

Why running a Blend?

Debian Med as a success story for other Blends

Andreas Tille

Debian

Vaumarcus, 12. August 2013

- 1 Short intro into Debian Med
- 2 The Blends concept - Debian Med as a model
- 3 Graphing Debian Med

History



History



What is Debian Med?

practice management system

Debian Pure Blend for medical care and microbiological
research

Goal of Debian Med

- *Debian Med is a sustainable way to distribute medical FLOSS to the user*
- *Debian is the distribution of choice for people working in medical care and microbiological research*

Goal of $\${BLEND}$

- $\${BLEND}$ *is a sustainable way to distribute $\${BLENDSCOPE}$ FLOSS to the user*
- *Debian is the distribution of choice for people working in $\${BLENDSCOPE}$*

Focussing on certain topics



Debian Med

DebiChem

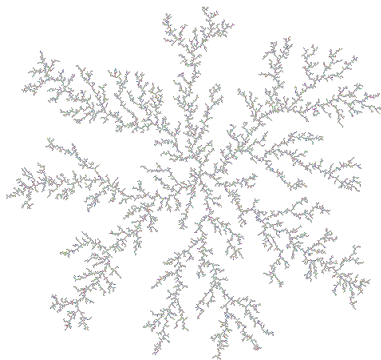
Debian Science

Debian Edu

Debian Jr

Debian GIS

Debian Multimedia



The name "Blend"

- «*Debian Internal Projects*» became
- «*Custom Debian Distributions*» → complete failure
- DebConf 2008 «*Debian Internal Solutions*»???
- People popped up for the only purpose of bikeshedding
- Vote ended up in «*Debian Pure Blends*» in short «*Blends*»

Similar structures in other distributions

- Fedora has SIGs (Special Interest Groups)
 - Fedora Medical SIG
 - Fedora Science SIG
- OpenSuSE Medical
 - shamelessly copied Debian Med tasks pages without backing it up by technical work
 - attempts to get contact failed
- Ubuntu-Med
 - seems to lag behind current Ubuntu
 - quite different focus than Debian Med
- FreeBSD Ports: Biology

→ *Debian Med has by far largest team and amount of packages*

Relation to derivatives

- Provide great preconditions for derivatives straight inside Debian (example BioLinux)
 - Using Debian Med VCS
 - Join common sprints
 - Finally profit from common work via Ubuntu detour
- Good options are unfortunately widely ignored by derivatives (example OSGeo)
 - Ubuntu derivative trying to get a full toolchain of open source geospatial software
 - Does not proactively interact with Debian
 - Seems to have no idea about relevant Debian teams like debian-java (but should)
- It's not only the derivers fault that options are not realised (example: Debian Junior died)

Purpose of Blends

- Making a certain topic "hot"
- Attract users of the specific working field interested in Debian
- Teach users & developers how to work together with Debian (via Blend team)

*A Blend is a way to advertise Debian
in a specific work field*

Why considering Debian Med a model?

- One of the first Blends
- Medical software collection has bad chances to survive
→ but it did
- Shows how to form a team based on specific topic
- Pushes Debian into a field of dominant proprietary software

*Turn Debian into the distribution
of choice for all medical fields*

Blends tools and formalisms invented in Debian Med

- General creation of metapackages based on tasks files (*blends-dev*; generalised from Debian Edu)
- Web sentinel based on same tasks files
 - tasks
 - bugs
 - thermometer (generalised from Debian GIS)
- Handling of scientific citations
- Subsectioning of DDPO pages according to tasks
- Making use of UDD for several purposes (web sentinel, citations, prospective packages in VCS, upload + bugs statistics)
- Debian Med policy
- Mentoring of Month
- Sponsering of Blends

Exkurs: User contact

On Wed, Jan 18, 2012, Luis Ibanez wrote:

Subject: Looking for a Debian packager for
FIS-GT.M: Change the History of Healthcare!!

Dear Debian packagers:

We are looking for one of you to help
us change the history of Healthcare

We are working at OSEHRA (<http://www.osehra.org/>)
on building an Open Source environment for VistA,
the Electronic Health Records system of the US
Department of Veterans Affairs.

VistA is the best proven EHR, and it has been used
for the last 30 years at the VA. It currently runs
about 170 VA hospitals and about 1,000 ambulatory
facilities.

...

