

One year of pandémie

Lessons learned in Debian Med team

Andreas Tille

Debian

Online, 25 August 2021

- 1 What is Debian Med?
- 2 Teammetrics statistics and development cycles
- 3 Long term contributions as result of Covid-19 hackathons
- 4 Following Hackathons and Online-Sprint
- 5 Summary

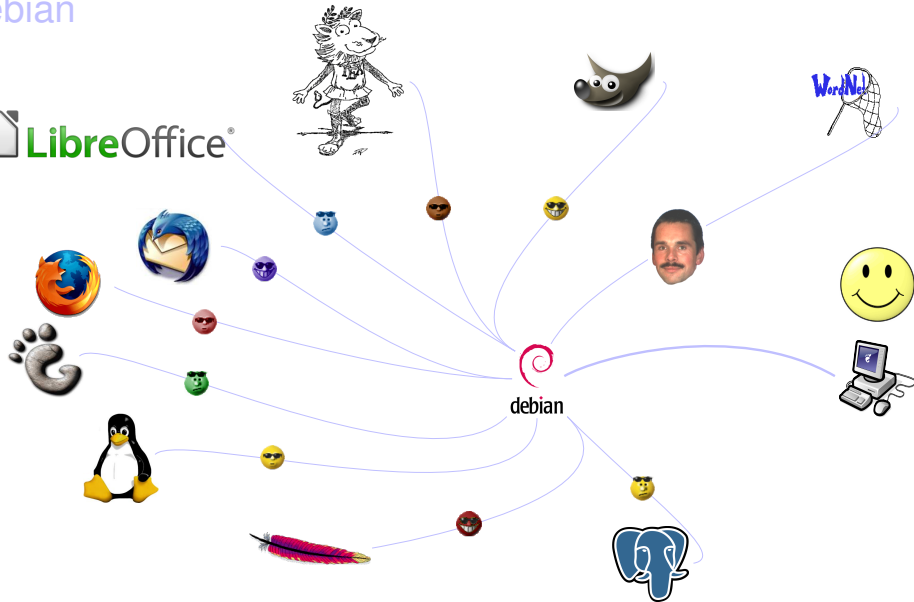
Back in 2001 at DebConf 1



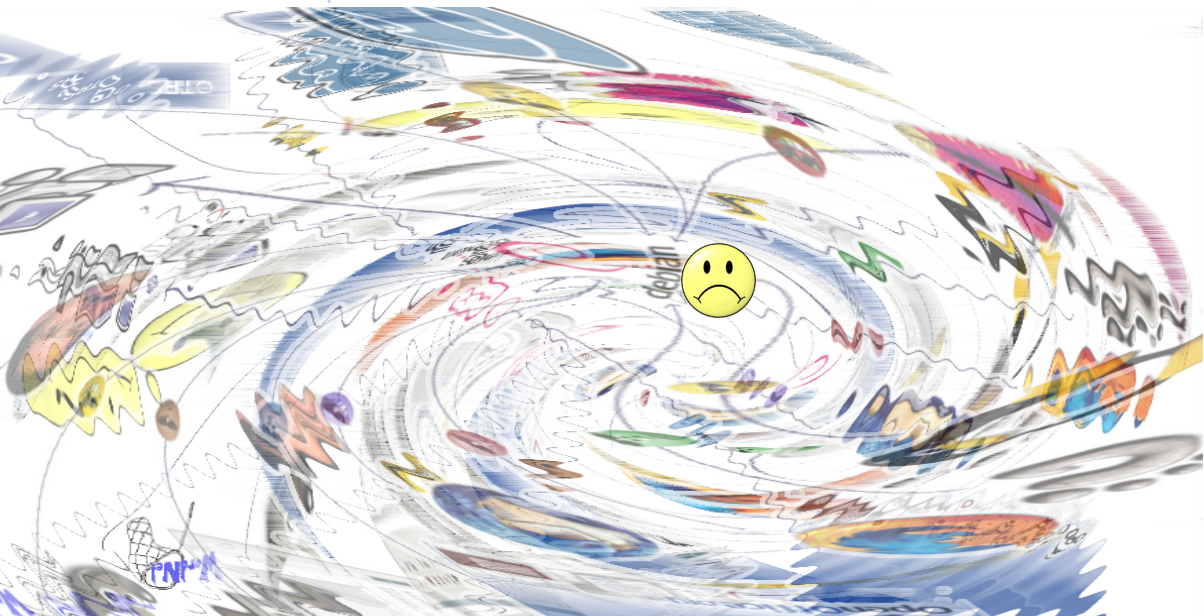
the first talk about the concept was prepared



