One year of pandemie
Lessons learned in Debian Med team

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Debian

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1. What is Debian Med?

2. Teammetrics statistics and development cycles

3. Long term contributions as result of Covid-19 hackathons

4. Following Hackathons and Online-Sprint
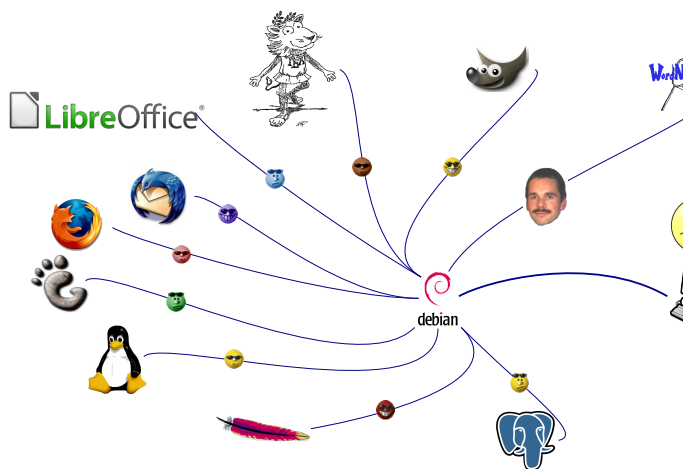
5. Summary

Back in 2001 at DebConf 1
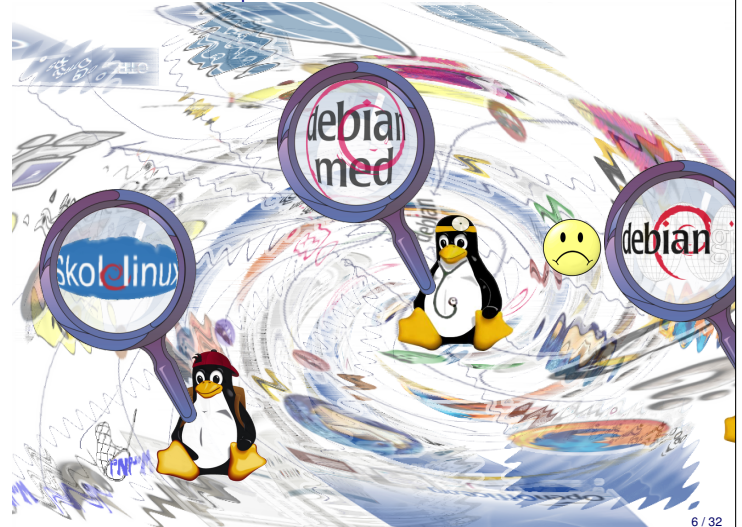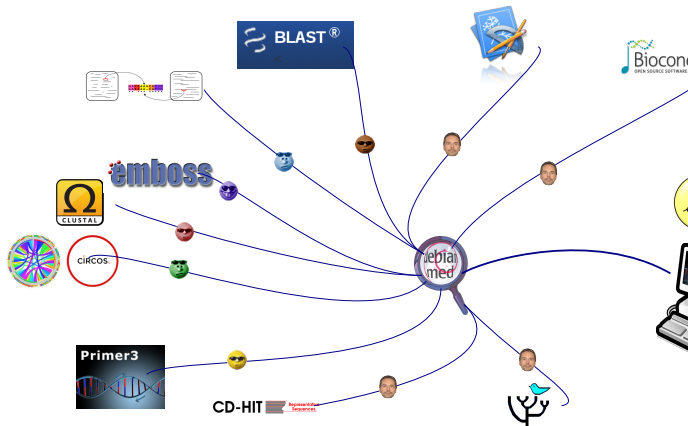
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the first talk about the concept was prepared

Debian

Role of Blends to attract specific users
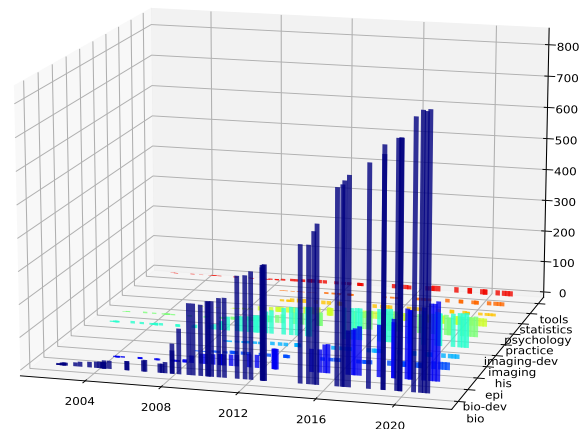
Med-bio task of Debian Med

