Healthy CDDs

Strategies for building a Custom Debian Distribution

Andreas Tille

Debian Conference 8

Mar del Plata, August 12, 2008

Structure

1. History
2. Development
   - Measures for development
   - Growth of Metapackages
   - Activity of members
3. Comparison of CDDs
   - Graphing activity
   - Conclusion

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Libre Software Meeting (DebConf 1) - Bordeaux 2001

There is a laptop open

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Considering some numbers ...

- Number of users?
  - Popularity contest?
  - Specific software has usually low popcon numbers
  - Usage of metapackages might give some hints but popcon works bad for these - the “content” is not actually used
- Number of developers
  - Number of Vcs commits $\longrightarrow$ not every CDD uses common Vcs
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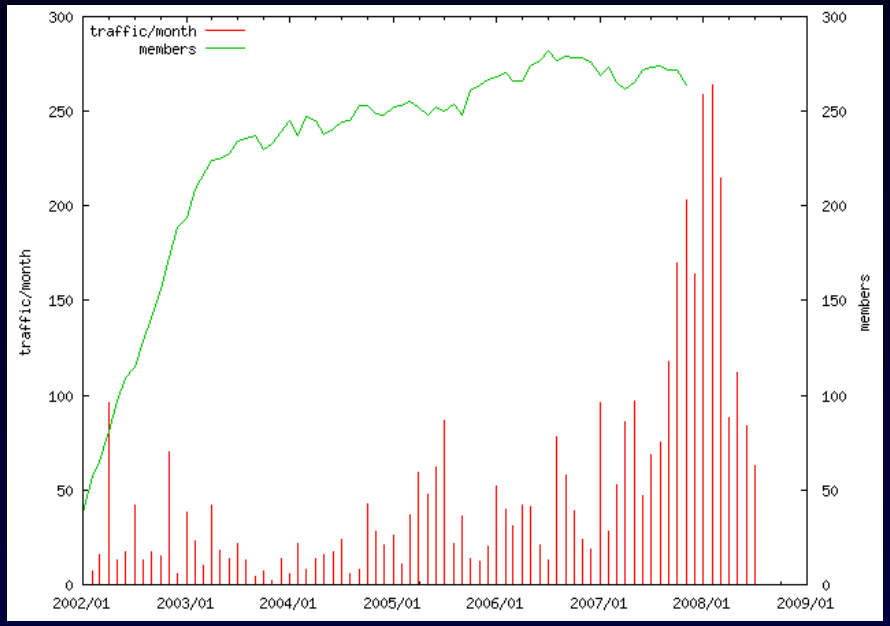
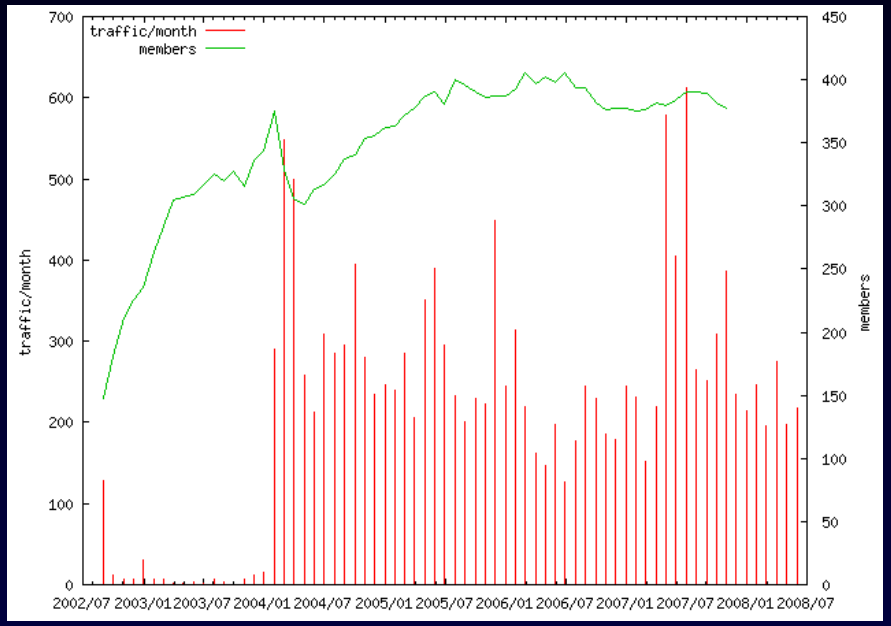
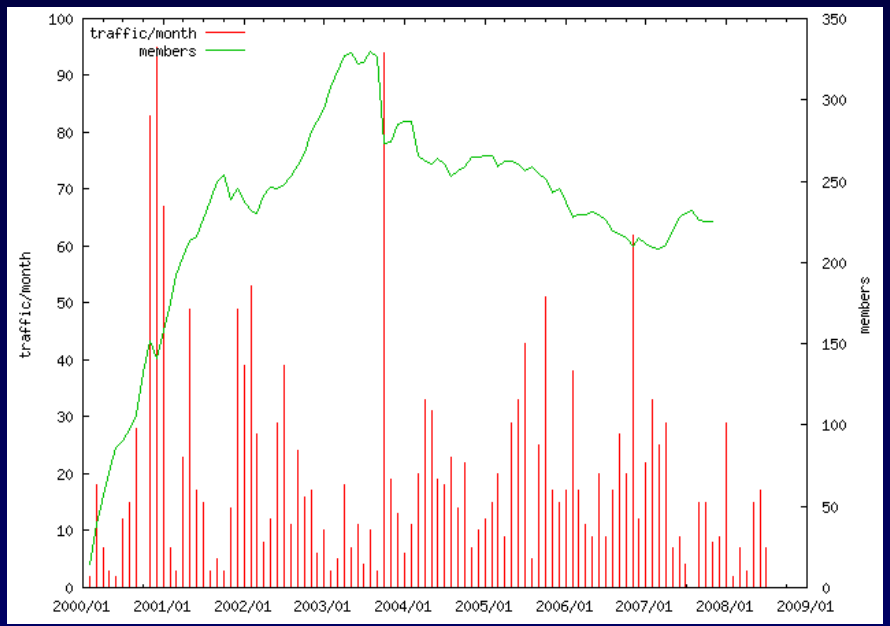


