

# Healthy CDDs

Strategies for building a Custom Debian Distribution

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# Structure

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

# Libre Software Meeting (DebConf 1) - Bordeaux 2001



There is a laptop open



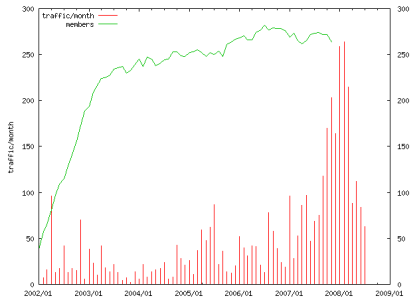
# Who are the others?

- Debian Junior (2000)
- Debian Med (2002)
- Debian Edu (SkoleLinux) (2002)
- DebConf 3 Oslo “Custom Debian Distributions”
- Debian Accessibility (2003)
- Debian Desktop (2003)
- Debian Lex (2003)
- Debian Nonprofit (2003)
- Debian GIS (2004)
- DebiChem (2004)
- Debian Enterprise (2007)

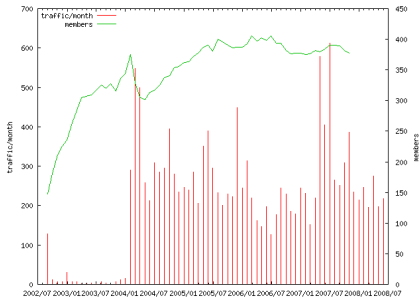
## Considering some numbers ...

- 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 → not every CDD uses common Vcs
  - Number of mailing list subscribers → people tend to stay subscribed

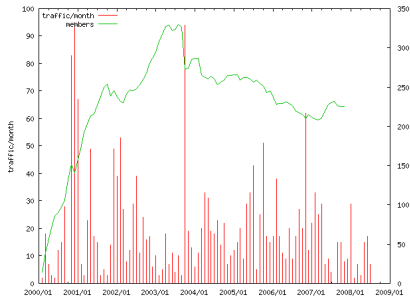
## Debian Med



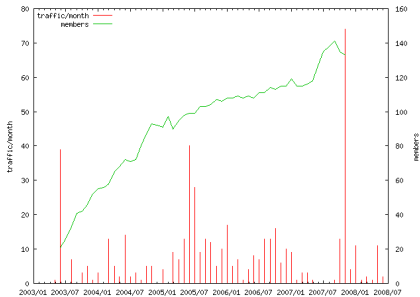
## Debian Edu



## 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](mailto:debian-desktop@lists.debian.org)
  - Messages by Debian Installer, `bugzilla-skolelinux`, Archive Administrator, ...

