Debian Med beyond COVID-19

How a Debian Blend gained momentum

Andreas Tille

Debian

Brussels, 31. January 2026

Back in 2001 at DebConf 1

the first talk about the concept was prepared

Debian
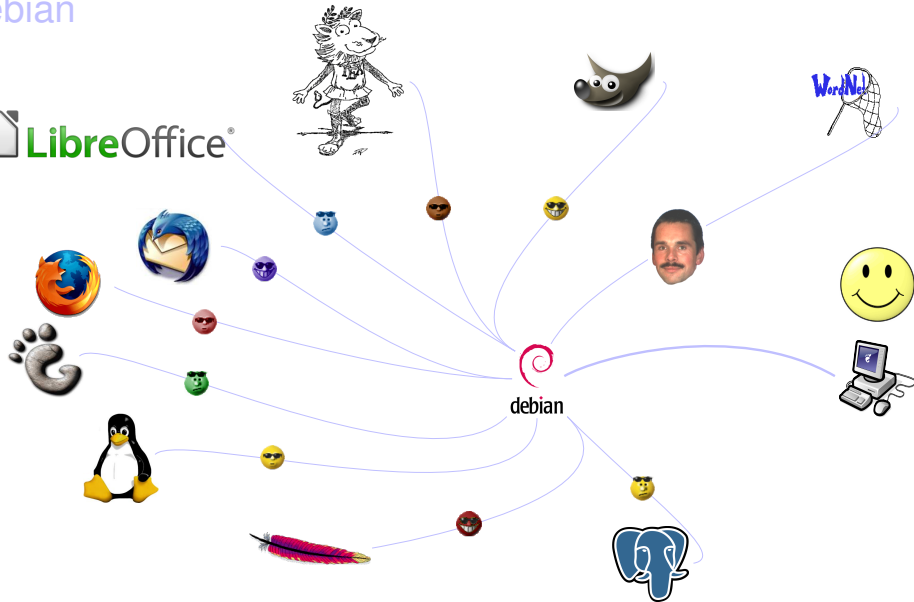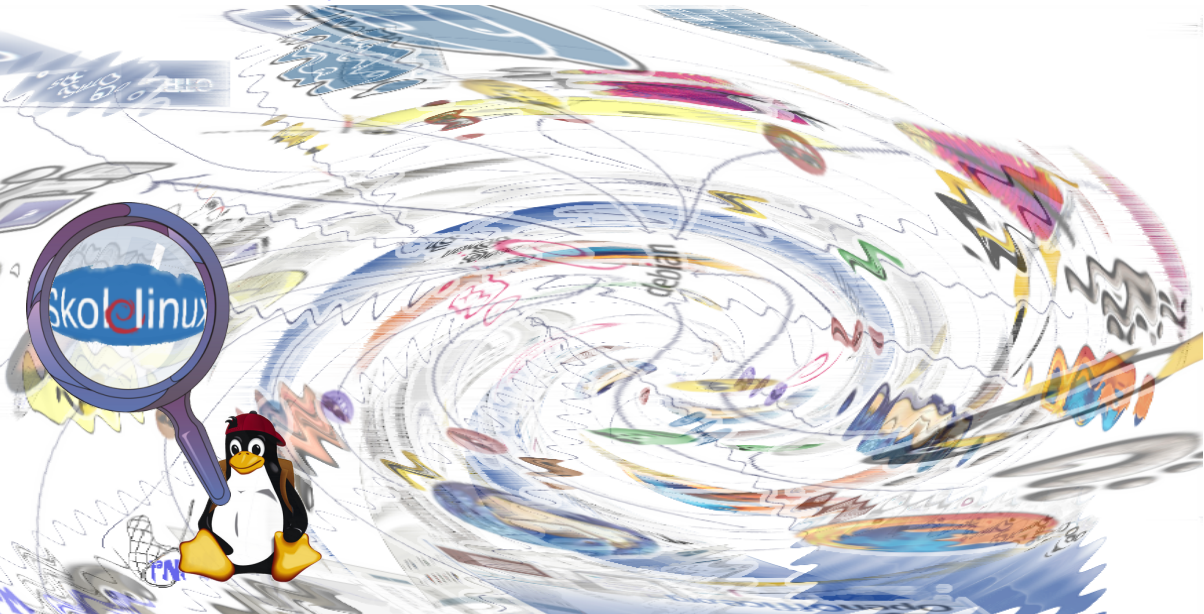