Answer to user request: MoM

On Wed, Thu, 19 Jan 2012, Andreas Tille wrote:

Subject: Happy birthday Debian Med and
announcement of MOM

...To ensure that this development of a strong
team will continue I would like to propose a
new effort I would like to call

Mentoring Of the Month" (MOM)

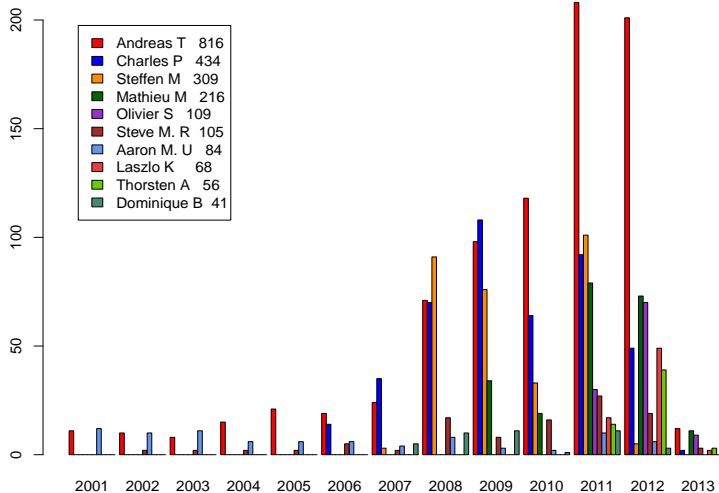
In this program I would like to dedicate a part of
my spare time to a newcomer (the "student")
providing any packaging knowledge I have to enable
him working more or less independently on packaging
after passing this MOM period. I like to guide the
student kindly into all secrets of Debian packaging
at the example of a specific program which is in
the focus of the Debian Med team. The student is
free to pick the package however, ...

Debian Med is good for Debian

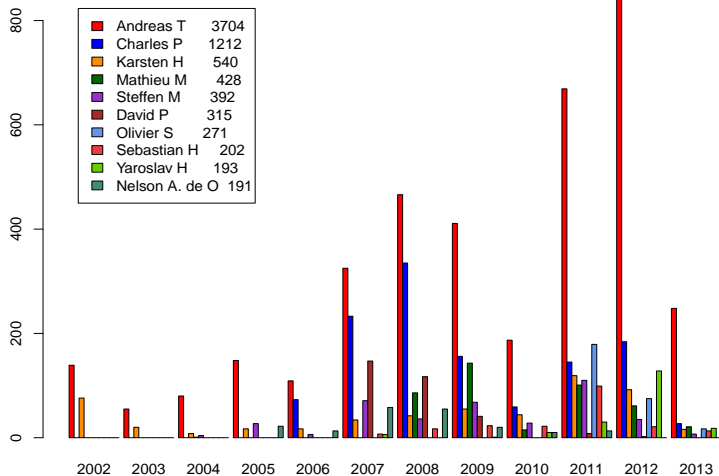
According to a *questionnaire* in Wiki

- Debian Med has 23 DDs+DMs
- 10 DDs *because* Debian Med exists;
4 DDs before Debian Med started
- 7 out of the 10 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
- 8 out of the 10 above are active in Debian Med