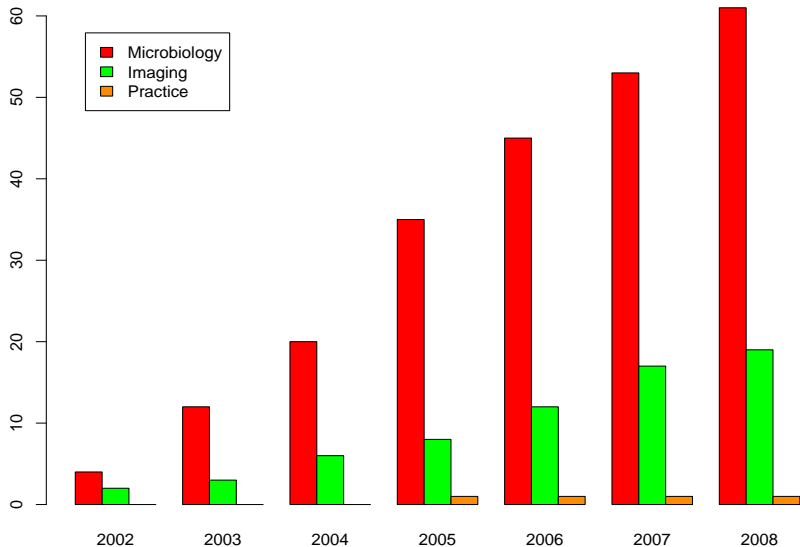


# Dependency of metapackages

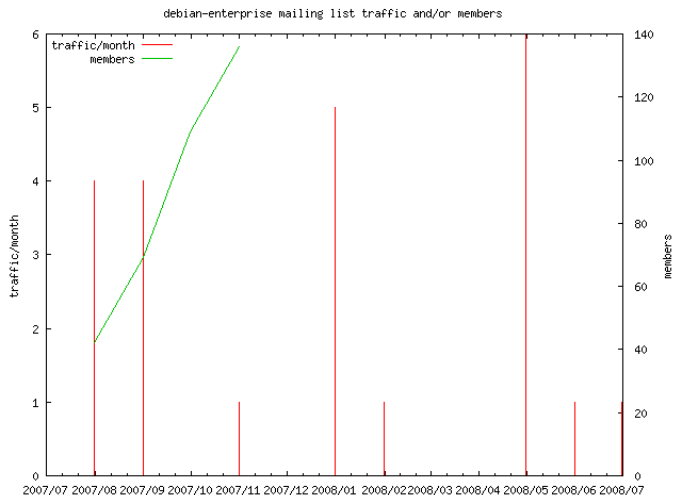
- Technical output - number of metapackages and their dependencies
- Probably good measure
- Hard to obtain because not everything is in Vcs
- Querying [snapshot.debian.net](#) possible but really time consuming

# Selected metapackages of Debian Med

Number of dependencies of selected Debian Med metapackages



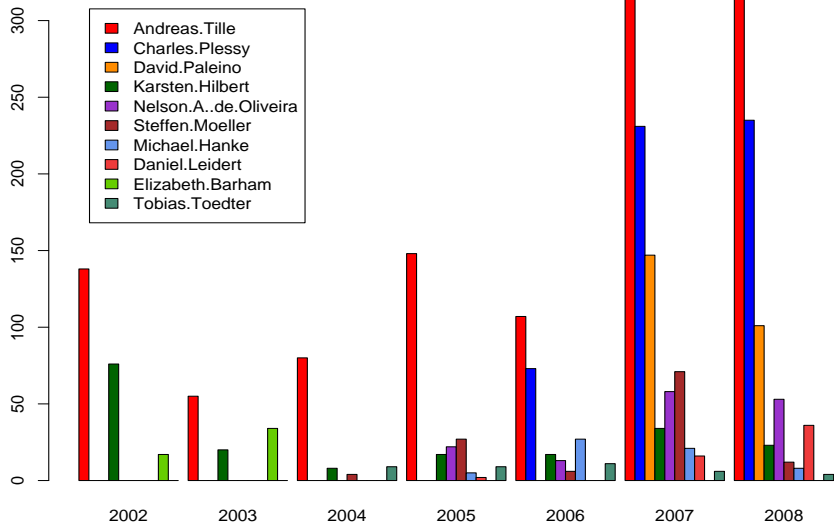
# Number of subscribers?



