Tools inside Blends framework

Andreas Tille

Debian Conference 18

Hsinchu, July 30, 2018
Overview

1. Debian Pure Blends
   - Short introduction
   - Blends features

2. Used techniques
   - Metapackages
   - Web sentinel
   - Team analysis
   - Misc UDD tools
   - Outreach

3. Future
   - Planned features for Blends
Debian

Tools inside Blends framework
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Debian Pure Blends
Short introduction Blends features

Used techniques
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Web sentinel
Team analysis
Misc UDD tools
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Role of Blends to attract specific users
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Tools inside Blends framework

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Med-bio task of Debian Med

BLAST®
emboss
CLUSTAL
circos
Primer3
CD-HIT

Bioconductor
Open source software for bioinformatics

Debian Pure Blends
Short introduction
Blends features
Tie a solid network of Debian developers, upstream developers (“developing experts”) and users

- Rationale: Experts in this field need help in build system / packaging
- Upstream anticipates enhancements of build system and security audit
- Finally support upstream developers to become Debian maintainers
- Penetrating specific work fields with Linux makes it even more acceptable in general
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Attracting people to use Blends

Developers

- Acceptance of new methods higher if the techniques provided are convincing enough
- Simple way to categorise packages (“tasks files”)
- Key documentation feature
- QA pages (Bugs of relevant packages, DEHS)

Users

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- Promoting software that builds a complete working environment
- Rise user interest by providing ready to install software in the context of their work field
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Define set of dependency relations
- Turn these into installable code (metapackages)
- Demonstrate what we have online (web sentinel)
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Building metapackages using `blends-dev`

- **Define set of dependency relations in `tasks` files**
- `blends-dev` does the following automatically:
  - Verify availability of Depends / Recommends
  - Packages unavailable in main will be turned into Suggests
  - Create proper debian/control file to build valid metapackages
  - Create `tasksel` control file `<blend>-tasks.desc`
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Using `blends-dev`

### `debian/rules`

```
#!/usr/bin/make -f
include /usr/share/blends-dev/rules
```

### `debian/control.stub`

- `debian/control` will be autogenerated
- Only information for source package is in stub
- See `/usr/share/doc/blends-dev/examples/debian/tasks/*` or other Blends for working examples

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Example tasks file

Control file

$ cp -a /usr/share/doc/blends-dev/examples/tasks .
$ cat tasks/README
$ edit tasks/task1

Format: https://blends.debian.org/blends/1.1
Task: task name
Description: short description
long description as in any debian/control file
Depends: dependends1, dependends2, ...
Recommends: recommends1, recommends2, ...
Suggests: suggests1, suggests2, ... (optional)
$ cp tasks/task1 tasks/<meta-package-name>

Create a tasks file for every task

Working example: apt-get source debian-med
Calculating packaging files

```
make dist
```

- Check existence of package mentioned as Depends / Recommends in testing (== final target of the metapackages)
- If package is not in testing it will end up as Suggests inside metapackage.
- *-all metapackage / task
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New format

- In format 1.0 each `Depends` was turned into `Recommends`

- If first line is
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  Format: https://blends.debian.org/blends/1.1
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- Format 1.1 is available since `blends-dev (>= 0.7)`
In format 1.0 **each** `Depends` was turned into `Recommends`

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  - `Depends` remain

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Build process includes package `BLEND-tasks`
- Includes tasksel description files
- Hopefully presented in installer process of buster
- Installs metapackage `BLEND-all`
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Tasks statistics

- `blends-dev (>= 0.7)` contains method to add json data file with package statistics
  - Useful to graph tasks development
  - Helps maintaining changelog
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Number of Packages in selected tasks
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Tasks, bugs and external health pages

- Providing information about packages in tasks
- Information gathered from UDD
- Some more user oriented, others developer oriented
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- Some more user oriented, others developer oriented
Tasks pages - show off what we have

- Key entry point for users
- Quick overview about what’s inside Debian regarding specific work field
- Might contain todo list (prospective packages)
- Turned out to be QA tool for developers as well
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→ Demo http://blends.debian.org/med/tasks
Bugs pages - direct people to work to do

