15 years and counting

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Debian

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1. Past

2. Present
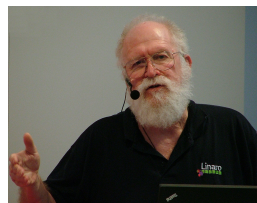
3. Future

Back in 2001 at DebConf 1

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the first talk about the concept was prepared

Lesson from DebConf 15 Heidelberg

I After 15 years people are starting to use what I'm working on.

John Only 15 years? You young guys should be more patient. I should hurry up since after 15 years I might be dead but you have so much time.
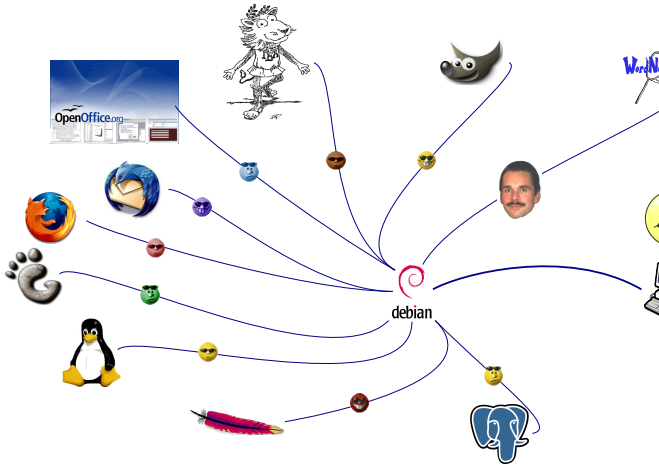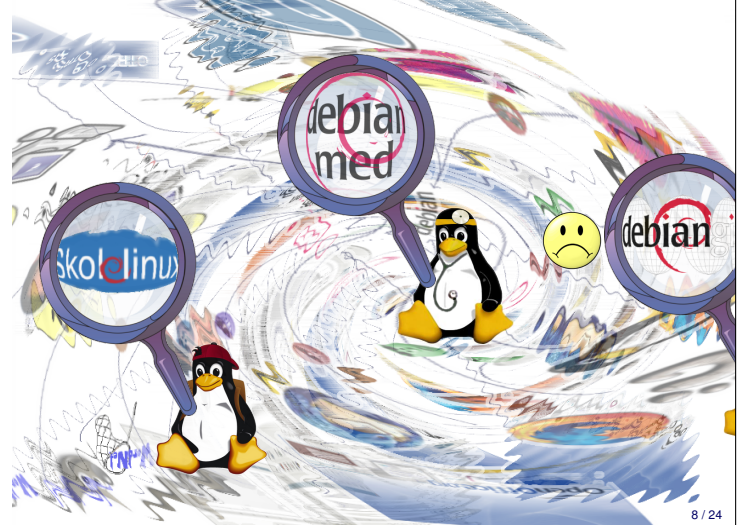

Motivation
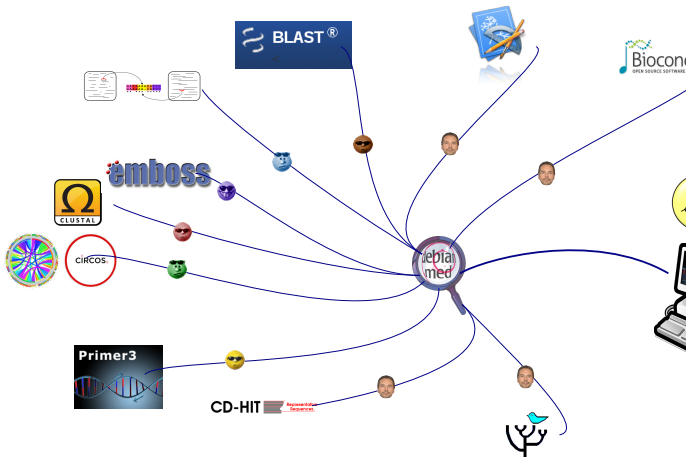
Since its possible → Do-ocracy

Debian

Role of Blends to attract specific users

Med-bio task of Debian Med

Packages in selected tasks of Debian Med
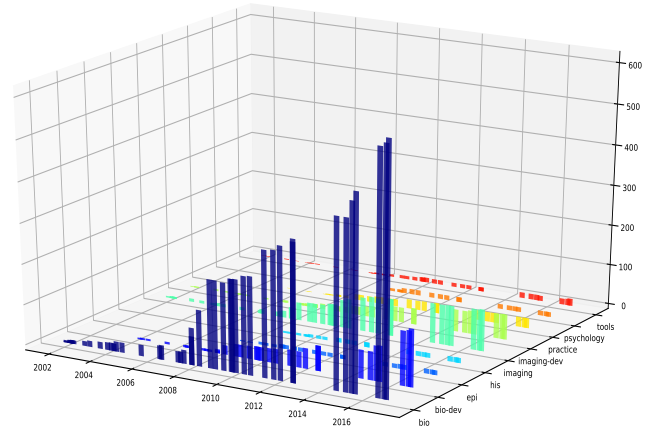
Team

