the *medical subset* of packages
- Listen to our users – the medical staff
- Work together with developers
- **No "fork"** from Debian

*Basic idea: Do not make a separate distribution
but make Debian fit for medicine instead*

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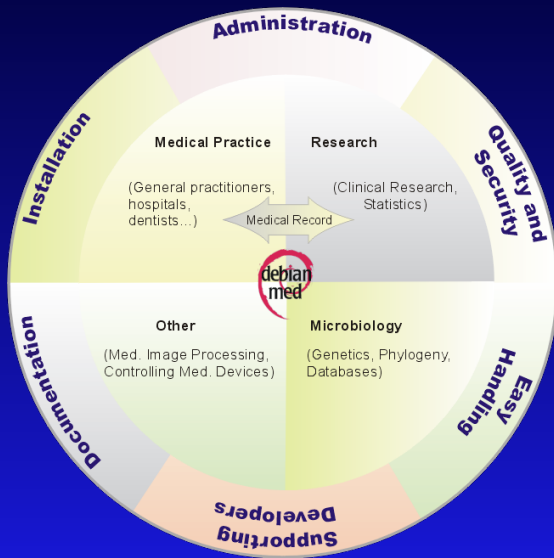- **No "fork"** from Debian

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Goals

- We have done the first step
- Parts are quite usable
- People know Debian-Med
- Lets continue

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This talk is available at

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

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