

Knowledge, Power and free Beer

Andreas Tille

Debian

August 18, 2008

Outline

- 1 Free Beer
 - Hard and soft Ware
 - Patent recipes
 - Free of charge
- 2 Knowledge
 - Alternatives
 - Free Software in general
- 3 Power
 - Distribution
 - Special programs

Hard Ware

- Vendor and vendee can
 - 1 Weigh it
 - 2 Bite it
 - 3 Throb it
 - 4 ...

→ both are able to check the ware
- Rights of the vendee
 - 1 Ownership
 - 2 Alteration
 - 3 Sale
- Duplication not worth the effort

Soft Ware

- Is it really ware?
 - ① Weight?
 - ② Checkable?
 - ③ ...
- Rights of the buyer of the license
 - ① Right to use
 - ② No changes
 - ③ No selling
- Duplication prevented by technical means

Fresh fish



- Market: vendee and vendor able to evaluate ware
- Does soft ware stink?
- No pain, no gain.
... but how much pain is inside soft ware?

The progress

Patent No. EP0394160; Applicant(s): IBM (US)

- License fee for these slides?
- DE10108564:
Usage of dates in archived files

Soft ware is not for sale

- Free of charge: Going once, going twice ... BANG
 - ① *Download here* → “free beer”
 - ② See everything, hear everything - but say nothing
 - ③ Free Software
- Where's the catch?

The catch: Free \neq free of charge

- Crucial: free usage of the code
 - Free in the sense: “free speech”
 - Free speech requires
 - Time to prepare
 - Competence
 - Sometimes courage
- costs
- Exact definition: *Debian Free Software Guidelines*

WikiPedia

- Free knowledge
- Just try: wikipedia.org
- Look up own special field
 - ... and he saw that it was good.
or
 - ... he made it better.

WikiPedia is taken serious

Subject: *Wikipedia* knows the shit

Date: Sun, 27 Mar 2005 16:18:36 -0200
From: Christian <VPYLGHQ@interacti.net>
To: aids-std@rki.de

Newest penis enlargement system:

- Increases the penis length and girth
- Medically Proven ([source: wikipedia](#))
- No Surgery
- Permanent Results
- Proven Traction Method
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed

Find more info here: ...

SpamAssassin: 17.1 points, 5.0 required

pts	rule name	description
0.1	SATIS_GUAR	BODY: Mail guarantees satisfaction
17	BAYES_99	BODY: Bayesian spam probability is 99 to 100%

As You Like it

- Long term continuous functionality
- Functionality matters, name of the program does not
- Functionality = Program + Service
- Reasonable amount of cost is acceptable
- Program free of charge \longrightarrow more money for service left
- Open sources \longrightarrow contributors
- Quality increases with the number of users ...
- ... , who have understand the principle and report bugs