Debian



Role of Blends to attract specific users



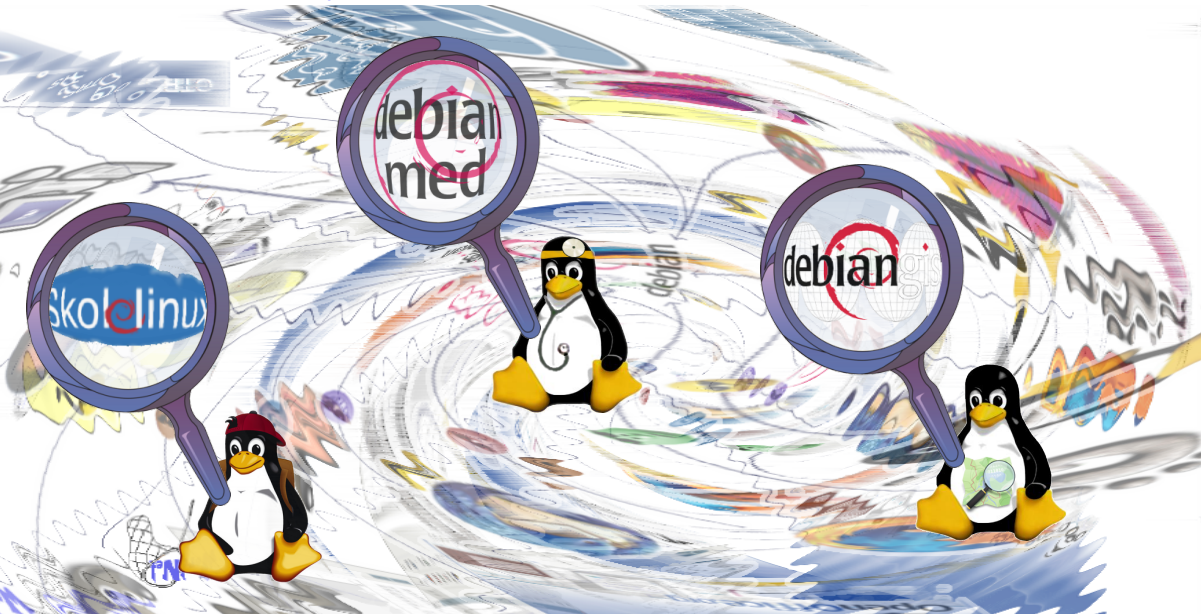
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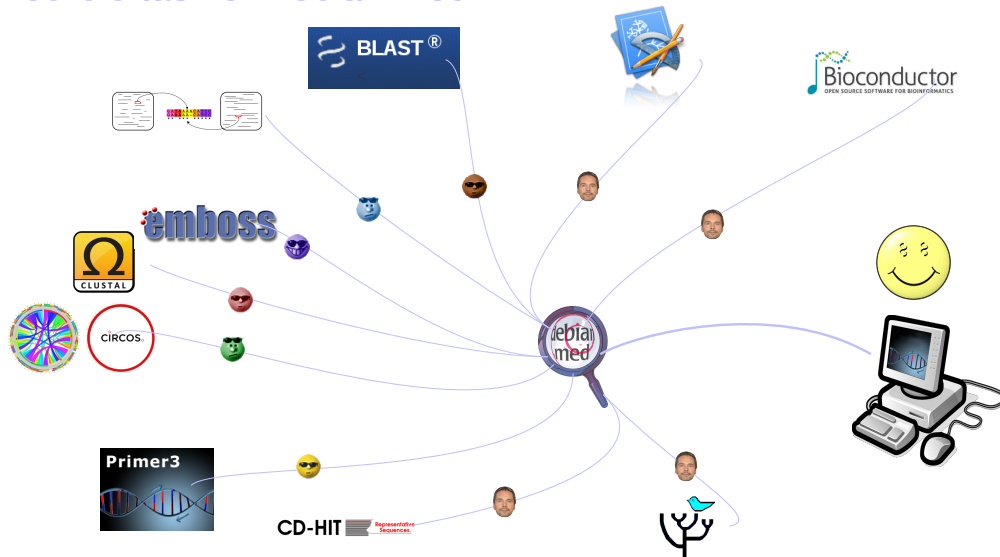
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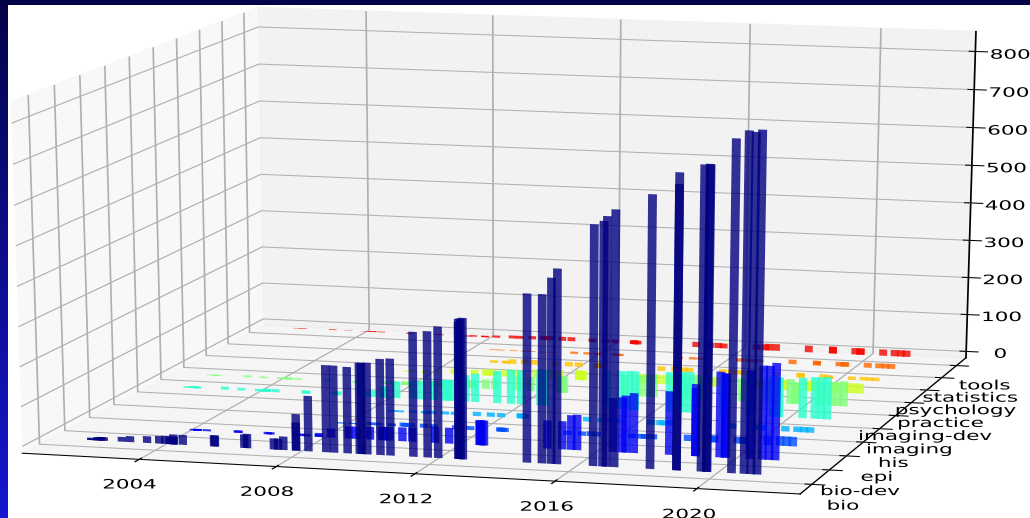
Role of Blends to attract specific users