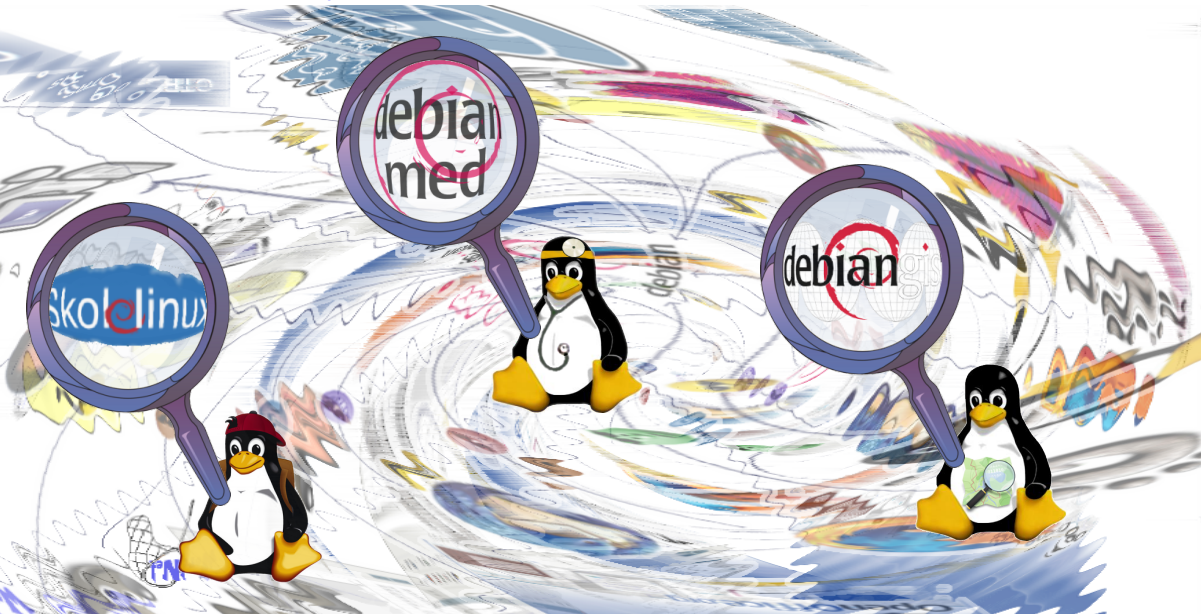
Med-bio task of Debian Med
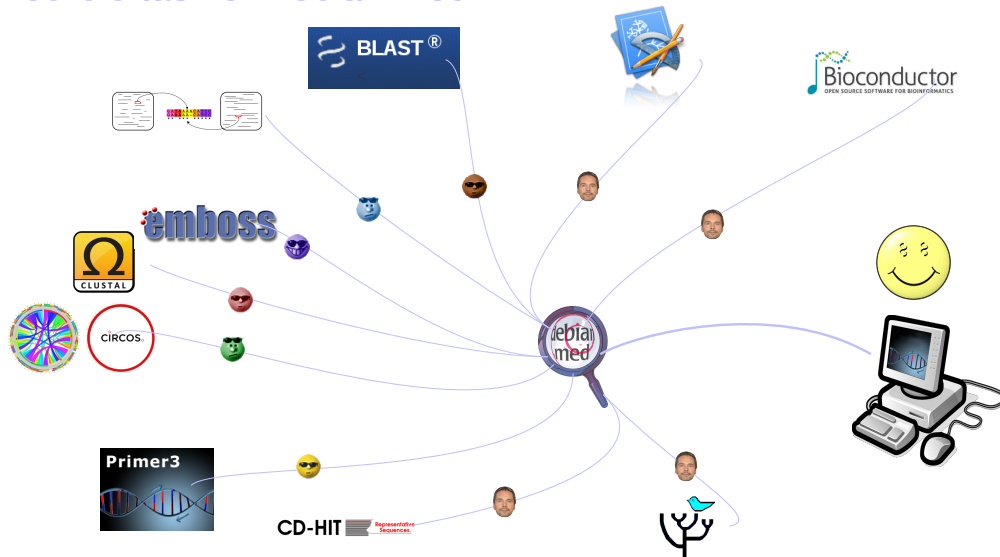
Packages in selected tasks of Debian Med
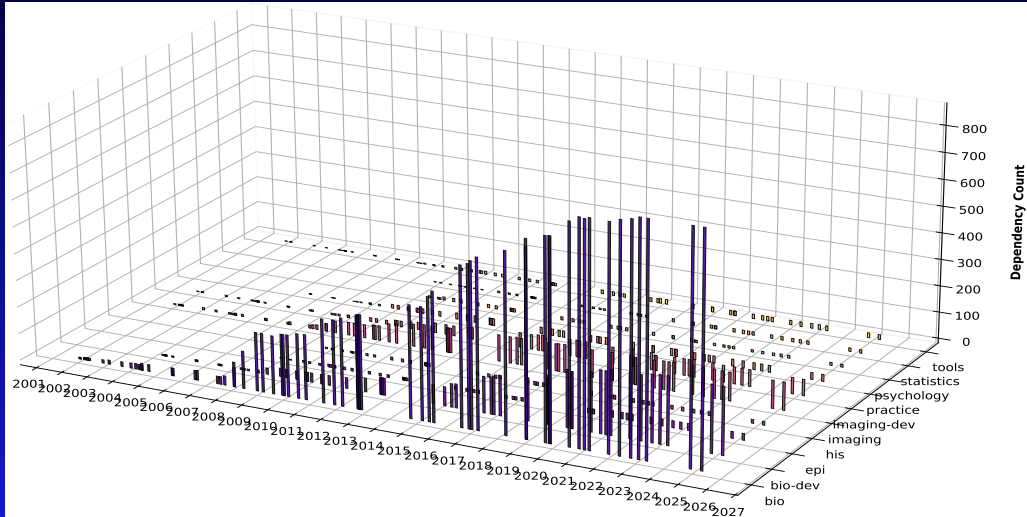
Tell us, what software
you want to see in Debian!

