



Bits from DPL

Andreas Tille

Debian

Busan, 30. July 2024

Debian is more than a technical project

- Susan Kleinman
- Morons! I'm surrounded by morons
– Joel 'Espy' Klecker, 1979-2000
- Daughters and granddaughter

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Debian is more than a technical project

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Fears and hopes

Neil McGovern promised free beer in his "Bits from DPL" 2015

Fears and hopes



I wonder whether running for DPL is my cold turkey for my addiction to packaging.

Fears and hopes

Press:
"humble individual, something that is rare in the tech arena which is full of bloated egos"
?

Is Debian relevant?

● popcon

● autobuild tests

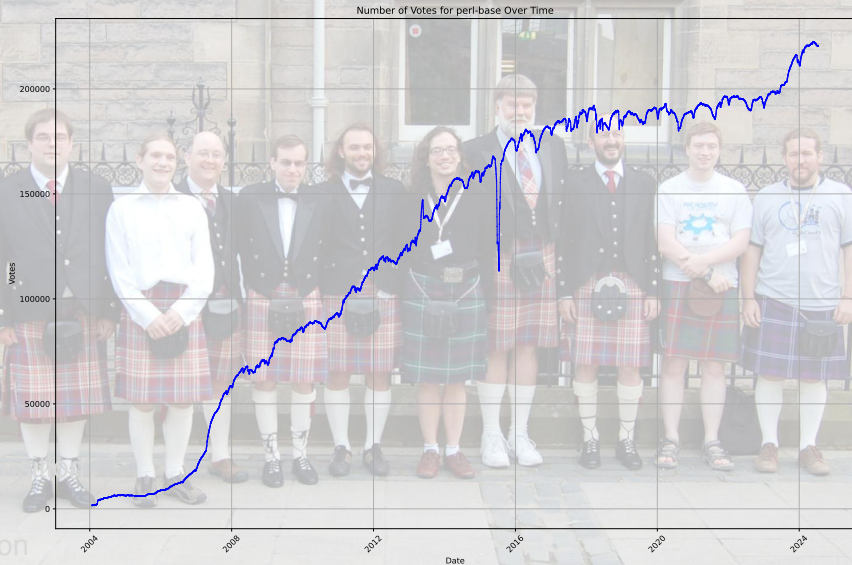
● 12 1819 01 088 59 1800s

● architecture

● 64-bit architecture

● (late) usmerge

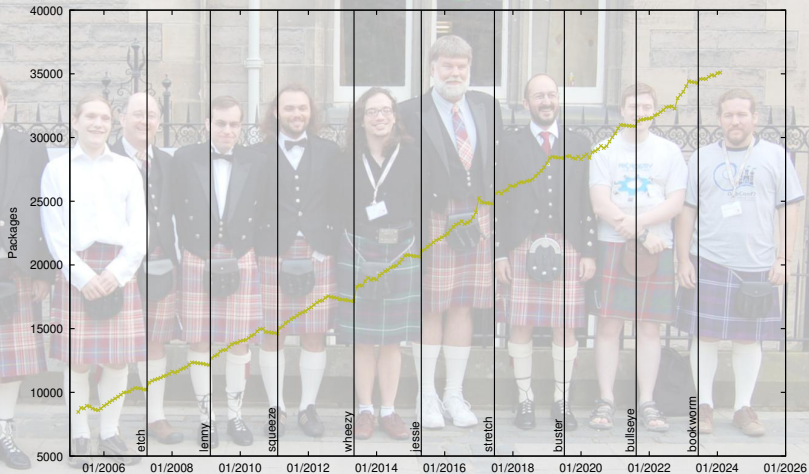
● flying to the moon



Is Debian relevant?

- popcon
- autopkgtests
21319 of 38853 srcpks

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Is Debian relevant?