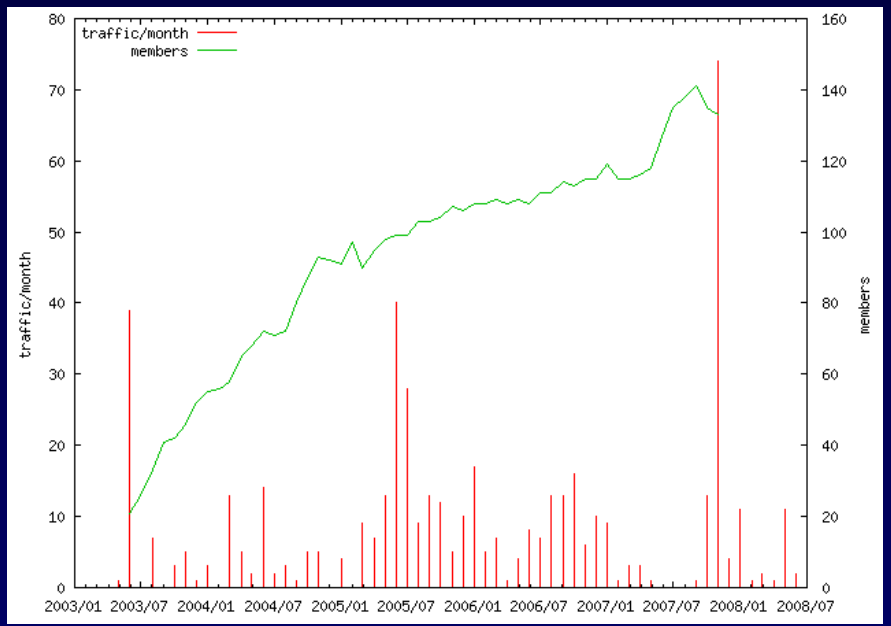
Debian Edu



Debian Junior



Debian Lex



Signal, noise, artefacts

- Not only SPAM is noise
- (Un)subscribe
- Debian Junior list peak in October 2003:
  - Replacement for Abiword: LyX? Openoffice? → 43 postings
  - Philosophy (was Re: Replacement for Abiword: LyX? Openoffice?) → 33 postings
  - Future replacement for Abiword: Tux Writer? → 3 postings
  - 79 postings about specific topic out of 89 non-SPAM
- Intended and unintended robots
  - December 2005: 92 messages by `gentoo-\w+\+help@gentoo.org` about subscription status to *debian-desktop@lists.debian.org*
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- Technical output - number of metapackages and their dependencies
- Probably good measure
- Hard to obtain because not everything is in Vcs
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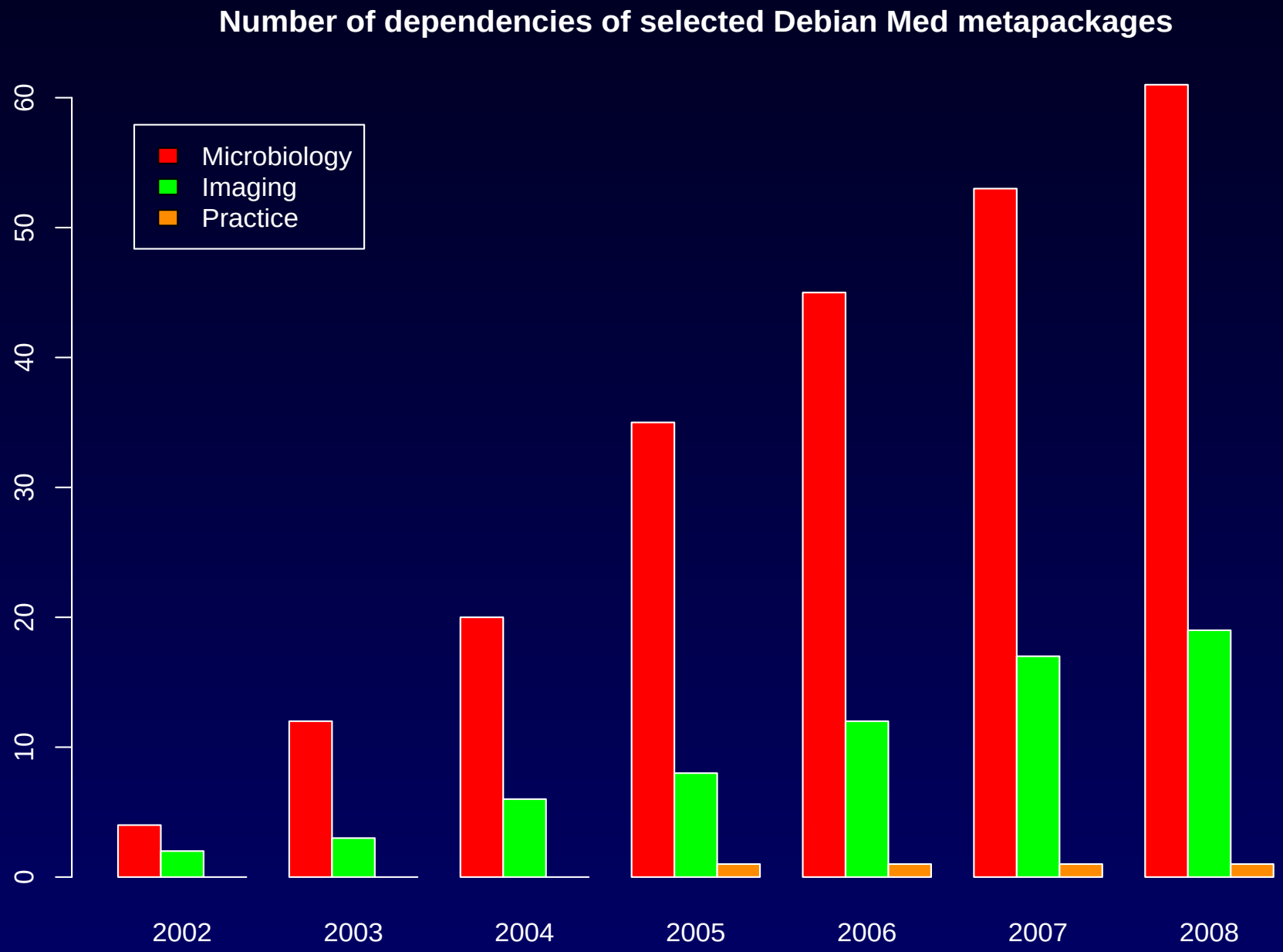
Selected metapackages of Debian Med