Med-bio task of Debian Med



Packages in selected tasks of Debian Med



Debian Med has attracted one developer per year

According to a survey in Wiki

- Debian Med has 45 DDs+DMs (not all active any more)
- 23 DDs *because* Debian Med exists
- 16 out of the 23 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
- 13 out of the 23 above are currently active in Debian Med
- 3 DDs and 1 DM are new after the April-Hackathon

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Not all tasks are appropriately covered

- Bioinformatics: very good,
currently working on Workflows and AI packages
- Medical imaging: good
- Medical practice: there is something (gnumed, just lost freemedforms)
- Epidemiology: several R packages, working on AI packages
- Hospitals: close to nothing (fis-gtm)
... besides a stable but unspecific OS

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Interpreting graphs in certain development cycles

- Some graphs of Debian Med team
- Also R packaging team graphs since lots of Debian Med packages are in pkg-r team
- Considerations about "freeze depression"

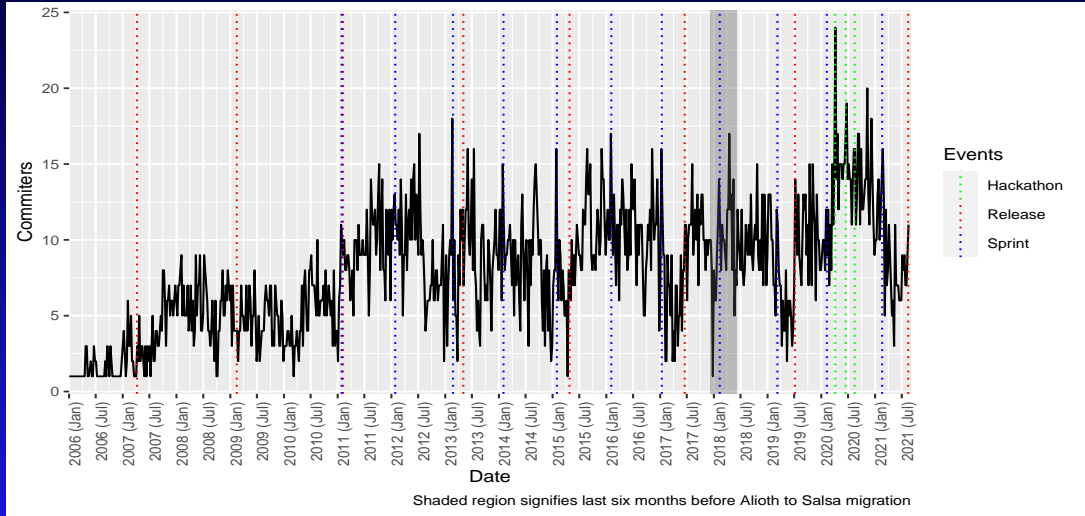
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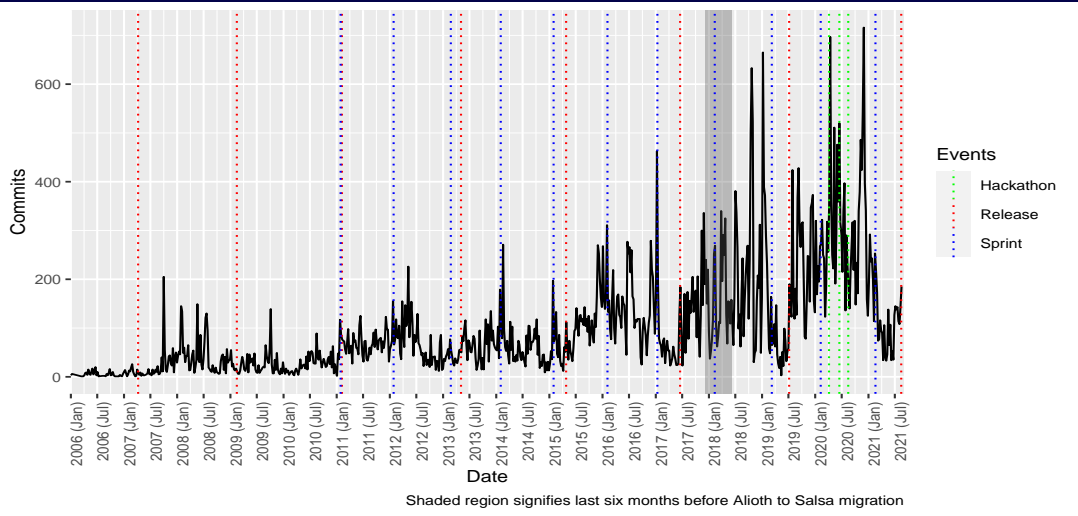
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Persons committing to Debian Med packages per week



Commits to Debian Med packages per week



Interpreting some peaks

- Some peaks related to release process like upcoming freeze and not connected to hackatons or sprints
- All time peak of 716 commits in week starting at 2020-11-30 caused by four very active DDs:
Andreas Tille 451, Étienne Mollier 72, Steffen Möller 62 and Nilesch Patra 58
- Effort to have up to date packages before freeze
- Next slide: Main activity in pkg-r team is a bit delayed

