Debian is more than a technical project

- Susan Kleinman
- Morons! I’m surrounded by morons.
  - Joel “Espy” Klecker, 1979-2000
- Daughters and granddaughter

Fears and hopes

Neil McGovern promised free beer in his “Bits from DPL” 2015. I wonder whether running for DPL is my cold turkey for the addiction for packaging.

Press:
- “humble individual, something that is rare in the tech arena which is full of bloated egos”

Is Debian relevant?

- popcon
- autopkgtests
- architectures
- 64-bit time_t transition
- (late) usrmerge
- flying to the moon

Newcomer and diversity

Supporting newcomers and diversity in terms of geographic and gender discrimination

Tiny tasks

Bug of the day
- Include people with smaller slices of time
- Guided effort: Bug of the day

Guided effort: Bug of the day
- No VCS or obviously outdated VCS (alioth)
- Standards-Version < 4
- not uploaded last 5 years
- Use Matrix (to have some log)

Autopkgtest of the day
Debian is for everyone

A Blend for every taste

Debian is resilient

Developers come and go
- DD might become inactive
- Important work will be picked up
- Works even for me
- Easier if common workflows were used

Trademark

Debian has successfully defended its trademark. World would be such a great place if we could simply concentrate on coding only!

Statement about the EU Legislation


-> CRA and PLD proposals include regulations detrimental to FOSS

AI in Debian

- We need some policy about usage of AI-generated content in Debian
- Debian AI team
- “slowly move ROCm from ‘make it work’ to ‘make it fast’” (Cordell Bloor)
- For new technical problems somehow magically arise people
- Only true for technical, not organisatorical problems

Sometimes we need patience to find solutions

lintian
- Policy checker important for packaging
- Some design decisions have led to slow operation
- Suggestion to check earlier in build-process (bug #1076759)
- Only statically tests source and binary packages
- Changed Maintainers often over time, social frictions between Maintainers
- Maintainer needs help => any volunteers?
tag2upload
- Pushing a signed Git tag instead of uploading a bunch of files
- Written in 2019
- Finally agreement how to deploy 2024

General decision making
- Sometimes its not clear who is in a team
- Its even less clear who can make decisions
Freeze depression

Commits of all teammetrics teams
Date

Freeze
Release

Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

Trends
VCS hosting in testing in percent

0
20
40
60
80
100

01/2006 01/2008 01/2010 01/2012 01/2014 01/2016 01/2018 01/2020 01/2022 01/2024 01/2026
no vcs
several vcs
field
not git
other
github
git on alioth
salsa

% of packages
etch
lenny
squeeze
wheezy
jessie
stretch
buster
bullseye
bookworm

Personal opinion: We should end single maintainership

Single maintainer is preventing contributions finally restricting freedom to contribute

How to meet future?

- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive is "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not Salsa
- Some DDs seem to think team maintenance is the end of Debian

Contacting teams

- Healthy teams
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coders (one person teams)
- Rarely actively attracting newcomers

Communication with ftpmaster

- Mailing list
- Wiki
- BoF at DebConf 2023 “Chatting with ftpmaster”
- What now?
Helpful culture

Prioritize your tasks in such a way that someone seeking help has the highest priority.

Make emails more productive

- Delay mails if you feel you are in heated temper.
- Ask for review if your mail has some importance / big audience.

Publicity

Volunteer coders are not good in advertising their work

Thank you
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