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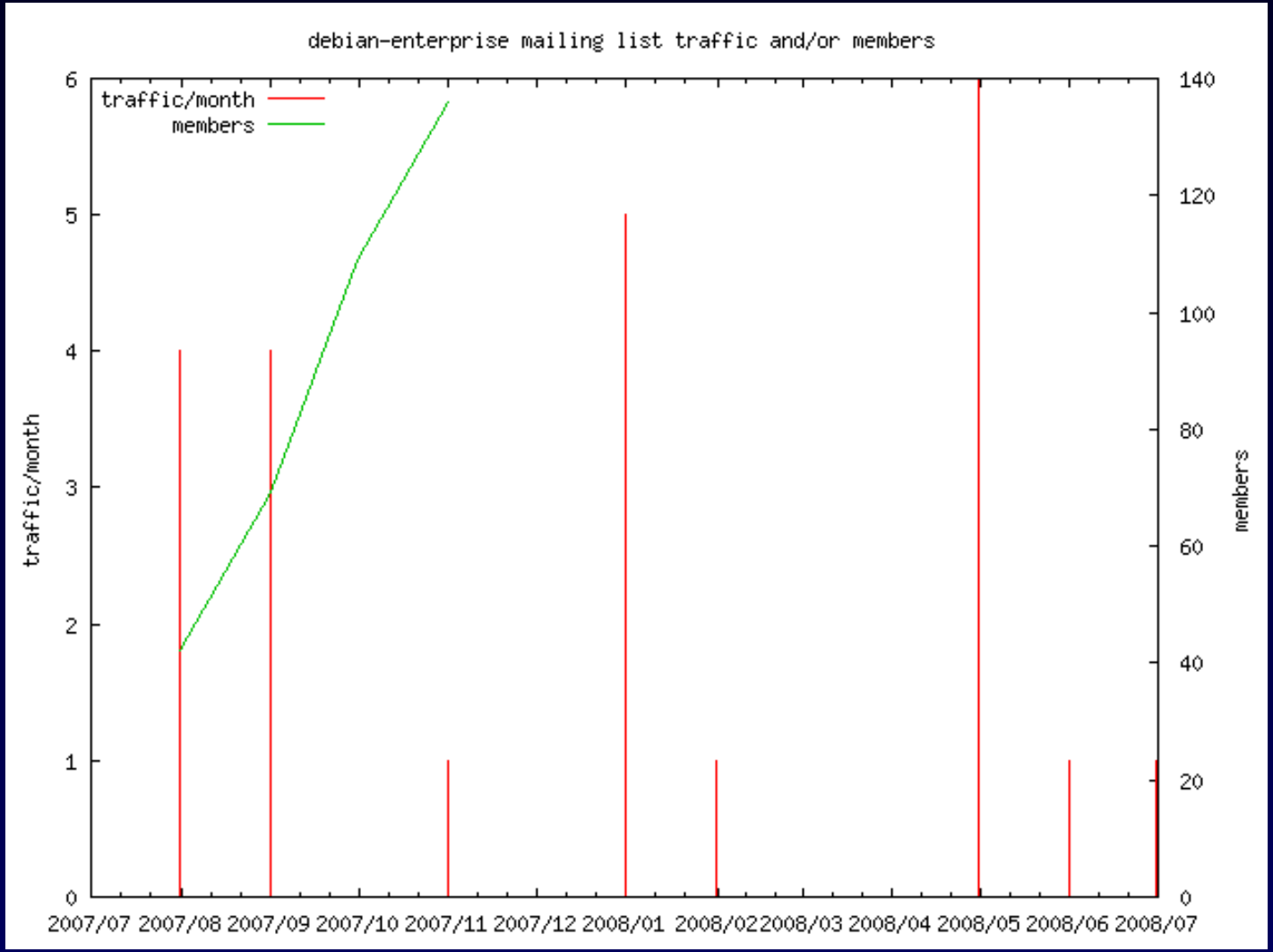

Activity of communication measure

- Intensity and quality of communication
- Every CDD has a mailing list
- Who are the active posters (except robots)
- Influence of SPAM, noise, flames, etc. is reduced
- Mind the run-over-by-bus factor