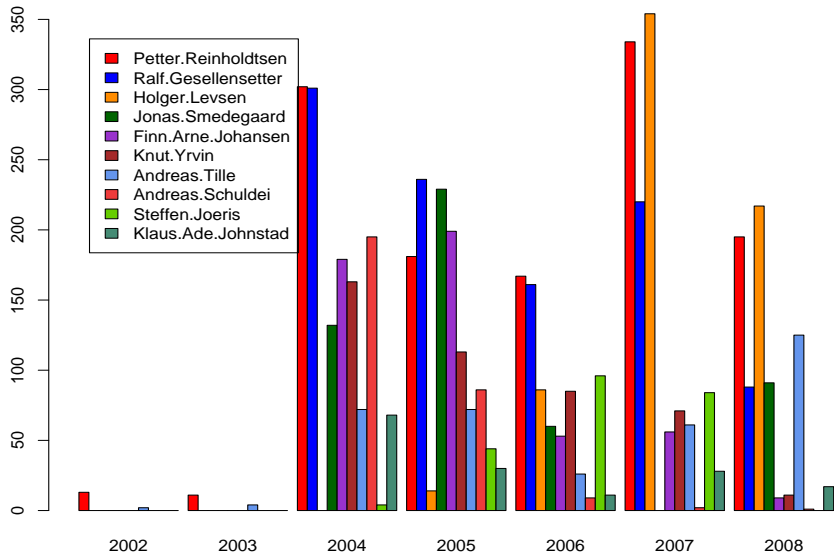
# Activity of communication measure

- 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

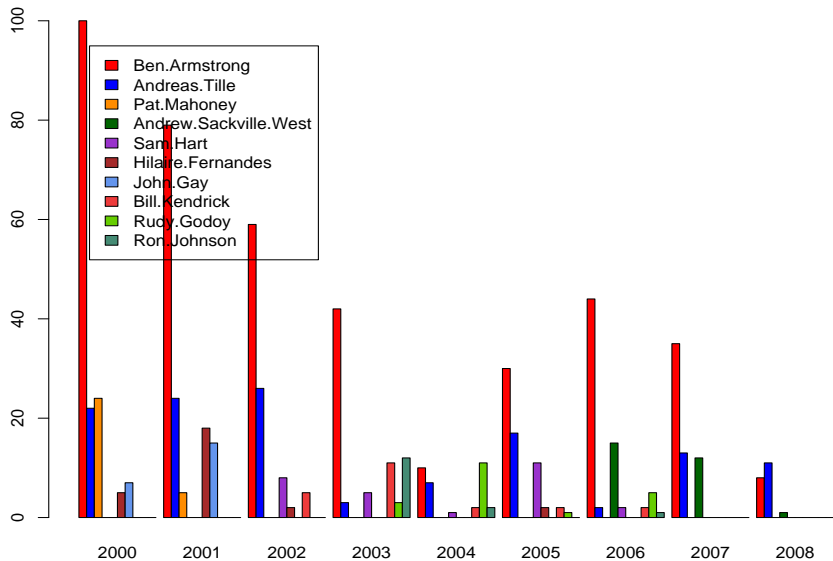
# Top 10 posters on [debian-med@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-med@lists.debian.org)



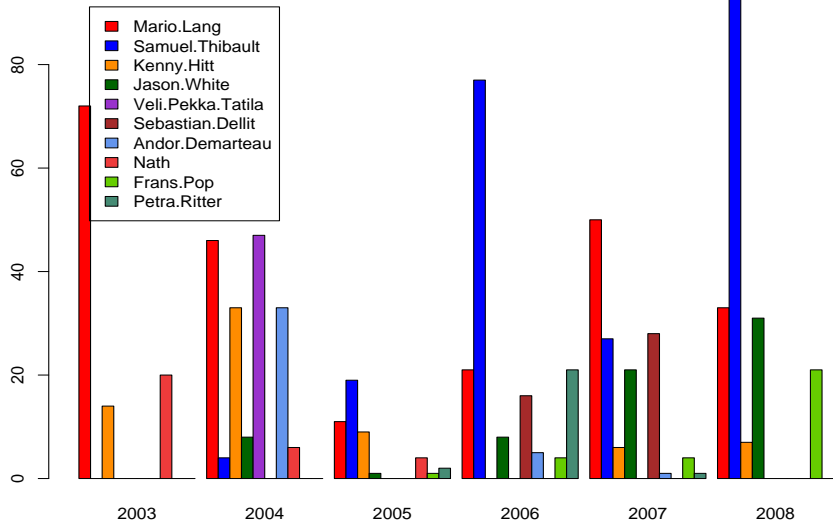
# Top 10 posters on [debian-edu@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-edu@lists.debian.org)