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)
- Epidemiology: several R packages, working on AI packages
- Hospitals: close to nothing (fis-gtm)
    . . . besides a stable but unspecific OS

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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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Persons commiting to Debian Med packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration
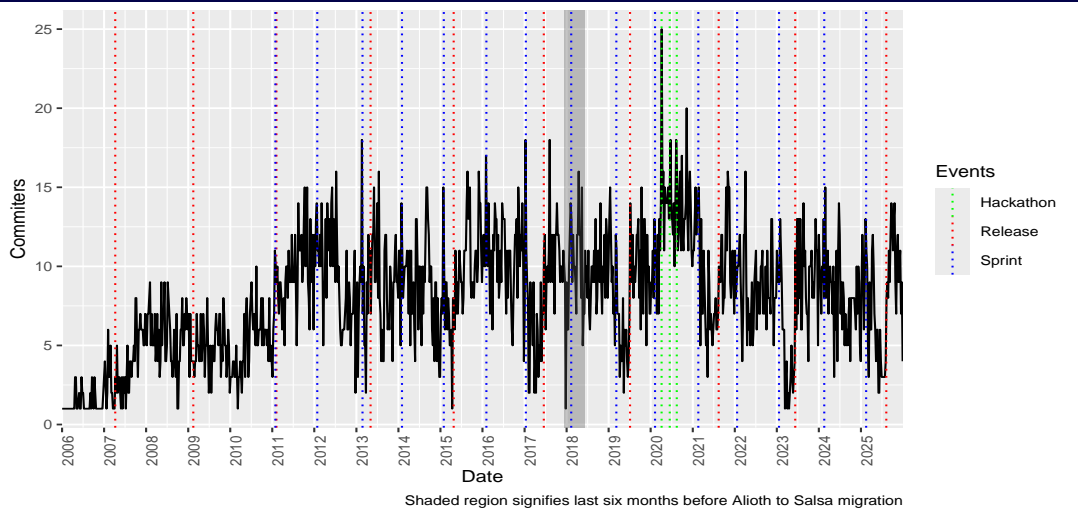
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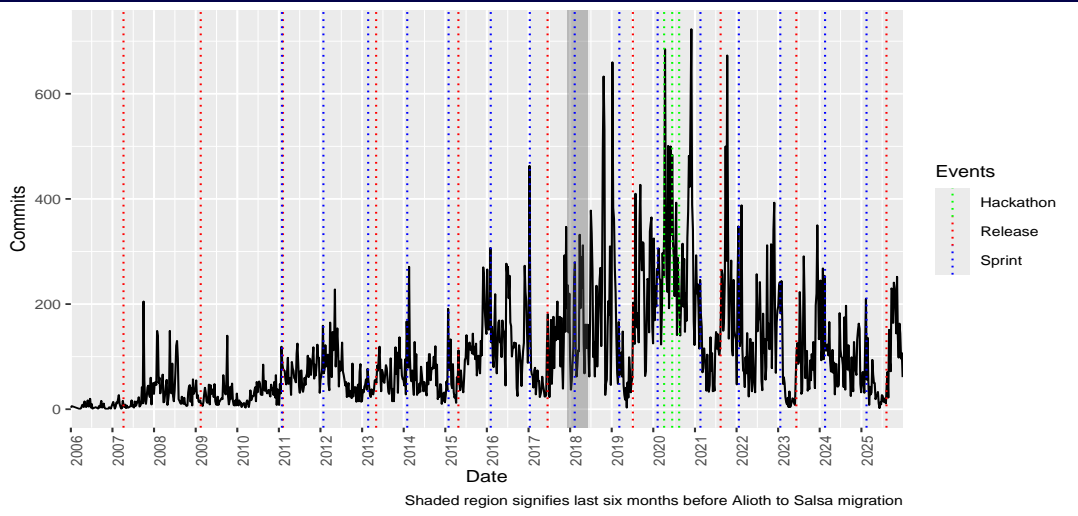
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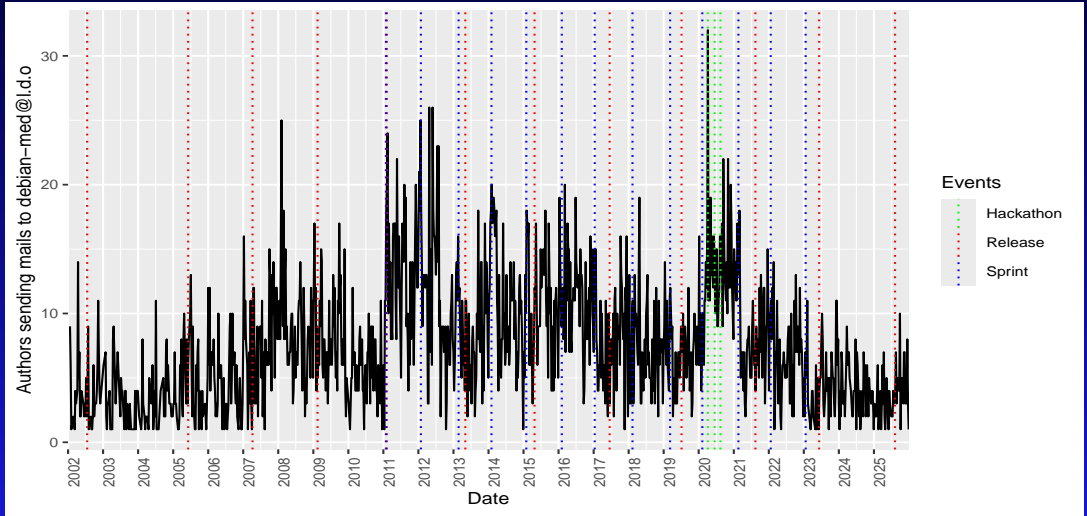
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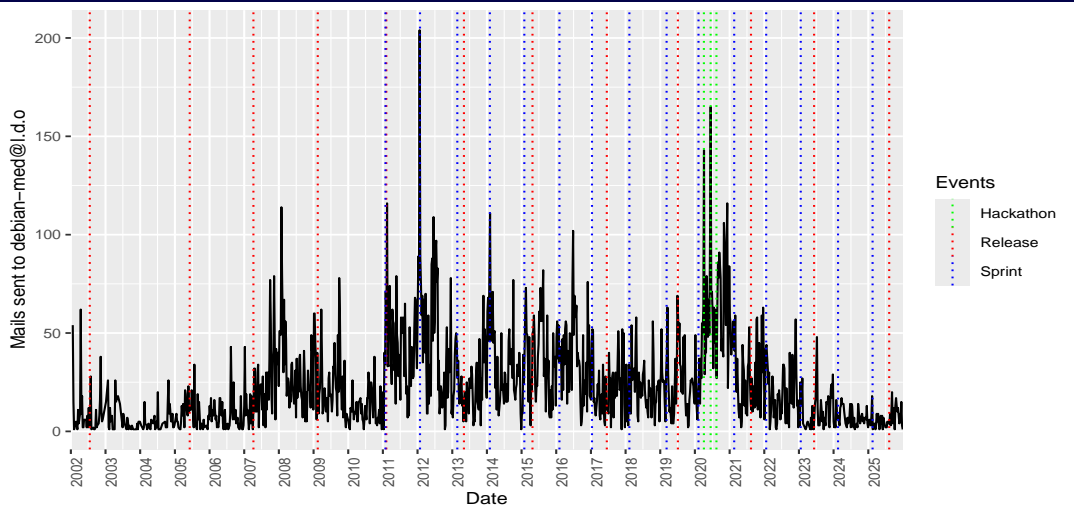
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- Daily jitsy meeting
- Mailinglist
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- Former contributors who came back for a certain period of time
- Permanent contributors who increased activity
- Other DDs/DMs (specifically ftpmaster) contributed
- New contributors
  - for a certain period of time
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- Two following Hackathons in two months distance not as productive
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  - More non-european attendees
  - Continuously open Jitsi-room
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- The Debian Med project got a totally new drive
- It is even more fun to work in this project
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  Étienne Mollier HPC, Python, gcc, kept on in my 2 DPL terms, has beaten me in several team metrics measures

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21.+22. February 2026 in Berlin

https://wiki.debian.org/Sprints/2026/DebianMedSprint2026