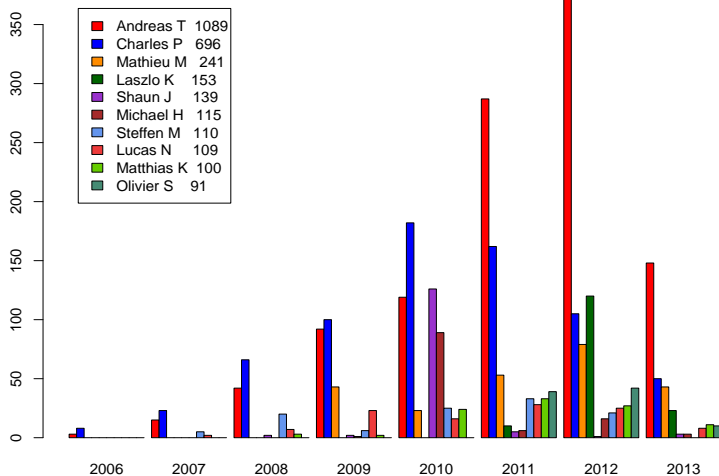
Top 10 Uploaders of Debian Med team



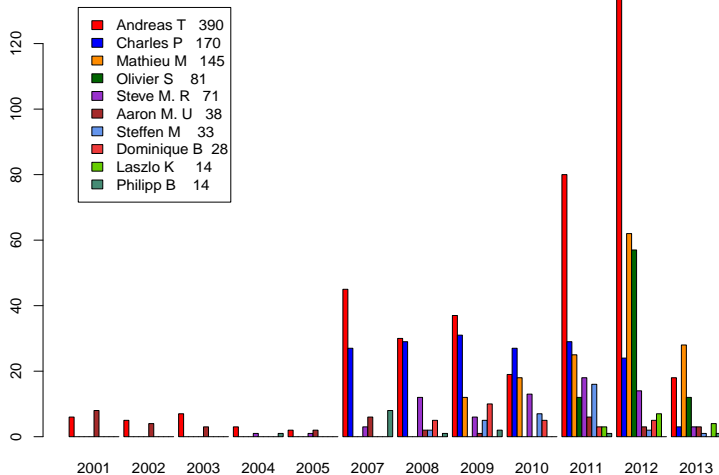
Top 10 discussion on Debian Med user mailing list



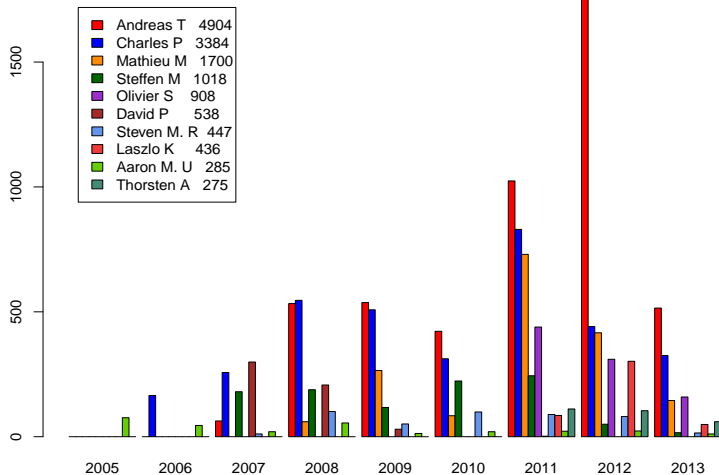
Top 10 discussion Debian Med developer mailing list



Top 10 bug hunters of Debian Med packages



Top 10 committers to Debian Med VCS



Team

*Waking up in the morning and realising
that somebody else has solved your
problem from yesterday*

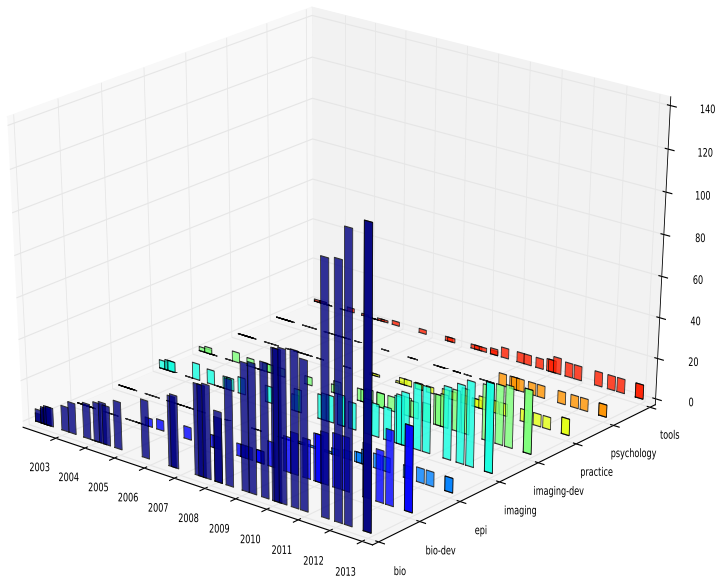
Meetings

- Charts have shown an increase of active developers and general activities since yearly sprint meetings are happening
- For the moment the Sprints are only done in the Biology branch
- Ratio between Debian developers to developers & users of bioinformatics software was about 1:5
- By closely working together with our users we have won new developers (one per Sprint)

→ *Previous users start realising that they can take influence by becoming a developer.
Yes, you can really join Debian!*

Thanks for supporting Sprints which we have proven to be successful

Number of Packages in selected tasks



Healthy growth

- After some stagnation in the beginning growth in all measures
- Warning: Also the amount of own work is growing (even if work is split on more shoulders)
- Strategy: Making Blends tools even more attractive to
 - make Debian Med more attractive to users + developers
 - make Blends more attractive for teams inside Debian

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