# Top 10 posters on [debian-jr@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-jr@lists.debian.org)

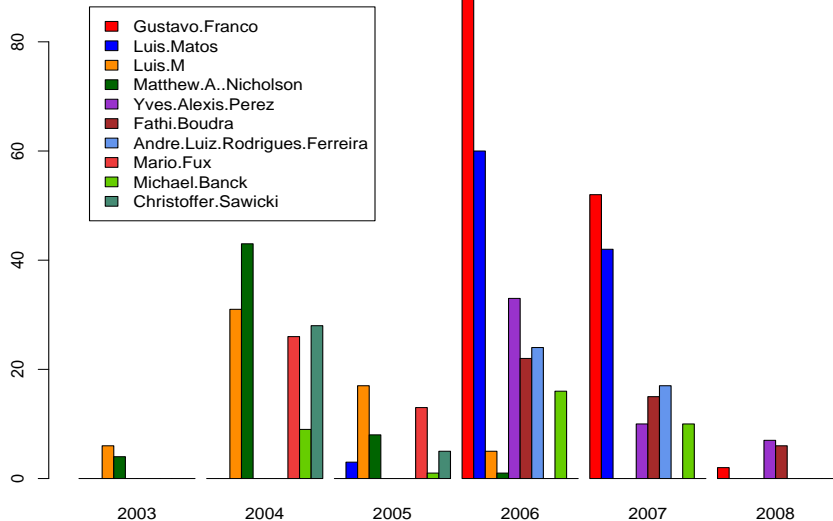


# Top 10 posters on [debian-accessibility@lists.d.o](mailto:debian-accessibility@lists.d.o)

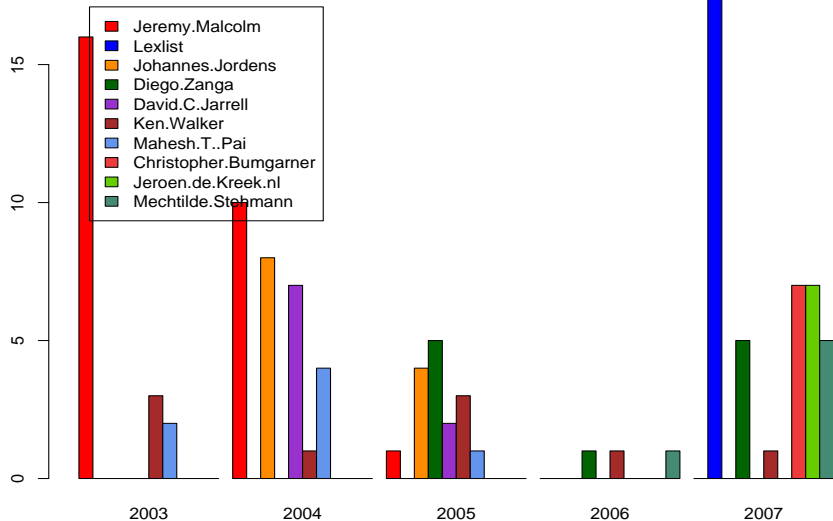




# Top 10 posters on [debian-desktop@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-desktop@lists.debian.org)



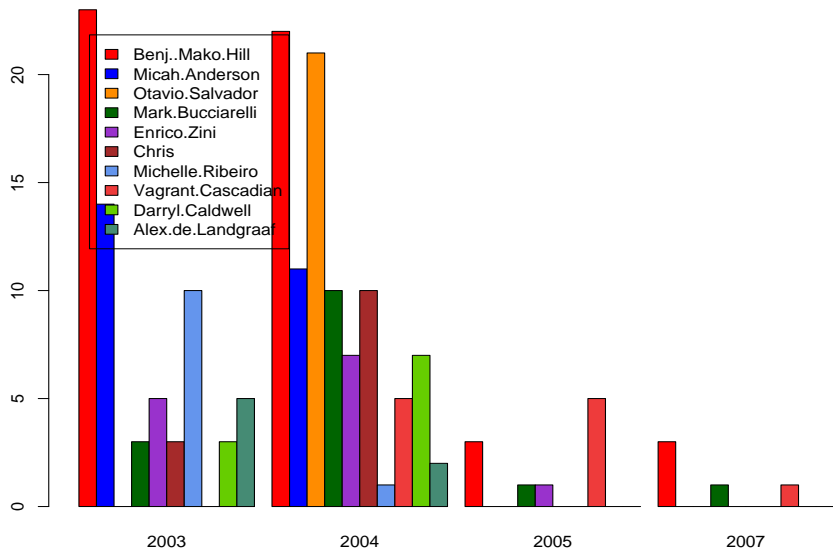
# Top 10 posters on [debian-lex@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-lex@lists.debian.org)