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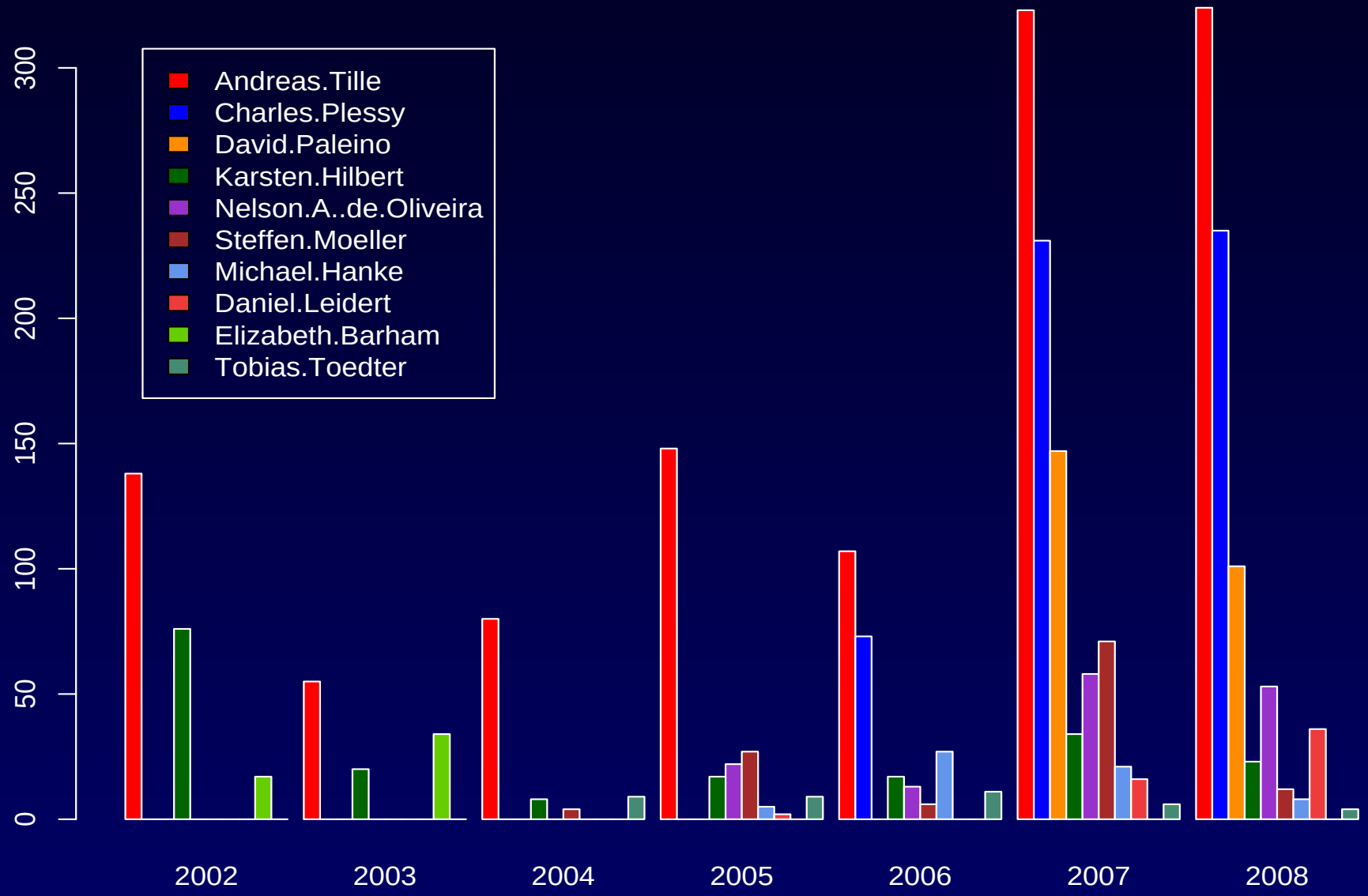
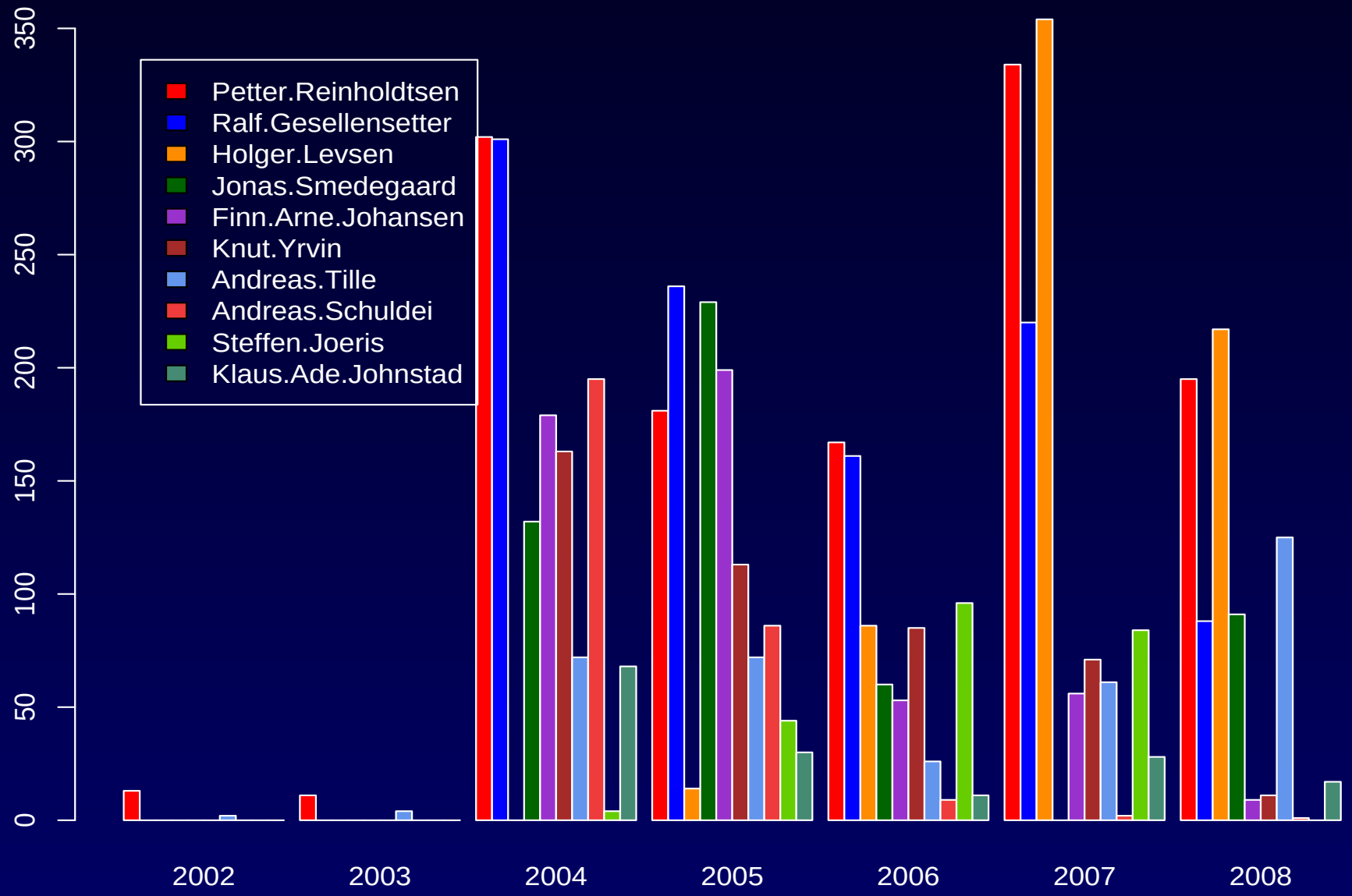
Top 10 posters on *debian-med@lists.debian.org*



