Custom Debian Distributions in general
A user centric view on Debian

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Gliederung

1. Distribution
2. Distribution for Specialists
3. Custom Debian Distributions
Distribution
Web of trust
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
Nomen est omen?

- Unfortunately not in “Custom Debian Distributions“
- Often interpreted as “something else” than Debian
- Definition: Completely integrated into Debian
- Former “Debian internal projects“
Debian Derivatives

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

- Meta-packages
- Tasks
- DebTags
- Toolkits
Meta-packages
Tasks

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

- Packages like books in a library
- Debtags $\rightarrow$ keywords
- Debtags-based installation
CDD-dev and CDD Toolkit

- Tools to support CDD techniques
  - \texttt{cdd-dev} exists
    - Building meta packages easily
    - User menus
  - CDD Tk better designed but not yet working
    - Features as in \texttt{cdd-dev}
    - Runtime installation
    - Create installation media
Everything’s going to be fine

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