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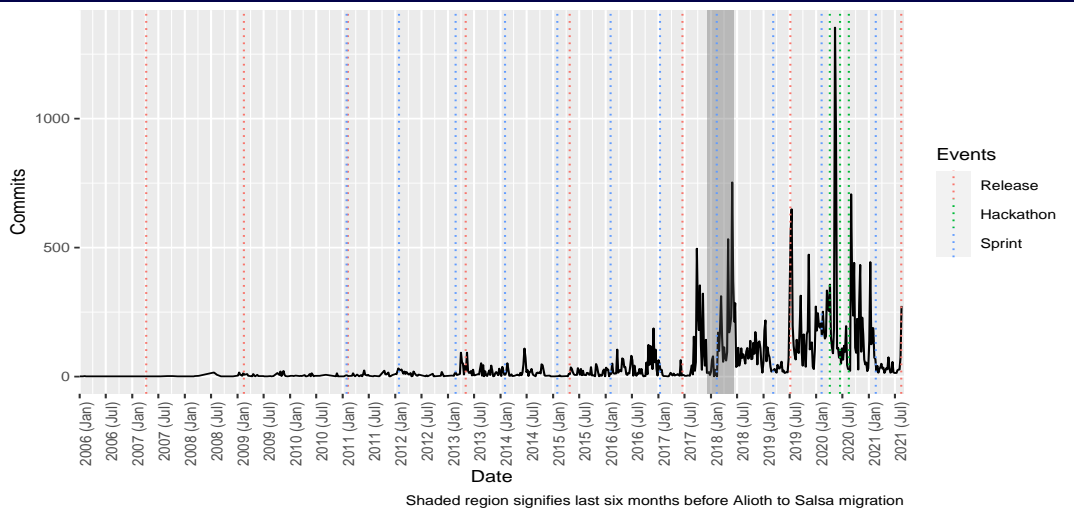
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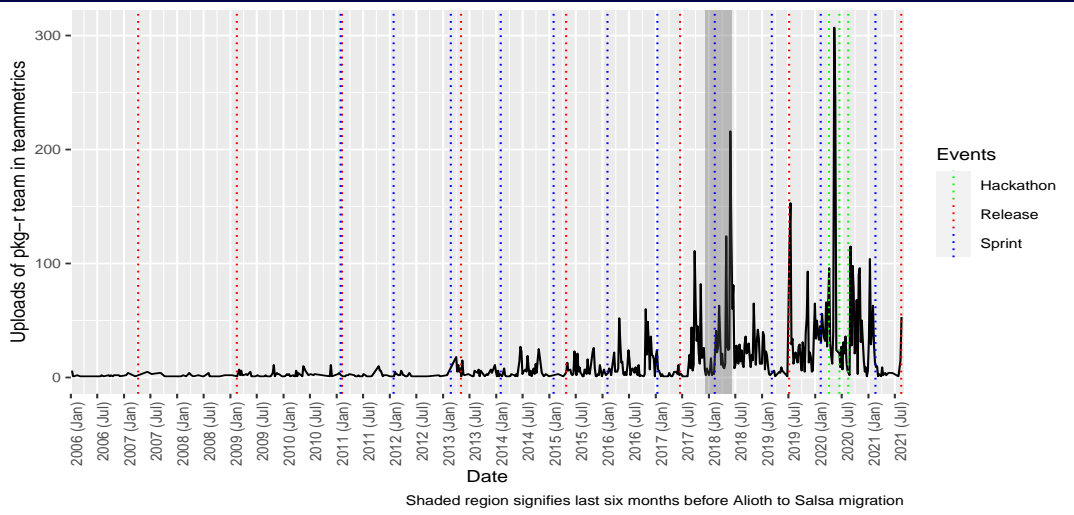
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Commits to pkg-r packages per week



Uploads of pkg-r packages per week



Checking the theory of general "freeze depression"

- Graph over all teams in team metrics
- Start of freeze is marked by transition freeze (if exists)
- Some kind of artificial peaks (for instance in week 2021-04-12 with 3592 commits by pkg-js team)
- There are other peak examples outside freeze (for instance in week 2020-02-17 with 7315 commits by pkg-perl team)