Get the facts

An open operating system has not only advantages



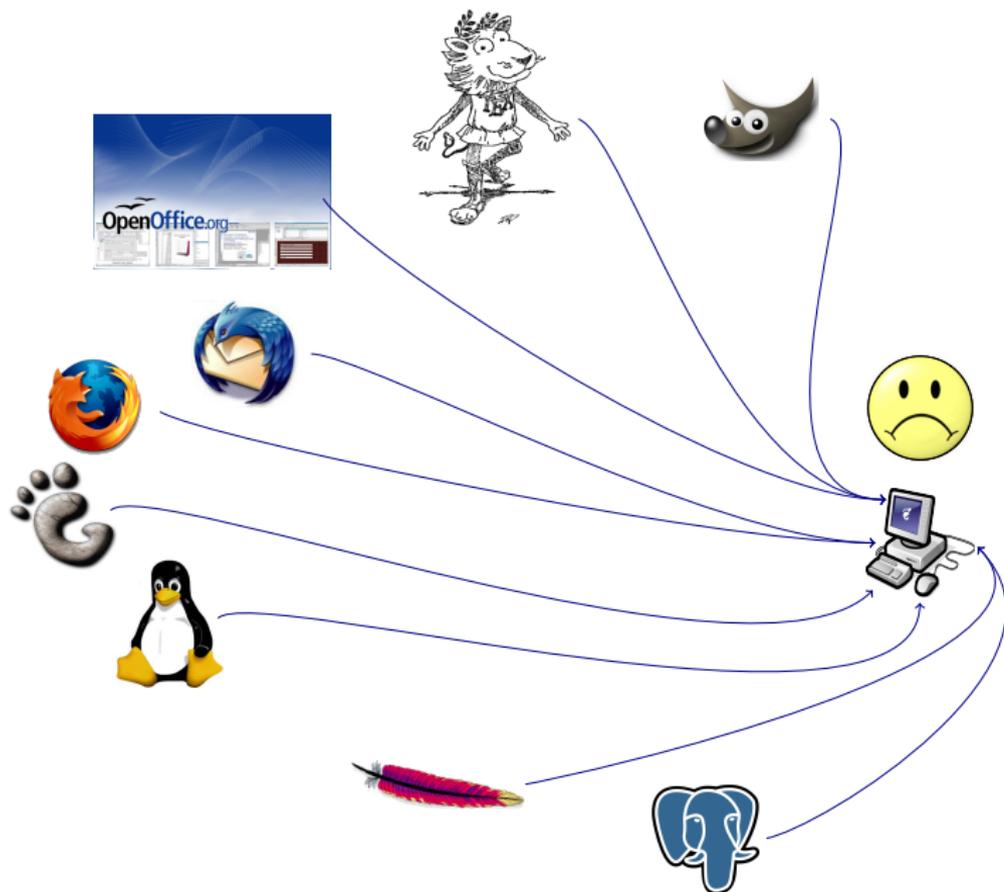
Get the facts

*“First they ignore you,
then they laugh at you,
then they fight you,
then you win.”*

– Mahatma Gandhi

Since about 2002 phase 3.

