Custom Debian Distributions in general
A user centric view on Debian

*Andreas Tille*

LSM Amiens, 12.7.2007
Gliederung

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2 Distribution for Specialists

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Custom Debian Distributions in general

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Distribution Specialists

CDD

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2. Distribution for Specialists

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Gliederung

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Distribution Specialists

CDD

Linux from scratch
Linux from scratch

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Distribution Specialists

CDD
Specialists in the evolution

- Development of Free Software is evolutionary process
  - Very successful in case of many users
  - Special software has small user base
  - Profile of the envisaged user:
    - Unreasonable effort to install upstream programs
    - No interest in administration
    - Specific subset of available free software
  - Profile of administrators:
    - Limited time frame
    - Lack of specialist knowledge
Development of Free Software is evolutionary process
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Special Applications

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Distribution Specialists

CDD

Special Applications
Special Applications
Unfortunately not in "Custom Debian Distributions"

- Often interpreted as “something else” than *Debian*
- Definition: Completely integrated into *Debian*
- Former "Debian internal projects"
Nomen est omen?

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Debian Derivatives

- Debian → Progeny, Xandros, Mephis, Ubuntu, . . .
- Fedora → RedHat / OpenSuSE → SuSE
- Advantages of free base distribution
- Support of base by derivative?!
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Advantages of free base distribution
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CDD: Techniques

- Meta-packages
  - Tasks
  - DebTags
  - Toolkits
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CDD

Tasks

- `tasksel` first user interface
- `debconf` pre-seeding
- Make usage of `Recommends` instead of `Depends`
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- *debconf* pre-seeding
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Tasks

- *tasksel* first user interface
- *debconf* pre-seeding
- Make usage of `Recommends` instead of `Depends`
Packages like books in a library

- Debtags → keywords
- Debtags-based installation
DebTags

- Packages like books in a library
- Debtags → keywords
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DebTags

- Packages like books in a library
- Debtags → keywords
- Debtags-based installation
Tools to support CDD techniques

- \textit{cdd-dev exists}
  - Building meta packages easily
  - User menus

- CDD Tk better designed but not yet working
  - Features as in cdd-dev
  - Runtime installation
  - Create installation media
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CDD-dev and CDD Toolkit

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Everything’s going to be fine

- Premature for euphoria
- Developers really appreciate support
- Just join the effort and package your special applications
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This talk can be found at
http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>