Top 10 posters on *debian-edu@lists.debian.org*



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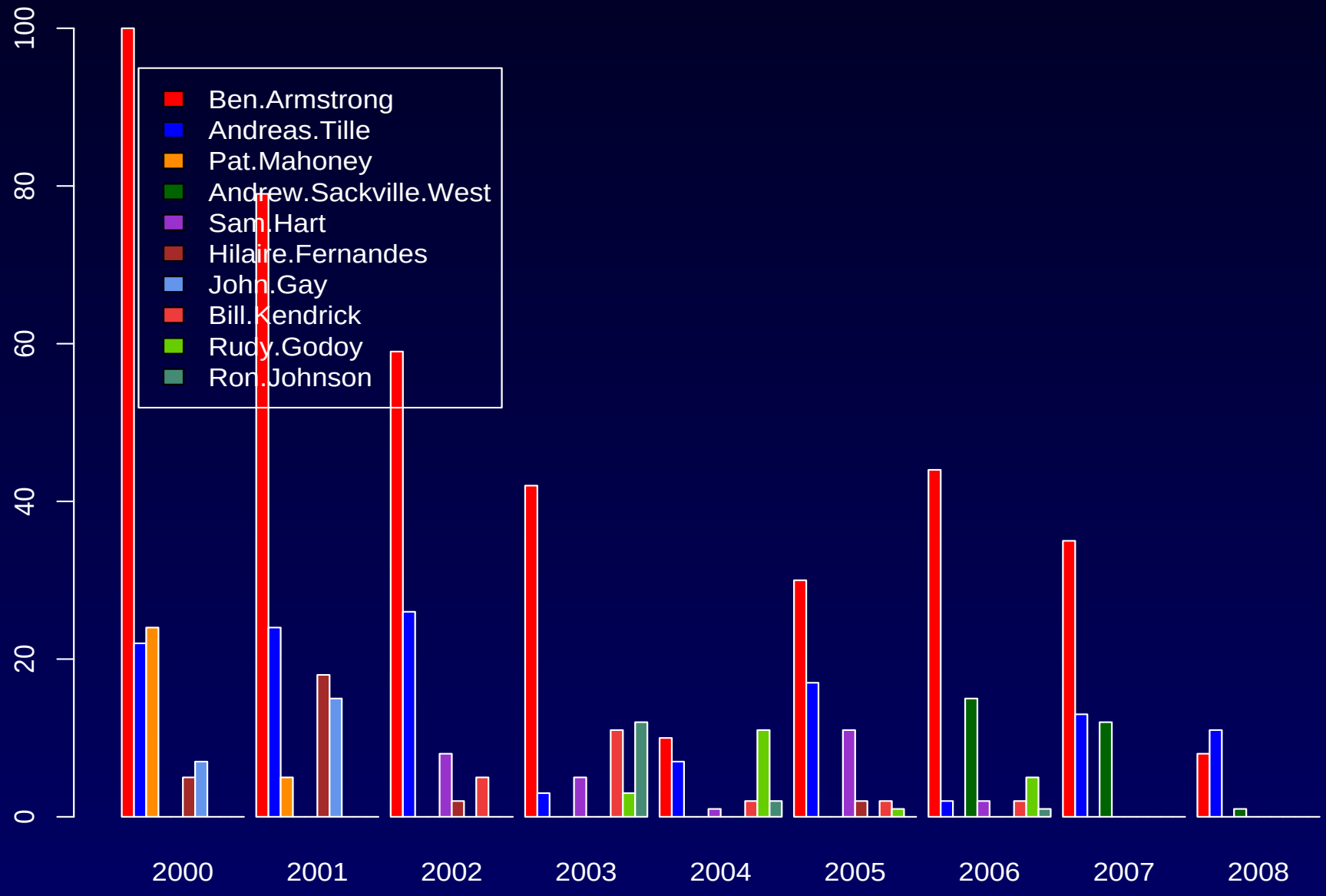

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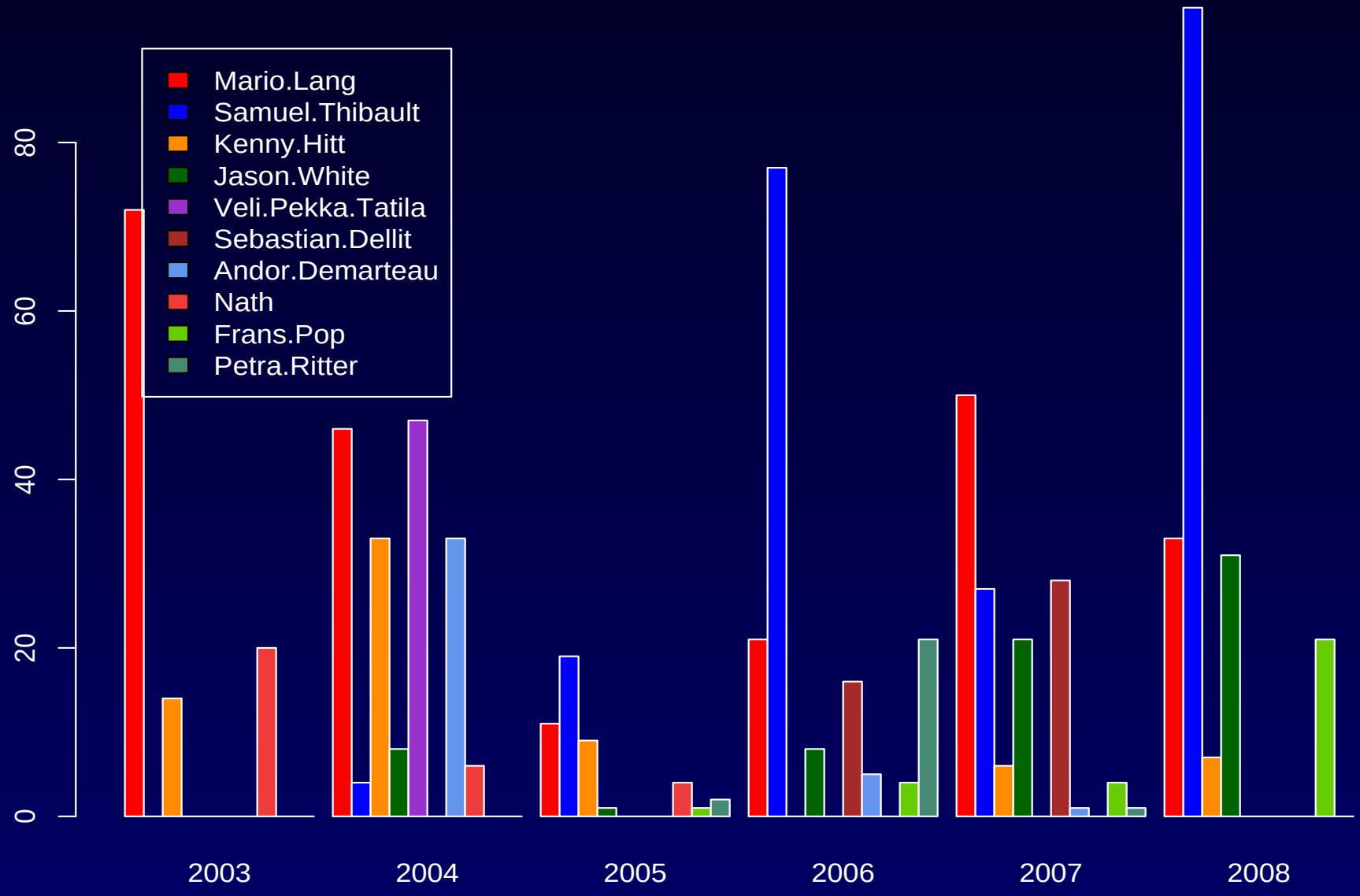