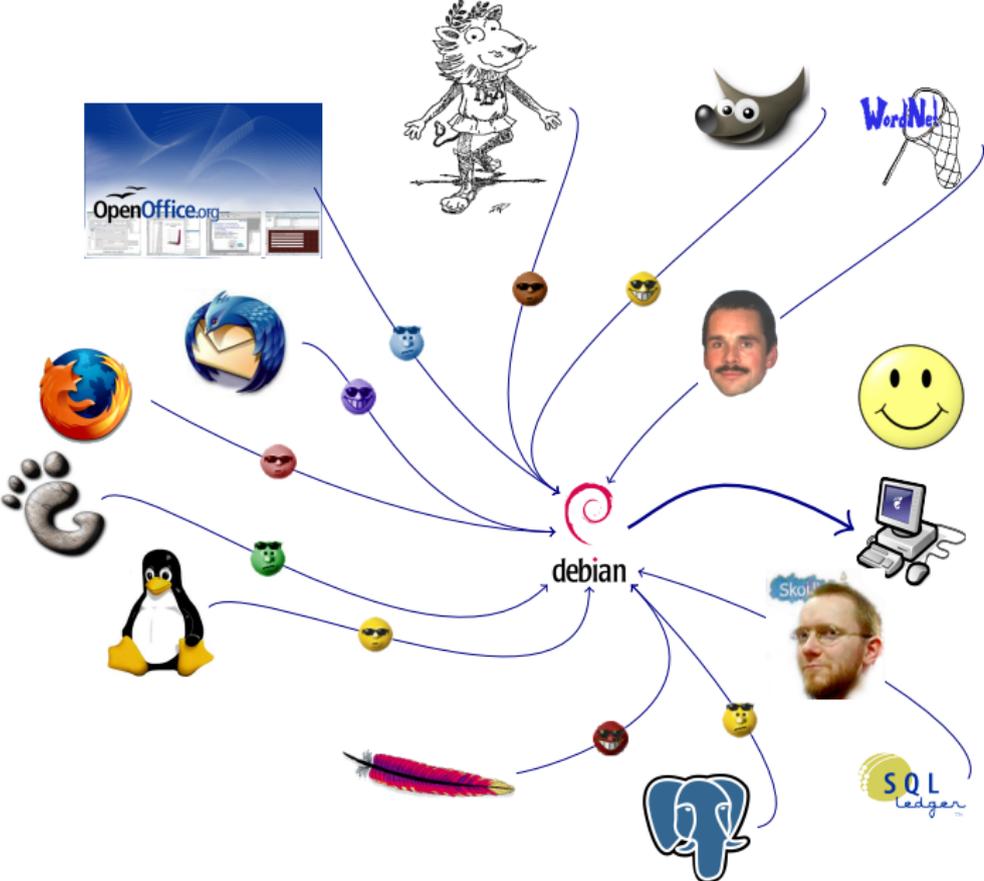
Linux from scratch



Distribution



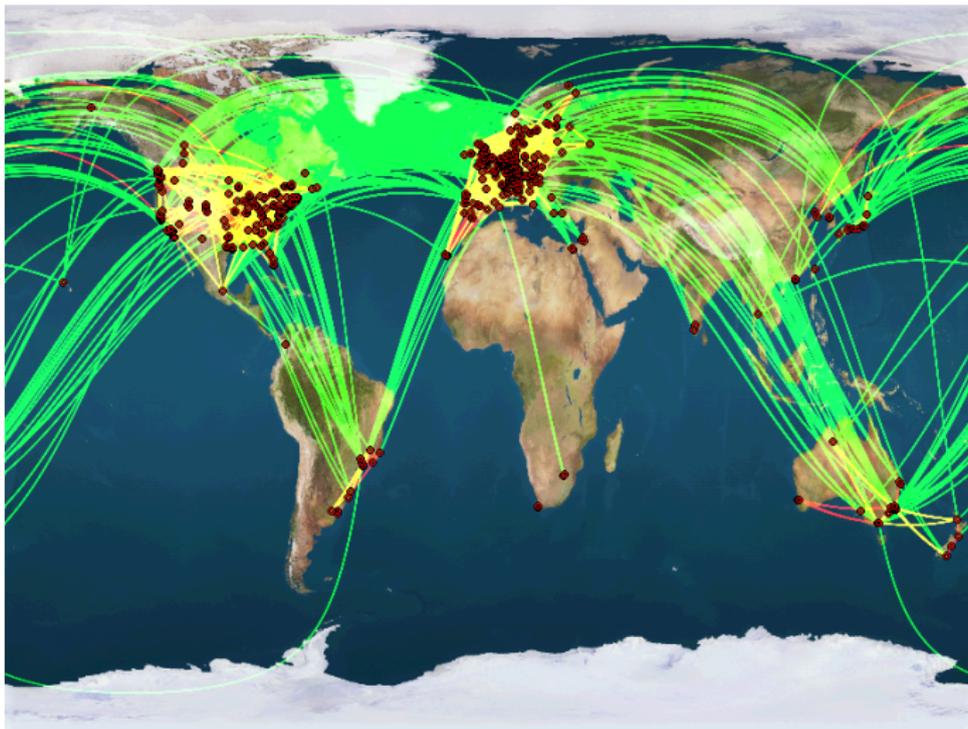
Debian



The missing link

- Distributor serves mass market
- Special software is missing
 - Solution: Many specialists build a 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



Everything's going to be fine

- Premature for euphoria
- Developer really appreciate support
- First competitions with proprietary systems
- Questions to software producers
 - What is the sense of a dongle?
 - How can fast bug fixing be ensured?
 - What will be lost if the code is released?
 - ...

This talk can be found at
<http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/>
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>