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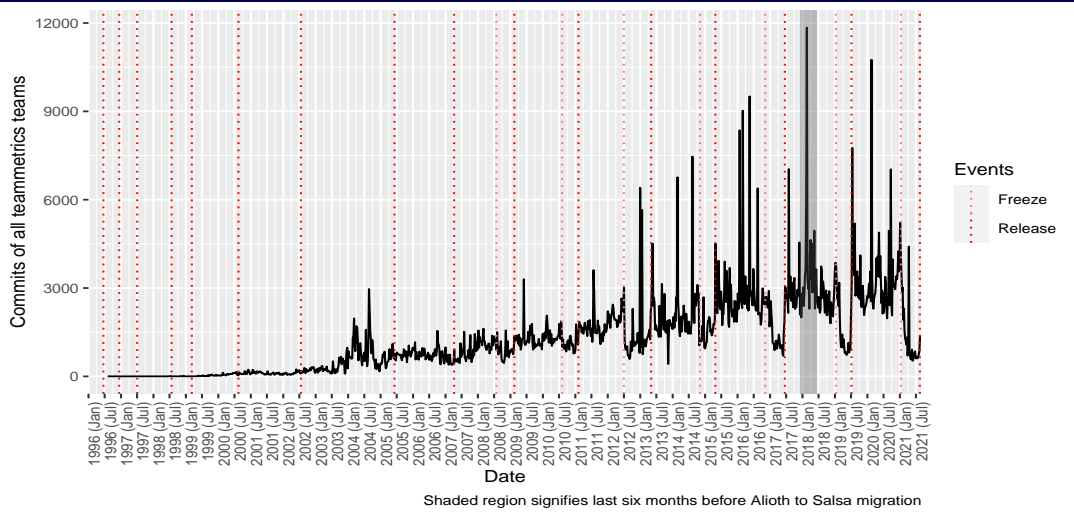
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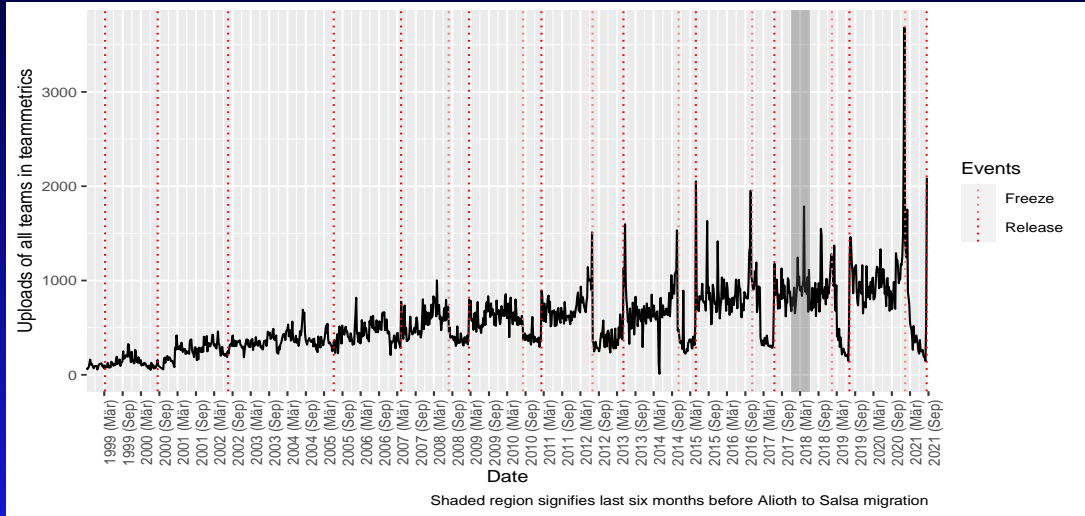
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Commits of all teams verifying "freeze depression"



