

Debian Med beyond COVID-19

How a Debian Blend gained momentum

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Debian

Brussels, 31. January 2026



- 1 What is Debian Med?
- 2 Teammetrics statistics and development cycles
- 3 Long term contributions as result of Covid-19 hackathons
- 4 Summary

Back in 2001 at DebConf 1



the first talk about the concept was prepared

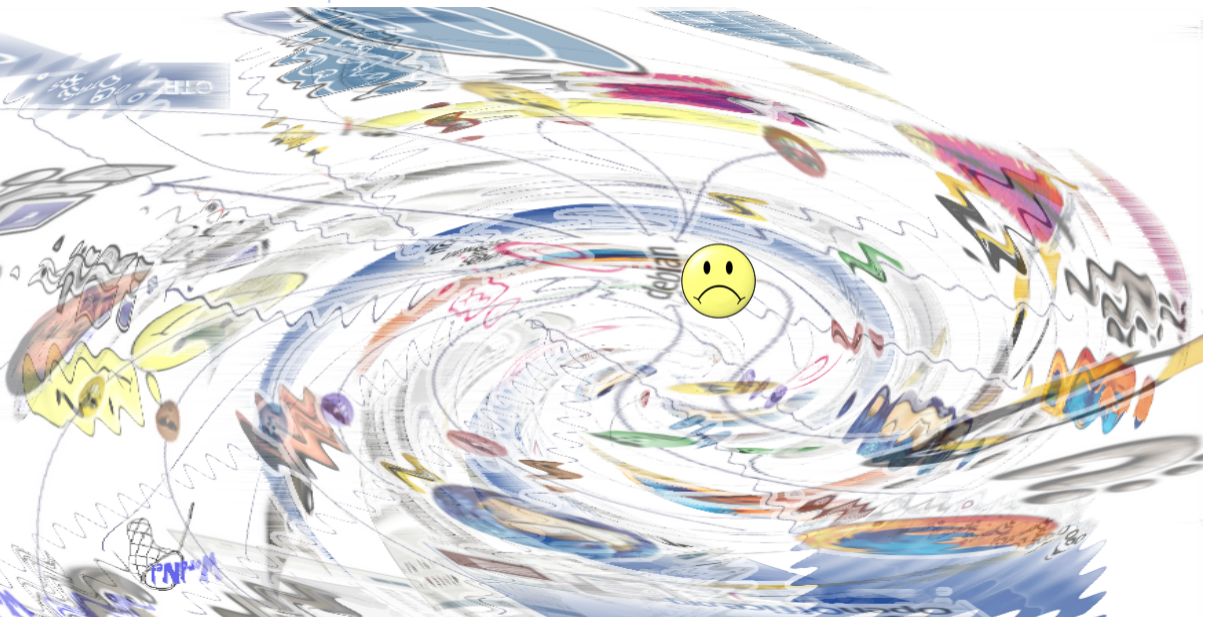


Debian

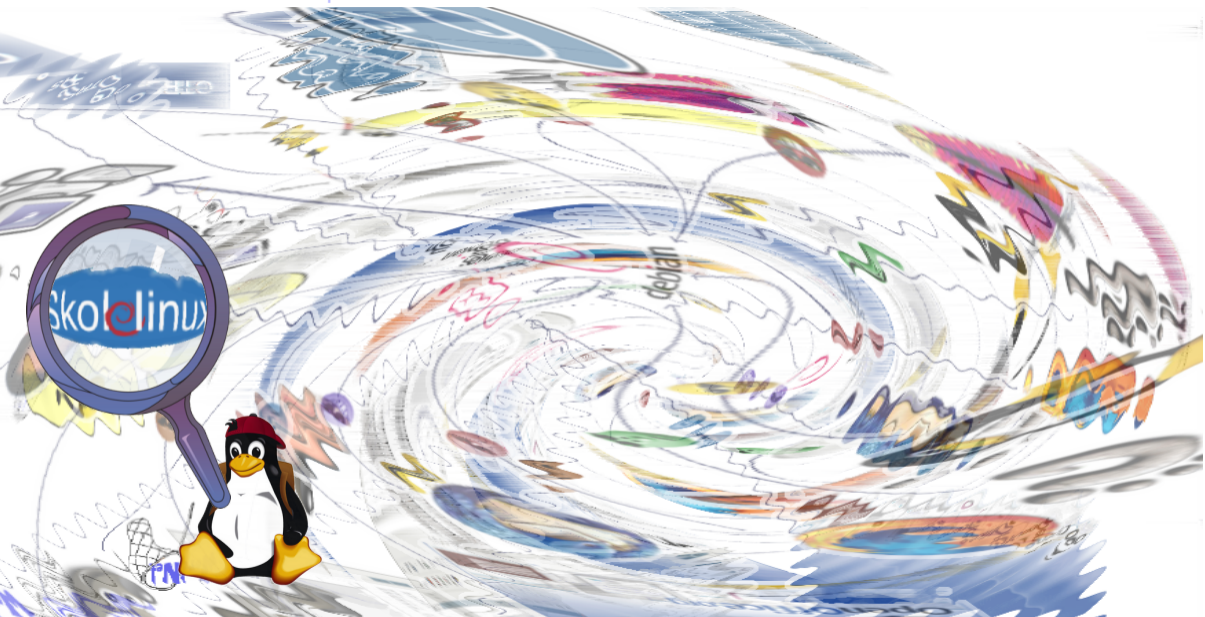
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Role of Blends to attract specific users