Packages in selected tasks of Debian Med

Debian Med has attracted one developer per year

According to a *survey* in Wiki
- Debian Med has 45 DDs+DMs (not all active any more)
- 23 DDs *because* Debian Med exists
- 16 out of the 23 above extended their activity to other fields in Debian
- 13 out of the 23 above are currently active in Debian Med
- 3 DDs and 1 DM are new after the April-Hackathon

Not all tasks are appropriately covered

- Bioinformatics: very good,
  currently working on Workflows and AI packages
- Medical imaging: good
- Medical practice: there is something (gnumed, just lost freemedforms)
- Epidemiology: several R packages, working on AI packages
- Hospitals: close to nothing (fis-gtm)
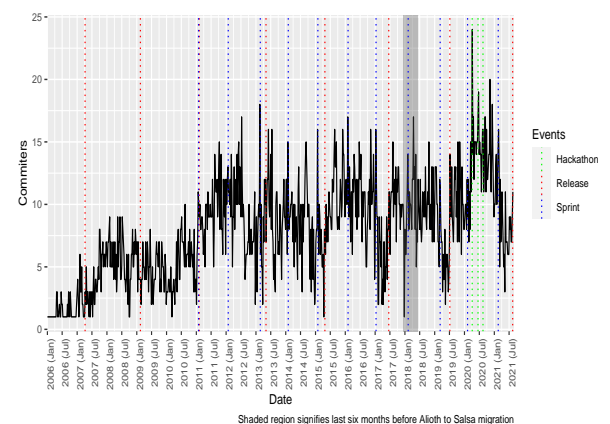 ... besides a stable but unspecific OS

Interpreting graphs in certain development cycles

- Some graphs of Debian Med team
- Also R packaging team graphs since lots of Debian Med packages are in pkg-r team
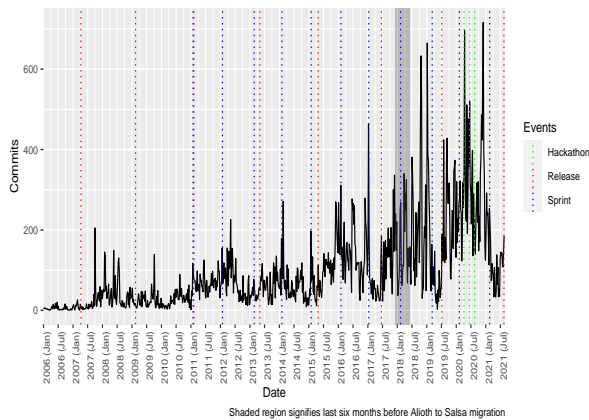- Considerations about "freeze depression"

Persons commiting to Debian Med packages per week

Commits to Debian Med packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

Interpreting some peaks

- Some peaks related to release process like upcoming freeze and not connected to hackatons or sprints
- All time peak of 716 commits in week starting at 2020-11-30 caused by four very active DDs: Andreas Tille 451, Étienne Mollier 72, Steffen Möller 62 and Nilesh Patra 58
- Effort to have up to date packages before freeze

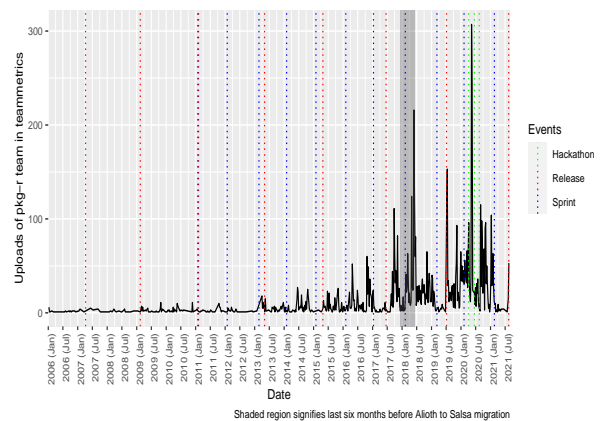- Next slide: Main activity in pkg-r team is a bit delayed