Uploads of all teams in teammetrics packages per week



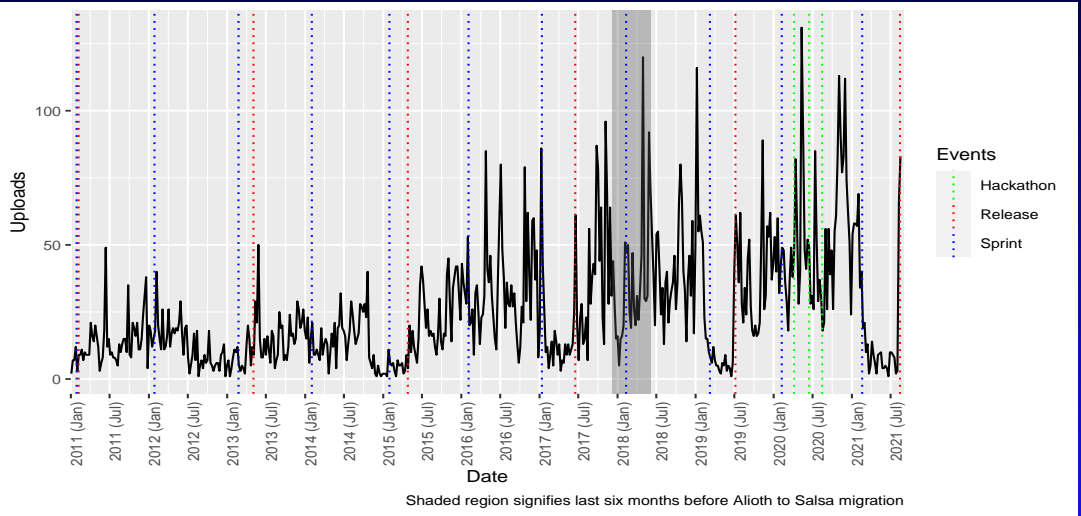
Pre-freeze activity

- Right before the freeze in January 2021 three teams did a lot of uploads right before the freeze (pkg-perl 916, ruby-extras 240, pkg-go 210)
- Similarly in Debian Med team with the all time peak some weeks before the freeze as mentioned above