- Colouring according bugs weight
  - Attract competent people to bugs by sorting these into workfields
  - General attempt to make bugs in Blends relevant packages more visible
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Who is in the team and what period of activity

- How to estimate the number of active contributors?
- List of team members in Salsa gives no answer who is really active
  - Who is active on the mailing lists
  - Who uploads packages and fixes bugs
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Contributions per package

Debian Med

pkg-perl
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Top 10 uploaders

Debian Med
debian-xfce

Andreas T 4719
Charles P 547
Steffen M 399
Sascha S 391
Mathieu M 320
Olivier S 288
Gert W 250
Afif E 214
Michael Robin C 194
Alexandre M 152
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Features of UDD initially added for Blends usage

- DDTP
- New queue
- screenshots.debian.net
- Blends prospective packages
- Upstream metadata
- Registry data and EDAM ontology
- All Blends tasks information is in UDD
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So far undocumented simple SQL scripts

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Package</th>
<th>Uploaded?</th>
<th>Visible in the team after 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02.2012</td>
<td>Luis Ibanez</td>
<td>fis-gtm</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>handed over to Amul Shah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2012</td>
<td>Scott Christley</td>
<td>libswarm</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.2012</td>
<td>Eric Maeker</td>
<td>libquazip</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2012</td>
<td>Tomás Di Domenico</td>
<td>python-csb</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.2013</td>
<td>Sukhbir Singh</td>
<td>hunspell-en-med</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>remained in Debian (not in Debian Med)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2013</td>
<td>Lennart C. Karssen</td>
<td>probabel</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01.2014</td>
<td>Jorge Sebastião Soares</td>
<td>snp-sites</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2014</td>
<td>Stephen Smith</td>
<td>phyutility</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.2014</td>
<td>Ian Wallace</td>
<td>openemr</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.2014</td>
<td>Corentin Desfarges</td>
<td>camp</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>handed over to Flavien Bridault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.2015</td>
<td>Paul Novotny</td>
<td>opensurgsim</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.2015</td>
<td>Yves Martelli</td>
<td>dwvexplorer</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.2015</td>
<td>Malihe Asemani</td>
<td>manila</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05.2015</td>
<td>Afif Elghraoui</td>
<td>kmer-tools</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes (even mentoring himself)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06.2015</td>
<td>Alba Crespi</td>
<td>r-cran-fastmatch</td>
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<td>07.2015</td>
<td>Julien Lamy</td>
<td>dcmtk++</td>
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<td>Malihe Asemani</td>
<td>king-probe</td>
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<td>Martin Uecker</td>
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<td>Kerim Ölçer</td>
<td>emperor</td>
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<td>Çağrı ULAS</td>
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<td>Nada Ghanem</td>
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<td>Cedric Lood</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Nadiya Sîlîyêkova</td>
<td>qatb-core</td>
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Debian Med has attracted one developer per year

According to a questionnaire in Wiki

- Debian Med has 38 DDs+DMs (not all active any more)
  - 19 DDs because Debian Med exists;
  - 4 DDs before Debian Med started
  - 10 out of the 19 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
  - 14 out of the 19 above are active in Debian Med
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- No student for each month so the workload is bearable
- Students have just read recent documents which I did ten years ago → I can learn new stuff from them
- Major advantage: training upstream to pool their knowledge about the code with ours about packaging is very efficient for the hard packages
- About 50% of students had strong connection to upstream and requests for upstream changes went very smoothly
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Sponsoring of Blends

https://wiki.debian.org/DebianPureBlends/SoB
1. Debian Pure Blends
   - Short introduction
   - Blends features

2. Used techniques
   - Metapackages
   - Web sentinel
   - Team analysis
   - Misc UDD tools
   - Outreach

3. Future
   - Planned features for Blends
Enhancing the Web layout

- Better web layout
- The web layout should be enhanced
- Some more info like Lintian report overview, may be Ubuntu bugs . . .
- . . . in a better web layout
- Volunteers???
Enhancing the web sentinel

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Provide more officially usable code to maintain Blends more easily
Link to extensive Blends doc

https://blends.debian.org/blends/
This talk can be found at

http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/

Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>