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21319 of 38853 srcpkgs
- architectures
 - 64-bit little-endian
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- 64-bit time_t transition
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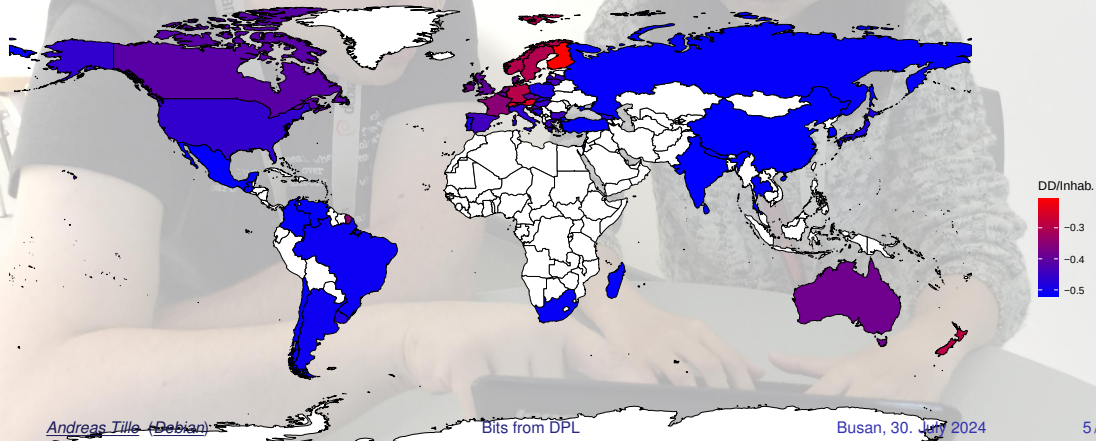
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Newcomer and diversity

Supporting newcomers and diversity in terms of geographic and gender discrimination

Newcomer and diversity



Tiny tasks

Bug of the day

- Include people with smaller slices of time
- **Guided** effort: Bug of the day
- https://salsa.debian.org/tiny_qa_tools/-/wikis/Tiny-QA-tasks
 - No VCS or obviously outdated VCS (alioth)
 - Standards-Version < 4
 - not uploaded last 5 years
- Use Matrix (to have some log)

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Autopkgtest of the day

Debian is for everyone

A Blend for every taste

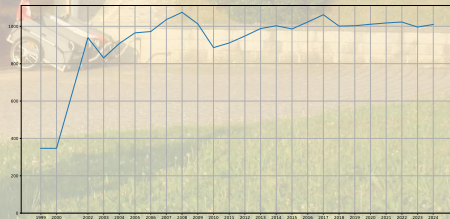
Debian is resilient



Debian is resilient

Developers come and go

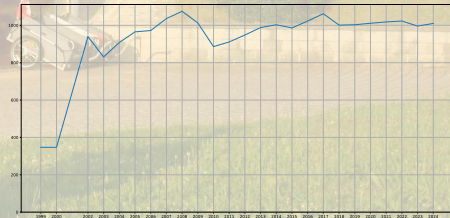
- DD might become inactive
important work will be picked up
- Works even for me
- Easier if common workflows
were used



Debian is resilient

Developers come and go

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important work will be picked up
- Works even for me
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Trademark

Debian has successfully defended its trademark



Trademark

World would be such a great place if we could simply concentrate on coding only!



Statement about the EU Legislation

GR: EU Legislation "Cyber Resilience Act and Product Liability Directive"

→ CRA and PLD proposals include regulations detrimental to FOSS

AI in Debian

- We need some policy about usage of AI-generated content in Debian
 - Debian AI team
 - "slowly move ROCm from 'make it work' to 'make it fast'" (Cordell Bloor)
 - For new *technical* problems somehow magically arise people
 - Only true for technical, not organisational problems

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Sometimes we need patience to find solutions



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lintian

- Policy checker important for packaging
- Some design decisions have led to slow operation
- Suggestion to check earlier in build-process (bug #1076759)
- Only statically tests source and binary packages
- Changed Maintainers often over time, social frictions between Maintainers
- Maintainer needs help → any volunteers?