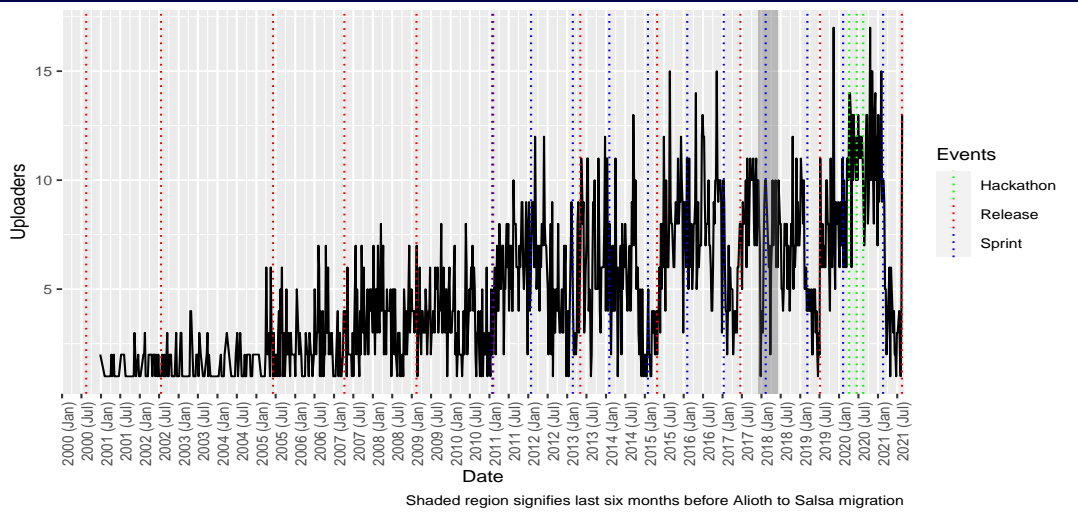
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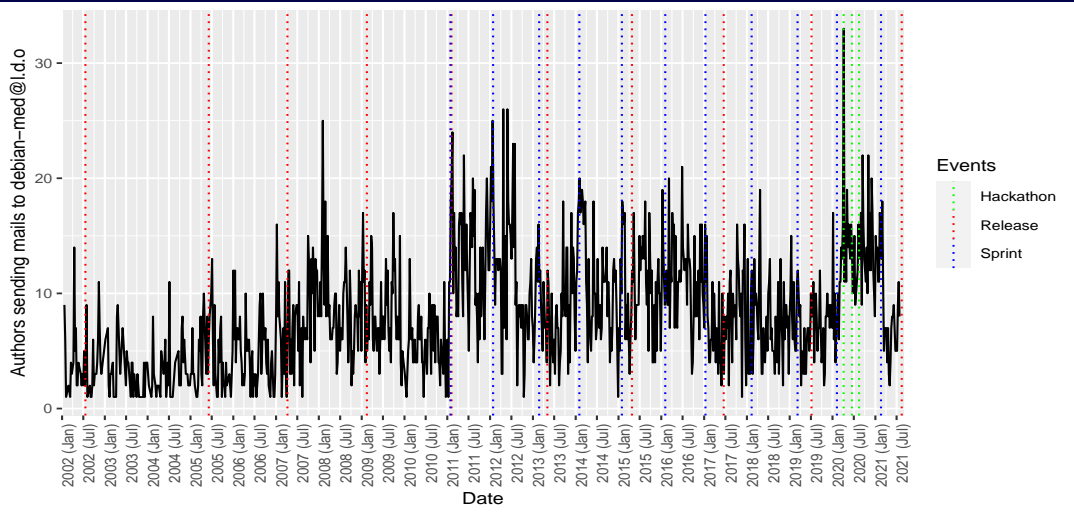
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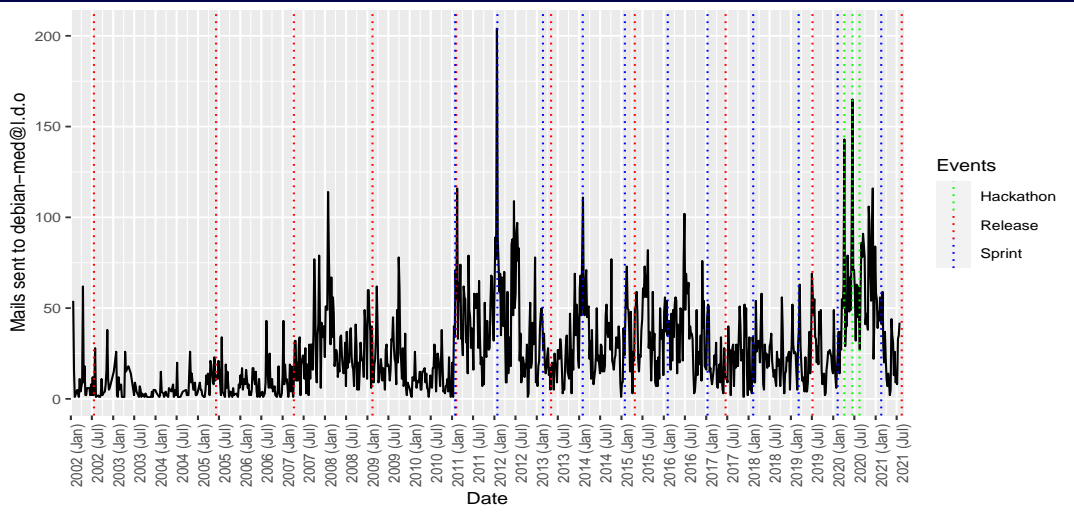
Persons uploading Debian Med packages per week