Commits to pkg-r packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration
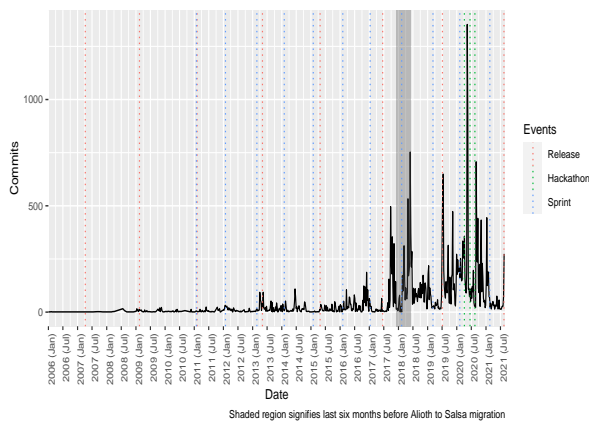
Uploads of pkg-r packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

Checking the theory of general "freeze depression"

- Graph over all teams in team metrics
- Start of freeze is marked by transition freeze (if exists)
- Some kind of artificial peaks (for instance in week 2021-04-12 with 3592 commits by pkg-js team)
- There are other peak examples outside freeze (for instance in week 2020-02-17 with 7315 commits by pkg-perl team)
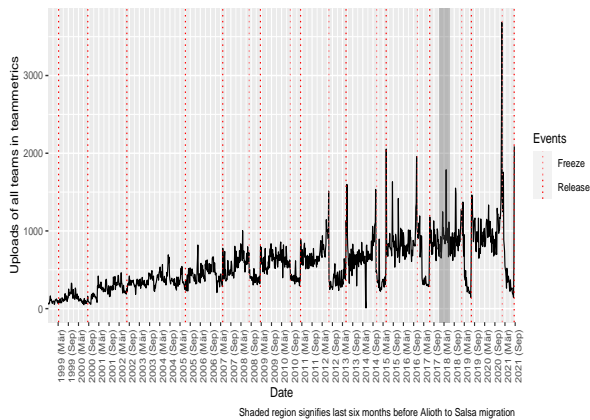
Commits of all teams verifying "freeze depression"

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration
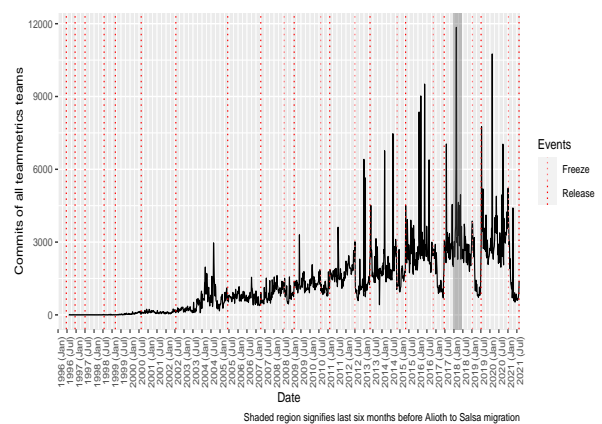
Uploads of all teams in teammetrics packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

Pre-freeze activity

- Right before the freeze in January 2021 three teams did a lot of uploads right before the freeze (pkg-perl 916, ruby-extras 240, pkg-go 210)
- Similarly in Debian Med team with the all time peak some weeks before the freeze as mentioned above

Uploads of Debian Med packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration
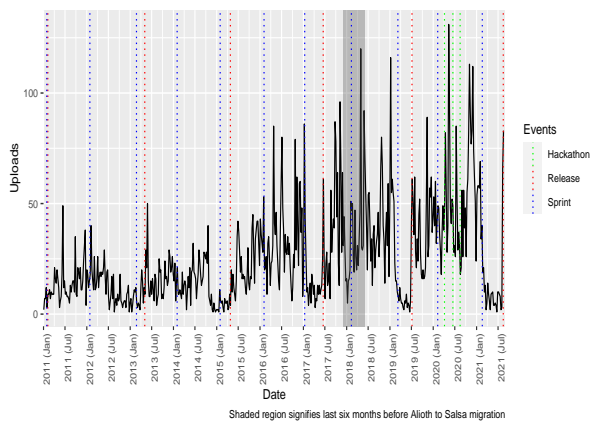
Persons uploading Debian Med packages per week