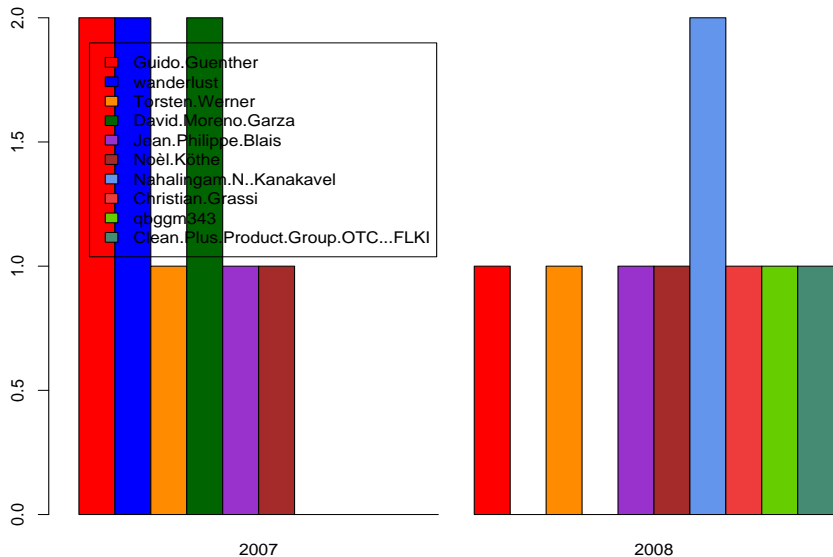
- Successful SPAM protection: in 2008 this list gathered only SPAM
- Peak in November 2007:

Debian-Lex Rebirth?	23
Debian-Lex Rebirth? - python/perl/php?	25
Debian-Lex Rebirth? - wiki	8
Rebirth	1
Rebirth of Debian-lex	2
- Good example for “vanished leader”

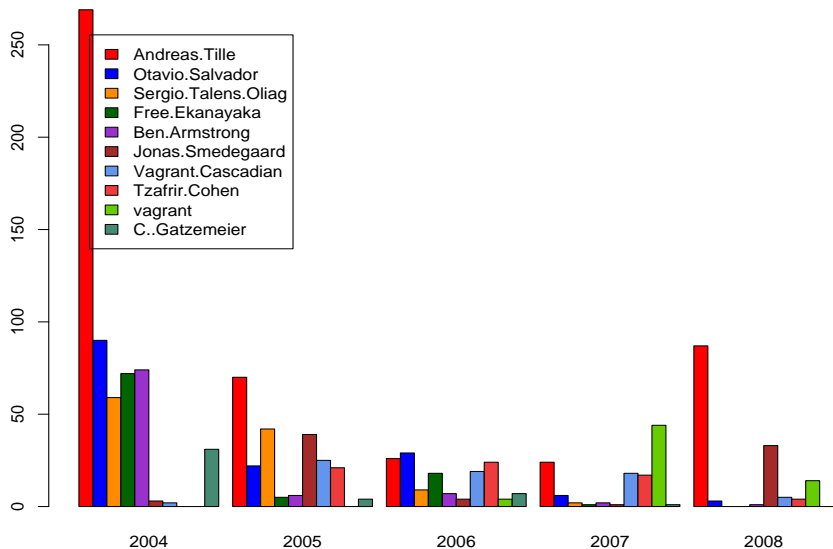
# Top 10 posters on [debian-nonprofit@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-nonprofit@lists.debian.org)



# Top 10 posters on [debian-enterprise@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-enterprise@lists.debian.org)



# Top 10 posters on [debian-custom@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-custom@lists.debian.org)



# Most CDDs depend from single person

- 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

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