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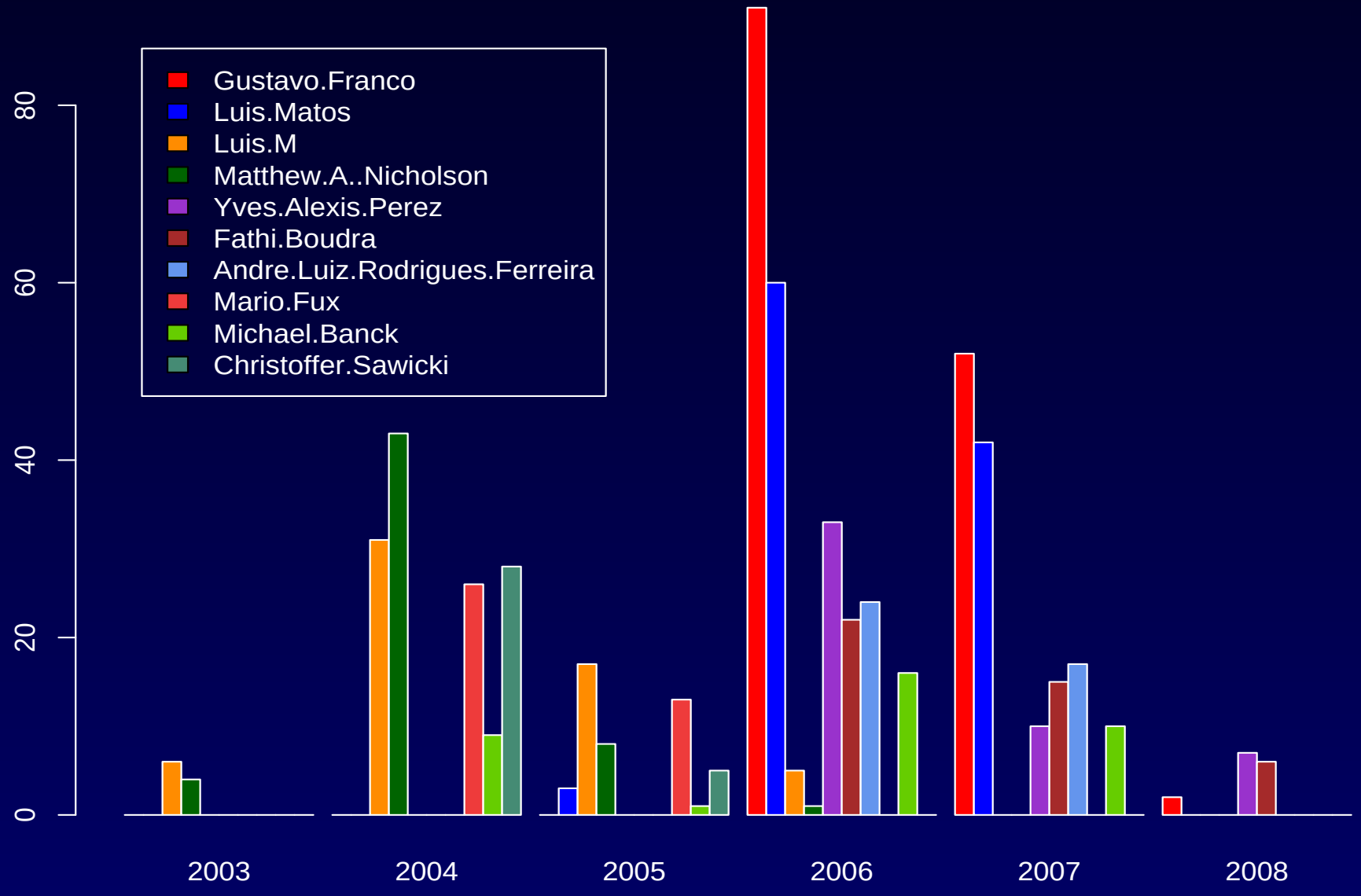

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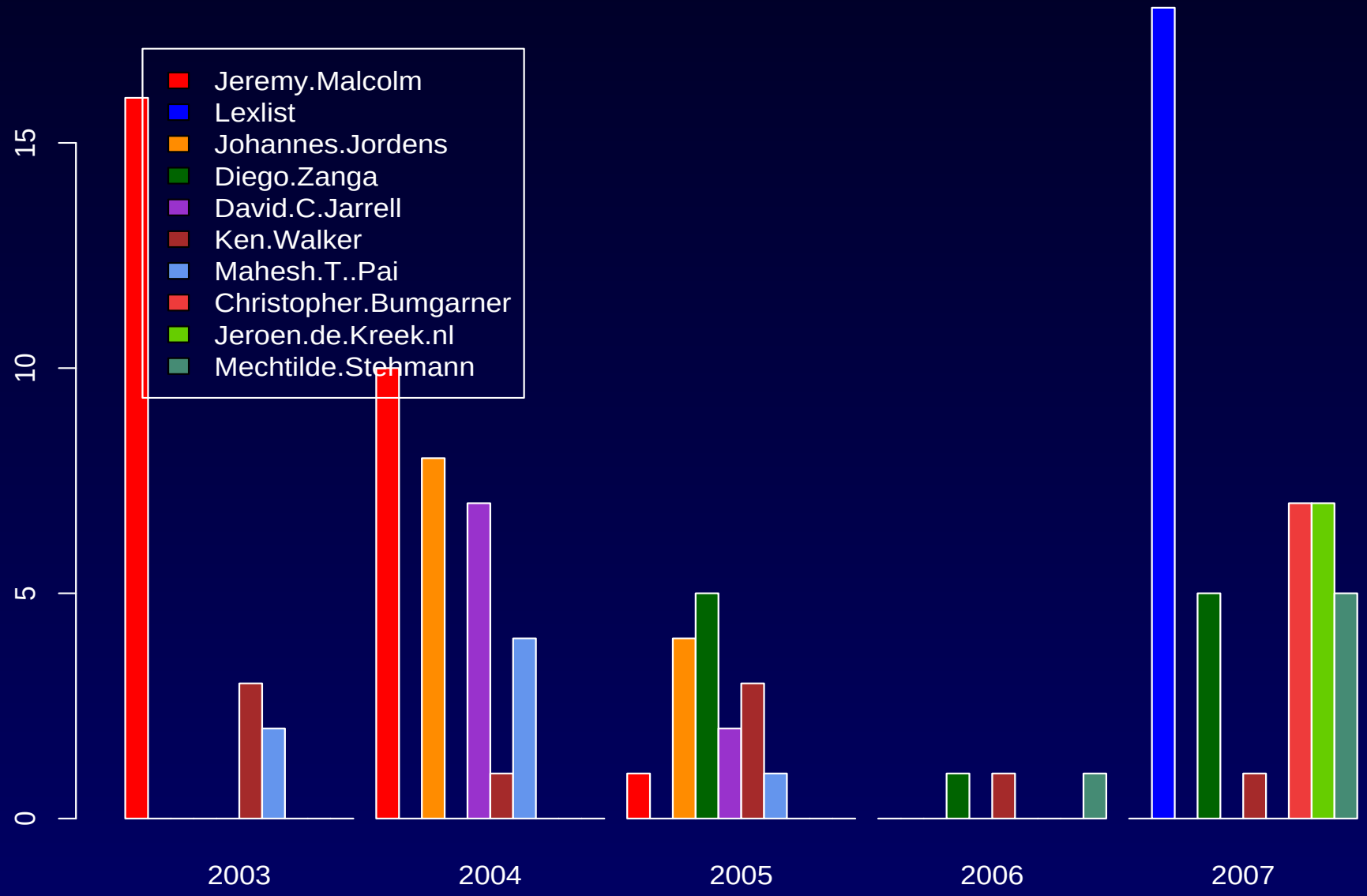

