Blending Debian
Debian Pure Blends as a way to structurise the project

Andreas Tille

DebConf 11 Banja Luka

July 28, 2011
Debian Pure Blend (in short Blend): a subset of Debian that is configured to support a particular target group out-of-the-box.

Goal 1: Turn Debian into the distribution of choice for a specific target group

Goal 2: Advertise this fact to the world to attract users and developers
- Sometimes comparisons are broken.
- Not everything what is broken is necessarily a comparison.
- Broken thinks keep you busy thinking.
Sheep are used to be surrounded by a fence. It keeps them safe. There is grass, water and air.
Baah! == I’m fine, the grass tastes fine.
    I have heard rumors about even greener grass.
    I don’t care.

Baaaaa
Have you ever tried to explain a bird the sense of a fence? This is what an additional degree of *freedom* means.
Beep! == Useful device to leave my sh...  
I wonder why these animals don’t like flying  
By the way the grass on the other side is greener

Tweet
What a fruitful conversation!
- We should try to make a Tweed to Baaaaa translation
- Hard task because of different dimensions (degrees of freedom)
- We need transmitters

Baaaaa  Tweet
Find respected experts

- Find a sheep\(^\text{w}\) person working in a specific target group that experienced the freedom of becoming comfortable with Free Software
- Hand over this person something which is convincible to the other sheeps\(^\text{w}\text{w}\text{w}\)its colleagues
- Do this for any flock of sheep\(^\text{w}\text{w}\text{w}\text{w}\) field of work we are able to cover with DDs
How birds fail in singing to sheeps

- Wearing no shoes at DebConf
- Leave no time slot to sing to sheeps at all
- Fail in establishing dedicated communication channels
- Fail to sing in a choir (= team)
- Consequence: specific proxies called “derivatives” that try
  - fixing the communication problem
  - providing best kind of grass (dedicated system)
Relation to derivatives

A Blend is no derivative

A Blend is no derivative

- Derivers might consider fixing the problem at the root
- Adapptions might be done inside Debian
- A Blend might be a good preparation for a derivative
- Remind the Do-O-Cracy principle in Debian = you can enhance it yourself inside

A Blend is no derivative

... but can help preparing or avoiding such thing
Debian Med

DebiChem

Debian Edu

Debian GIS

Debian Science

Debian Jr

Debian Multimedia
Find more flocks of sheeps

... or rather cover more work fields

- Use the expert experience inside Debian
- Join to build strong teams around certain tasks
- Enhance Blends framework techniques to make its usage more attractive
- Try to bring back external projects to Debian by providing attractive tools or ...
- Prepare your derivative inside Debian
There is work in progress to have time-based releases (rolling)

What about “topic-based releases”? 
This talk is available at http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>