Sometimes we need patience to find solutions

tag2upload

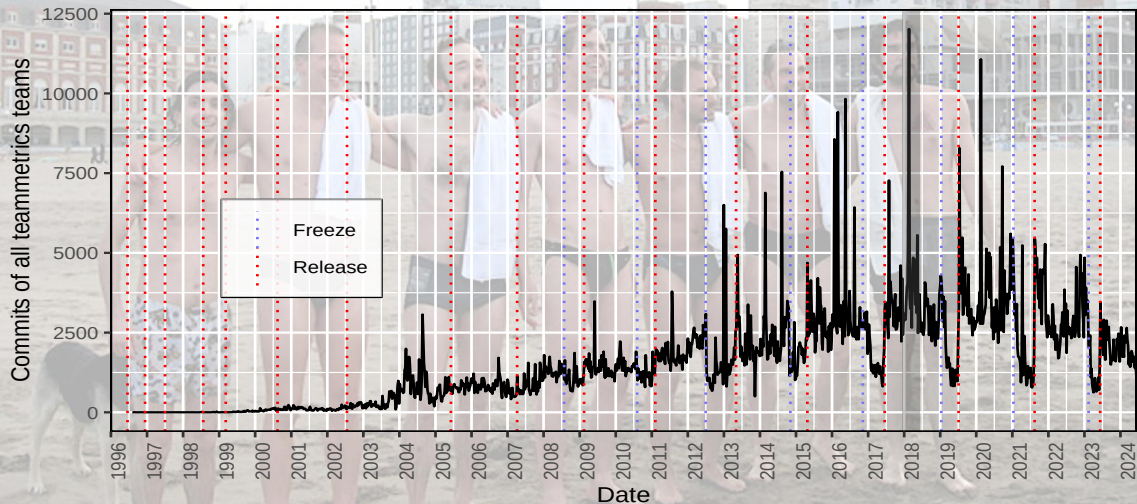
- Pushing a signed Git tag instead of uploading a bunch of files
- Written in 2019
- Finally agreement how to deploy 2024

Sometimes we need patience to find solutions

General decision making

- Sometimes its not clear who is in a team
- Its even less clear who can make decisions

Freeze depression



Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

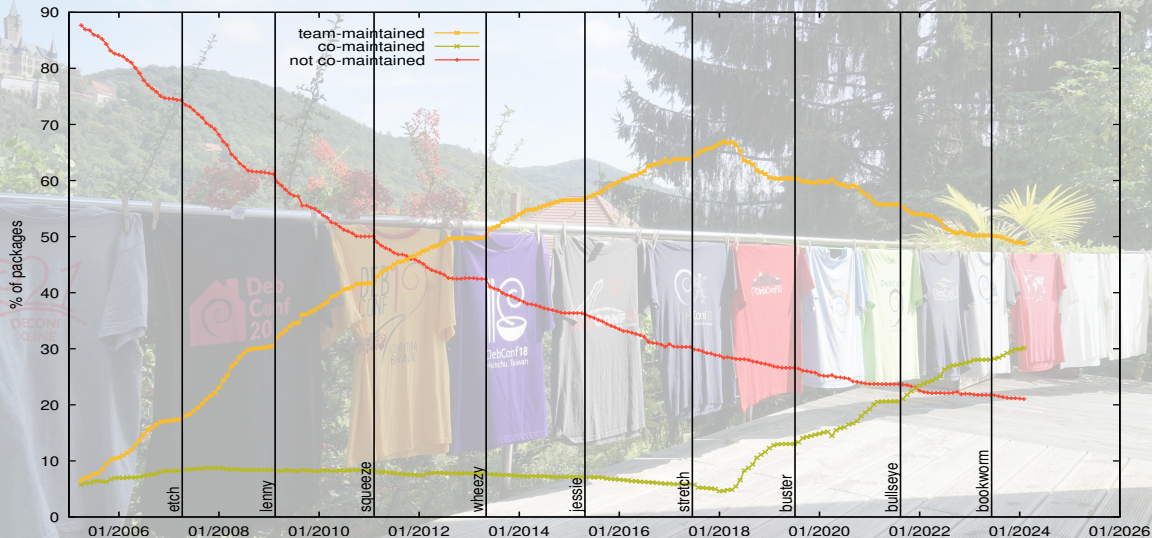
Trends

VCS hosting in testing in percent



Trends

Team maintained packages in testing in percent



Personal opinion: We should end single maintainership

Single maintainer is preventing contributions finally restricting freedom to contribute