- Successfull SPAM protection: in 2008 this list gathered only SPAM
- Peak in November 2007:

Debian-Lex Rebirth?	23
Debian-Lex Rebirth? - python/perl/php?	25
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Rebirth of Debian-lex	2

- Good example for “vanished leader”

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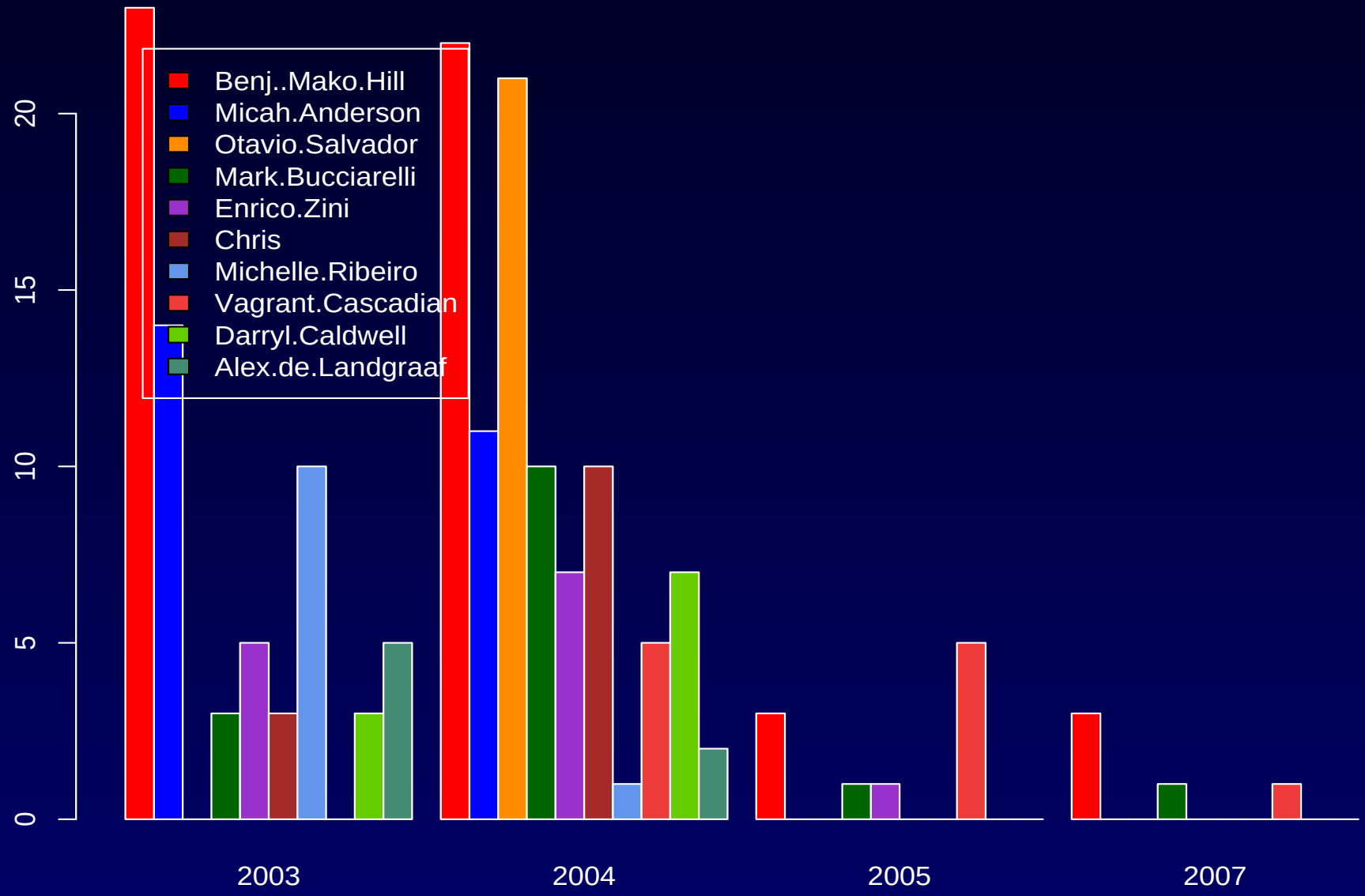
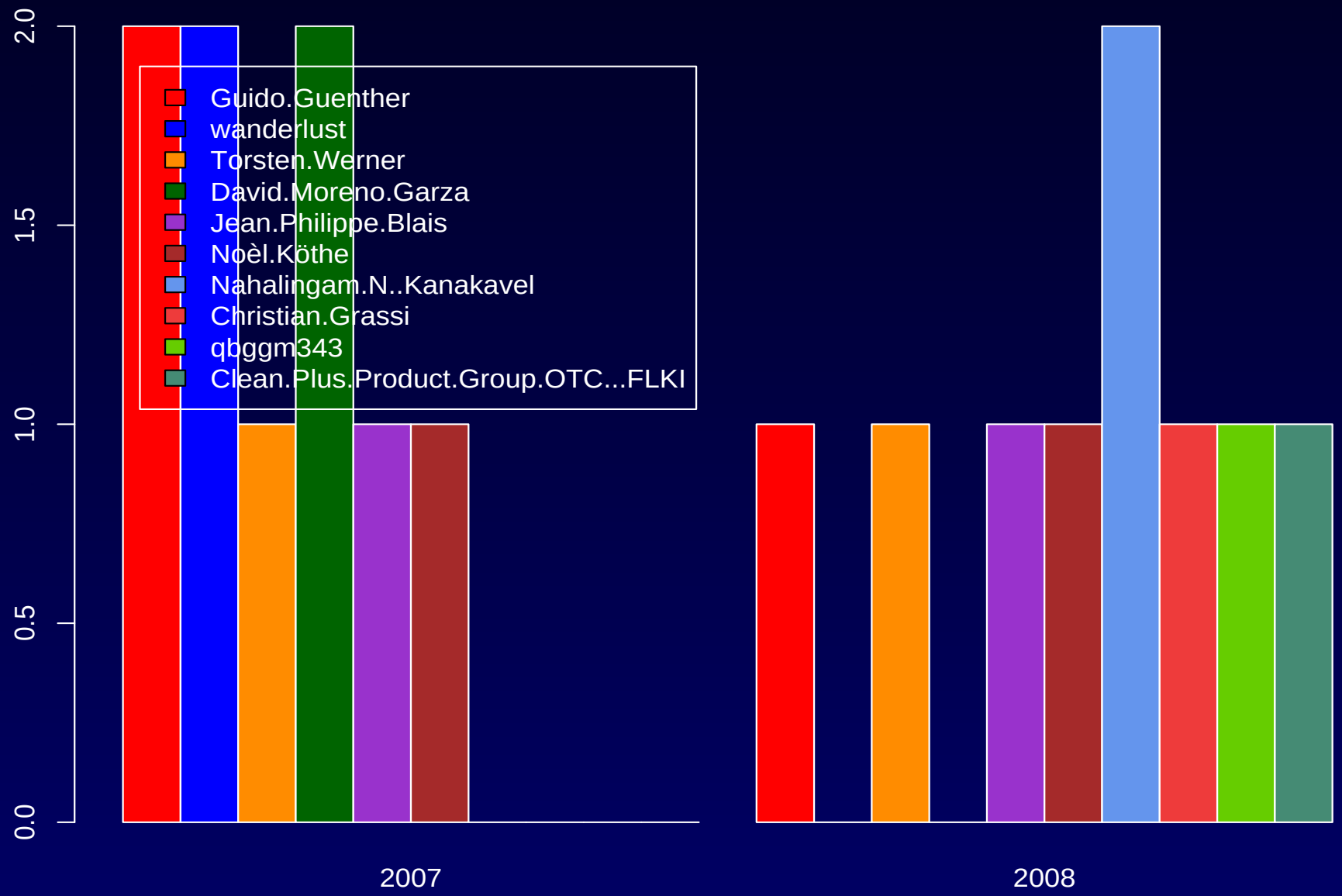
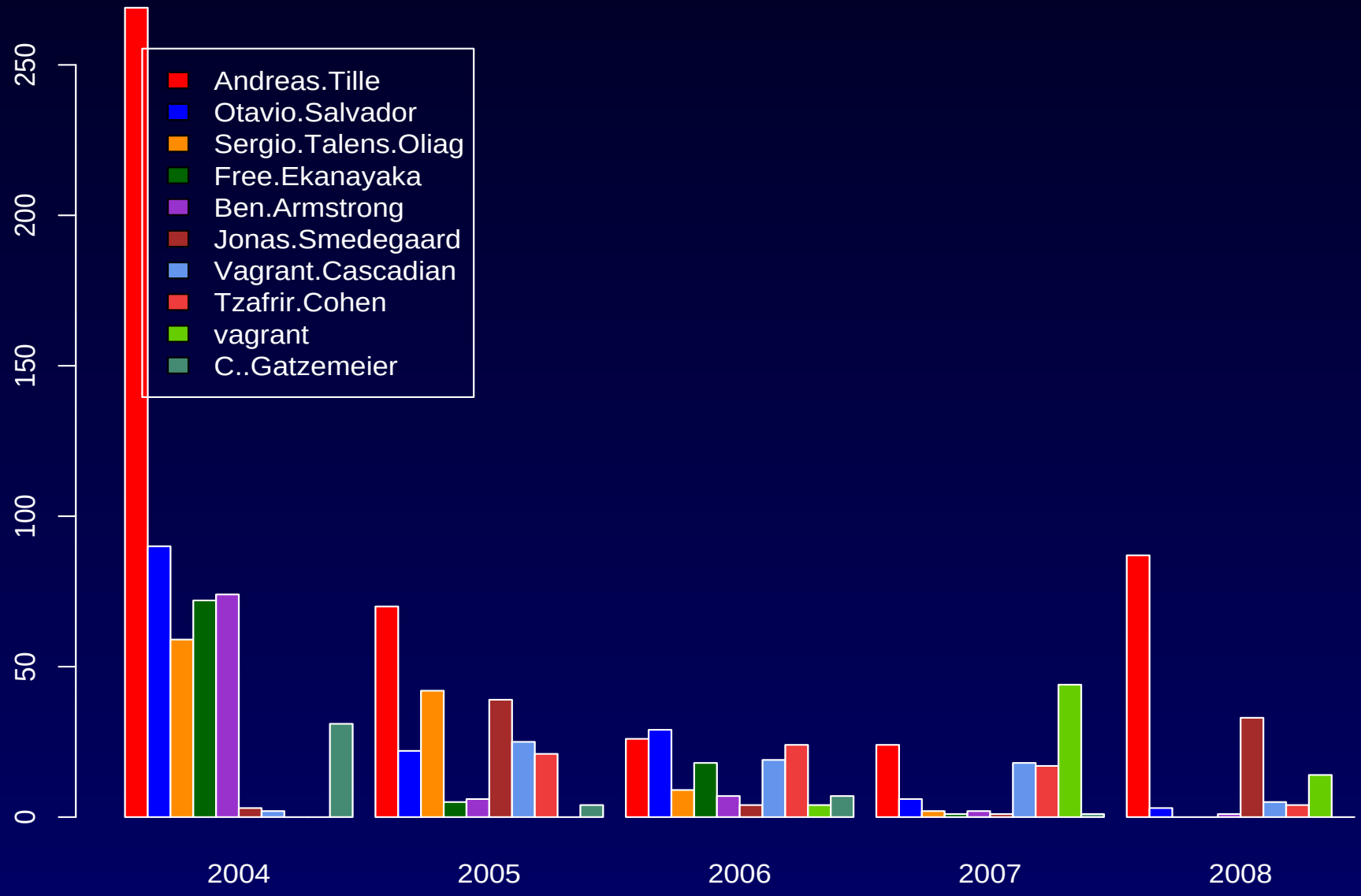


Top 10 posters on *debian-enterprise@lists.debian.org*



Top 10 posters on *debian-custom@lists.debian.org*



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- Debian Edu has a really healthy crew
- Debian Med has at least run-over-by-bus factor two
- Others seem to depend from single person
- Need of better management

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This talk is available at
http://people.debian.org/~ tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>