Debian Science Blend
Scientific research using Debian

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Overview

1. Current status

2. Better science support in Blends

3. Realisation
   - Done
   - Work in progress
   - Todo
Debian Pure Blends

- Formerly known as “Custom Debian Distributions”
- Specific adaptations to certain workfields
- **No derivative** from Debian but reside completely inside Debian

*Basic idea: Do not make a separate distribution but make Debian fit for special purpose instead*
Specific scientific Blends

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

- Idea of Debian Pure Blends needs some time to penetrate
- Advantages are not widely known
- Nobody likes to do the grunt work
- Umbrella to form more in the future
Debian Science Blend

- Blends provide 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
- Tasks web pages
- Specific bugs overview
Science specific metapackages

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

- science-dataacquisition
- science-imageanalysis
- science-statistics
- science-typesetting
- science-viewing
Development

- science-astronomy-dev
- science-engineering-dev
- science-mathematics-dev
- science-meteorology-dev
Done in two Extremadura meetings
  - Thanks to the Junta de Extremadura
  - Thanks to Frederic Lehobey and Dominique Belhachemi

Sensitisation of debian-science mailing list
pure packaging + user questions
→ become a Blend which provides a 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://blends.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

List activities for science list

Andreas.T.
Charles.P.
Chris.W.
Adam.C.Powell.I.
Frederic.L.
Manuel.P.
Kevin.B..M.
Dirk.E.
Brett.V.
Christian.Holm.C.
Using the web tools provided by Blend framework

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

- Go translating package descriptions
- Go Screenshooting
- Go Debtagging
- Bother authors of non-free licenses
Todo

- Go on with the nice work
- Increase support of single sciences to create more specific Blends
- 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/
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