Debian Science
Turning Debian into the distribution of choice for scientists

Andreas Tille

Debian Conference 8

Mar del Plata, August 15, 2008
Debian Integrated Solution

Pronounce: DISh

...we provide a dish with a certain flavour
Specific scientific DISHes

Debian Med  Strong focus on Microbiology
Debian GIS  Geographical Information Systems (especially GRASS)
DebiChem   Chemistry
Why not more?

- Idea of DIS needs some time to penetrate
- Advantages are not widely known
- Nobody likes to do the grunt work
- Umbrella to form more in the future
Until last year

- Debian-science mailing list (since 2005)
  - Scientific user support
  - Does not really focus on DIS and tools
  - Slack discussion of scientific issues in Debian

- Categorisation
  - DebTags
  - Debram
Debian Science DIS

- DIS provides straightforward access to package pool
- No need for searching interesting packages
- Engagement for packaging more scientific Free Software
- Further add-ons like user menus, preconfiguration, . . .
- Installer with adapted tasksel options
Science specific metapackages

- science-astronomy
- science-biology
- science-chemistry
- science-electronics
- science-engineering
- science-geography
- science-linguistics
- science-mathematics
- science-physics
- science-robotics
Common science utilities

- science-statistics
- science-typesetting
- science-viewing
Tasks files for \textit{cdd-dev}

- Done in two Extremadura meetings
  - Thanks to the \textit{Junta de Extremadura}
  - Thanks to \textit{Frederic Lehobey} and \textit{Dominique Belhachemi}

- Sensitisation of debian-science mailing list
  - pure packaging + user questions
  - \rightarrow become a DIS which provides a \textit{solution}
Some URLs

http://wiki.debian.org/DebianScience:

Debian Wiki

http://wiki.debian.org/DebianScience/...

...ContributingToDebianScience:

Contributing To Debian Science

http://debian-science.alioth.debian.org/...

...debian-science-policy.html:

Debian Science Policy

http://cdd.alioth.debian.org/science/tasks/:

Tasks overview

http://debian-med.alioth.debian.org/: 

Future web features like in Debian Med possible
Top 10 posters on debian-science@lists.debian.org
Using the web tools provided by DIS framework

- DIS framework uses tasks files to build task information pages
- Porting the QA tools of Debian Med DIS to all other DIShes
- Forming an instance for upstream developers of scientific software
- Working on the Todo list of not yet included packages
Todo

- Go on with the nice work
- Increase support of single sciences to create more specific DIShes
- Advertise the support of sciences in Debian to scientists
- Invite derivatives to join the effort
This talk is available at
http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>