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

Team building via mentoring

Mentoring of the Month

- Debian packaging is easy
- Let's work together for one month to prove this thesis
- You are kindly invited to learn packaging in a friendly environment
- Trying hard to attract upstream since authors are the best packagers

MoM Conclusions

- Time spent into mentoring is worth the effort
- No student for each month so the workload is bearable
- Students have just read recent documents which I did ten years ago
  → I can learn new stuff from them
- Major advantage: training upstream to pool their knowledge about the code with ours about packaging is **very efficient** for the hard packages
- About 50% of students had strong connection to upstream and requests for upstream changes went very smoothly

About Debian Med sprints


```
From:  Gunnar Wolf <gwolf@gwolf.org>
Date:  Thu, 12 Feb 2015 07:13:47 -0600
> My punishment to not have invited you is to
> stand inside the about 5°C cold water for
> 3 minutes.  ;-)
> Next Debian Med sprint will be as usual at
> end of January on some seaside location.
> You are welcome there.  :-P
Oh, I understand -- I thought Debian-Med focused on
packaging medical software.  With this note you mention and
your choice of location, however, I understand better:
After meeting every year, you need medical attention,
possibly including a psychiatrical evaluation.

But anyway, if we forget for a bit the fact that most (all?)
Debian-Med members are European, I can invite you (and if
you are interested, I'll surely get contacts for a nice,
sponsored venue!)  for a meeting next january in a *real*
beach, with nice 30°C winter sun, of course >=25°C sea water
where you will dwell for much more than three minutes and
all!
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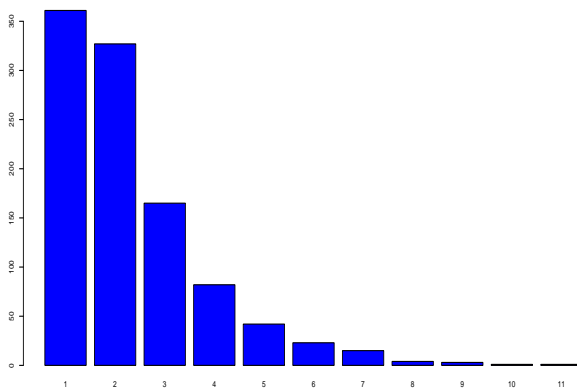
Maintainer per package relation in Debian Med

Debian Med has attracted one developer per year

According to a *questionnaire* in Wiki

- Debian Med has 30 DDs+DMs (not all active any more)
- 16 DDs *because* Debian Med exists;
  4 DDs before Debian Med started
- 10 out of the 16 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
- 13 out of the 16 above are active in Debian Med

Who is using Debian Med?

- Short answer: We don't know.
- Popcon
- Probably way more than popcon
- Debian Med packages used by derivatives
- Sometimes usage is published
  "Basically, DNA is a computing problem"
  `Think of it as the biggest Linux swap`
  `partition in the world, since the whole`
  `system is running on Debian Linux...`
  talking about the installation at Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

Not all tasks are appropriately covered

- Bioinformatics: very good
- Medical imaging: good
- Medical practice: there is something (gnumed, freemedforms)
- Hospitals: close to nothing (fis-gtm)
  ... besides a stable but unspecific OS

Debian Med is not a practice management system

- Common prejudice we are developing code to maintain patient data
- Provide what exists as best as possible
- Doctors should always consult IT professional
- Certification is usually an issue for Free Software

Practical issues for scientists

- Biologists servers are running Debian stable updated about every second year.
- Debian Med delivers new versions of software or newly released software via backports
- Problem: scientists sometimes need a specific version, may be in parallel to other versions
- No real solution but setting up containers or virtual machines is easy and can be done automatically by using metapackages

New maintenance relation

- Last century we had 1:1 relation maintainer:package
- Team maintenance resulted in m:1 relation maintainer**s**:package
- Blends are creating a m:p relation maintainer**s**:package**s**
- ➜ Its rather a team:topic relation
- ➜ Blends are the missing link between upstreams and users of a specific topic

Now it is up to you

- In my talk @ DebConf 13 Asheesh Laroia (in. *video* at about minute 38):
  "We should try hard to run around asking users and developers: Is there a topic you care about create a Blend today."
- If you like this team:topic relation - create a Blend today
  . . . I will help you here at DebConf or remotely
- If you like to attract one DD per year for Debian - just follow the Debian Med example

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