Contacting teams

- 
- A group of approximately 20 people, likely a rafting team, are floating in a river. They are all wearing red life jackets and red helmets. They are arranged in a large circle, with some people looking towards the camera and others looking away. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam visible. The background shows rocky banks and a waterfall in the distance.
- Healthy teams
 - Disconnected teams
 - Rock star coders (the person teams)
 - Barely barely attending newcomers

Contacting teams

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- A group of approximately 20 people, likely rafters, are floating in a river. They are all wearing red life jackets and red helmets. They are arranged in a large circle, with some people looking towards the camera and others looking away. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam visible in the center of the circle. The background shows rocky banks and a waterfall in the distance.
- Healthy teams
 - Disconnected teams
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 - Barely getting along newcomers

Contacting teams

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- A group of approximately 20 people are floating in a river, wearing red life jackets and helmets. They are arranged in a large circle, with some individuals looking towards the camera. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam visible in the background. The scene is set against a backdrop of dark, rocky cliffs.
- Healthy teams
 - Disconnected teams
 - Rock star coders (one person teams)
 - Barely barely staying afloat newcomers

Contacting teams

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- A group of approximately 20 people, likely a rafting team, are floating in a river. They are all wearing red life jackets and red helmets. They are arranged in a large circle, with some people looking towards the camera and others looking away. The water is dark and turbulent, with white foam visible. The background shows rocky riverbanks and a waterfall in the distance.
- Healthy teams
 - Disconnected teams
 - Rock star coders (one person teams)
 - Rarely actively attracting newcomers

How to meet future?



- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Bazaar, SVN)
- Others use Git but not GitHub
- Some are not using any kind of CI/CD

How to meet future?

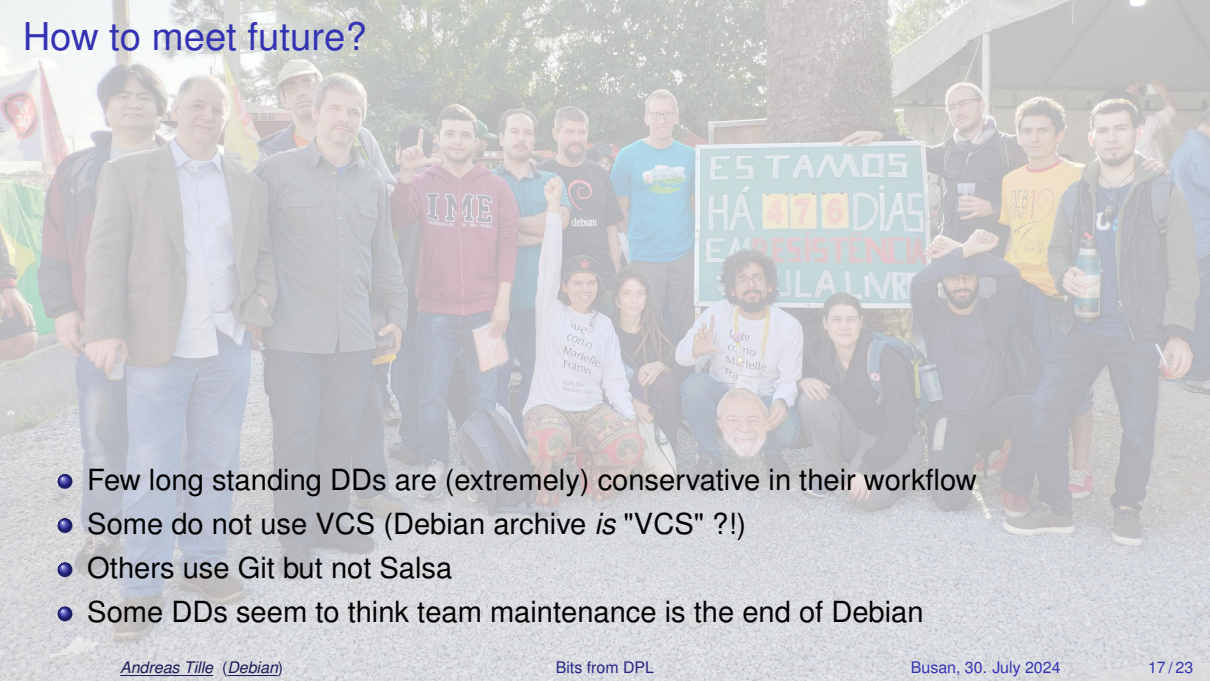
- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not GitHub
- Some Debian developers are not on GitHub