Persons posting to debian-med@lists.debian.org



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Communication

- Daily jitsy meeting
- Mailinglist
- IRC
- Telegram
- Established in online sprint February 2021: *Matrix*

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Amazing ftpmaster support in first hackathon

- **Tons of kudos to ftpmaster for the great support!**

- Many packages in NEW queue were processed in less than 24 h!
- This was the most fun in my whole 22 year of Debian developer life
- It is extremely motivating to get such support
- To quote some understatement of Scott Kitterman:

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Different contributions in hackathons

- Former contributors who came back for a certain period of time
- Permanent contributors who increased activity
- Other DDs/DMs (specifically ftpmaster) contributed
- New contributors
 - for a certain period of time
 - who stucked to the project
- Former and new GSoC / Outreachy students
- Non-technical contributors checking licenses, program versions and contacting upstream
- Family members with a lot of patience

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Following Hackathons and Online-Sprint

- Two following Hackathons in two months distance not as productive
- Yearly sprint was done online
 - Set of attendees was different than real life sprints
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 - More non-european attendees
 - Continuously open Jitsi-room
 - Meeting inside the room every second hour

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Long term effect of COVID-19 on the Debian Med project

- The Debian Med project got a totally new drive
- It is even more fun to work in this project
- While the actual spin of the hackathon faded away 4 new DDs/DMs are continuously contributing since then
 - Etienne Mollier: HPC, Python, gcc
 - Nicolas Pata: Tries hard to beat me in uploads and succeeded
 - Pierre Gruet: Java competence
 - Shayan Doust: Contributed to teammetrics with R scripts
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Long term effect of COVID-19 on my own work inside the project

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- Later it went back to "normal" - but with support of more developers
- Namely Nilesh Patra is taking over work I previously felt alone with
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This talk is available at
<http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/>



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