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration
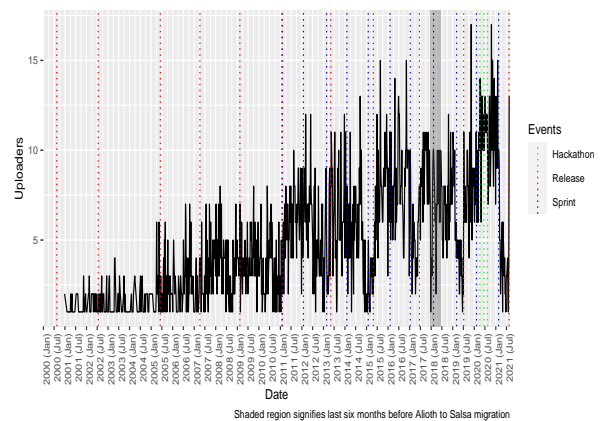
Persons posting to debian-med@lists.debian.org
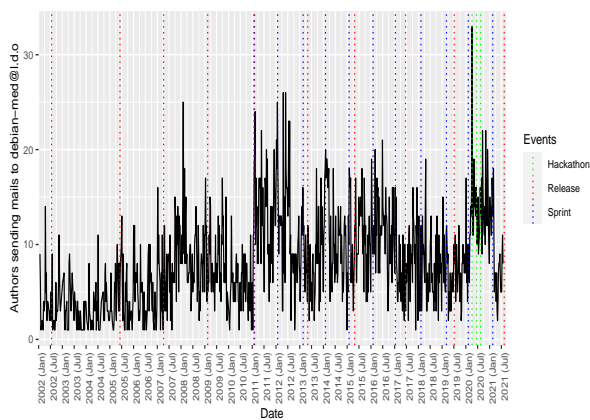
Posts to debian-med@lists.debian.org

Communication

- Daily jitsy meeting
- Mailinglist
- IRC
- Telegram
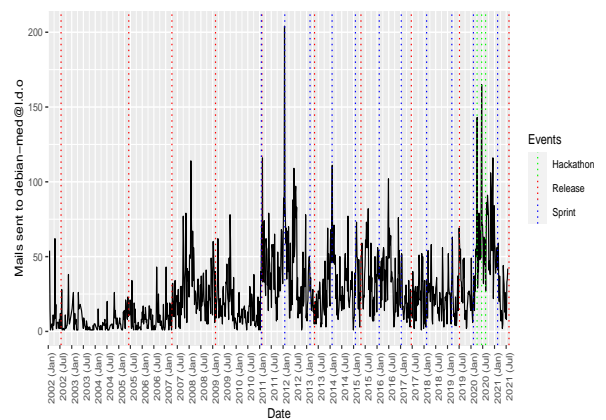- Established in online sprint February 2021: *Matrix*

Amazing ftpmaster support in first hackathon

- **Tons of kudos to ftpmaster for the great support!**
- Many packages in NEW queue were processed in less than 24 h!
- This was the most fun in my whole 22 year of Debian developer life
- It is extremely motivating to get such support
- To quote some understatement of Scott Kitterman:
  ```
  <ScottK> I didn't do anything beyond taking
  some time off work so I would have more
  time to pick up the FTP Team end of getting
  the new packages in.
  ```

Different contributions in hackathons

- Former contributors who came back for a certain period of time
- Permanent contributors who increased activity
- Other DDs/DMs (specifically ftpmaster) contributed
- New contributors
  - for a certain period of time
  - who sticked to the project
- Former and new GSoC / Outreachy students
- Non-technical contributors checking licenses, program versions and contacting upstream
- Family members with a lot of patience

Following Hackathons and Online-Sprint

- Two following Hackathons in two months distance not as productive
- Yearly sprint was done online
  - Set of attendees was different than real life sprints
  - Long term attendees with less/no activity
  - More non-european attendees
  - Continuously open Jitsi-room
  - Meeting inside the room every second hour

Long term effect of COVID-19 on the Debian Med project

- The Debian Med project got a totally new drive
- It is even more fun to work in this project
- While the actual spin of the hackathon faded away 4 new DDs/DMs are continuously contributing since then
  Étienne Mollier HPC, Python, gcc
  Nilesh Patra Tries hard to beat me in uploads and succeeded
  Pierre Gruet Java competence
  Shayan Doust Contributed to teammetrics with R scripts
- Majority of the newcomers is not originated in the field of bioinformatics or medicine
- Everybody is kindly invited to share this fun with us and join the project

Long term effect of COVID-19 on my own work inside the project

- While the hackathon was running my work shifted from packaging way stronger to mentoring and organising
- Later it went back to "normal" - but with support of more developers
- Namely Nilesh Patra is taking over work I previously felt alone with
- Its even more fun than before to see all those skilled developers doing stuff I could never approach myself
- I'm very happy about all those hackathon contributions but I'm wondering how to keep on gathering more contributors.

This talk is available at
http://people.debian.org/˜tille/talks/
Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>