How to meet future?

- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not Salsa

• Some DDs are not using Salsa for their own work

How to meet future?



- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not Salsa
- Some DDs seem to think team maintenance is the end of Debian

Communication with ftpmaster

- 1 Mailing list
- 2 Wiki
- 3 BoF at DebConf 2023 "Chatting with ftpmaster"
- 4 What now?



SCENIC
HACKLAB



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Helpful culture

Prioritize your tasks in such a way that someone seeking help has the highest priority.

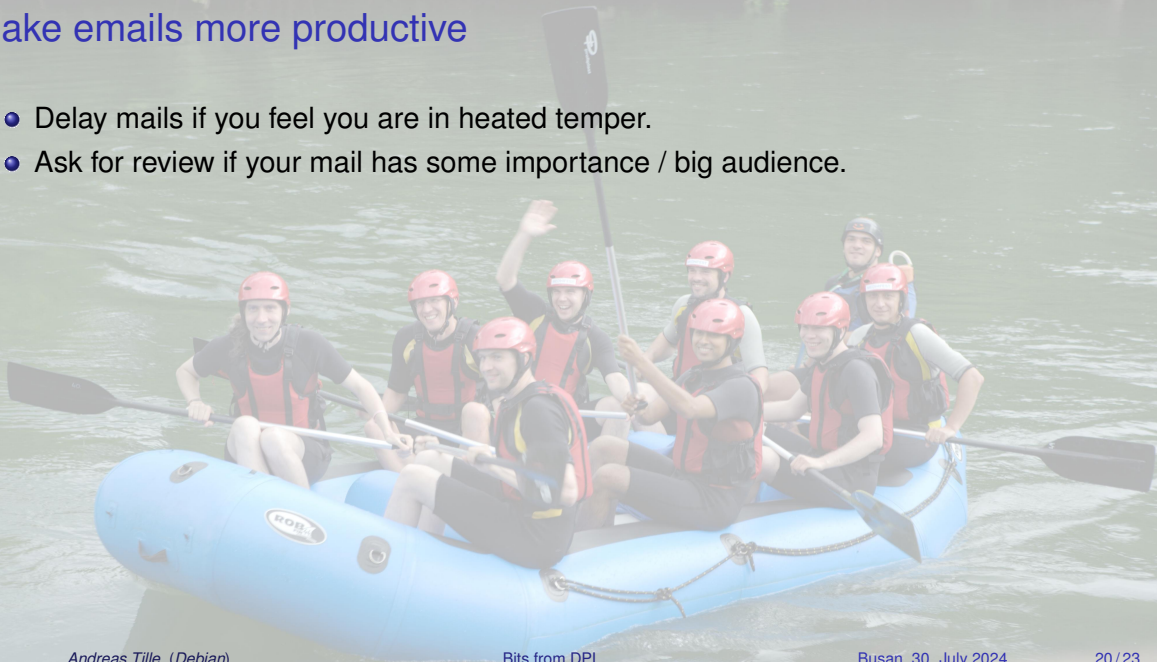
Make emails more productive

- Delay mails if you feel you are in heated temper.
- Ask for review if your mail has some importance / big audience.



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Publicity

Volunteer coders are not good in advertising their work





Thank you
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>
<https://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/>

Maybe