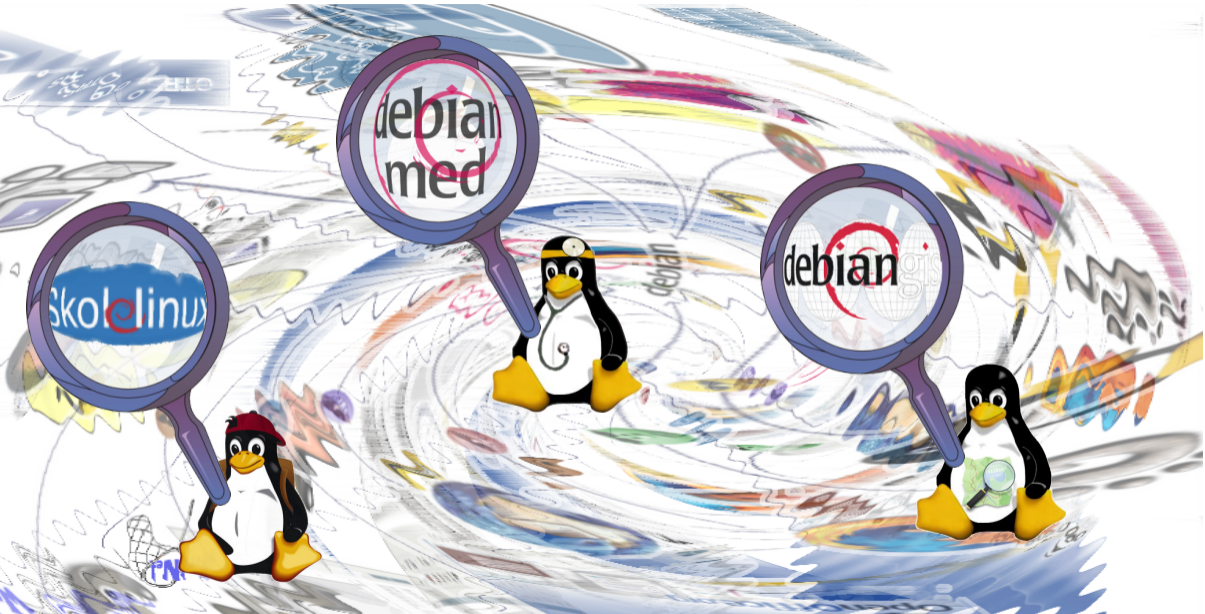
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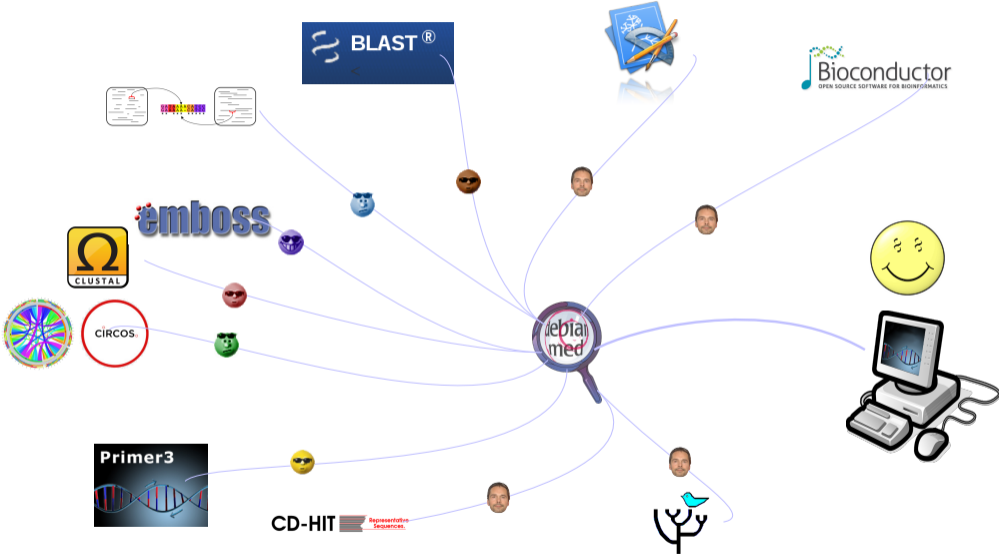
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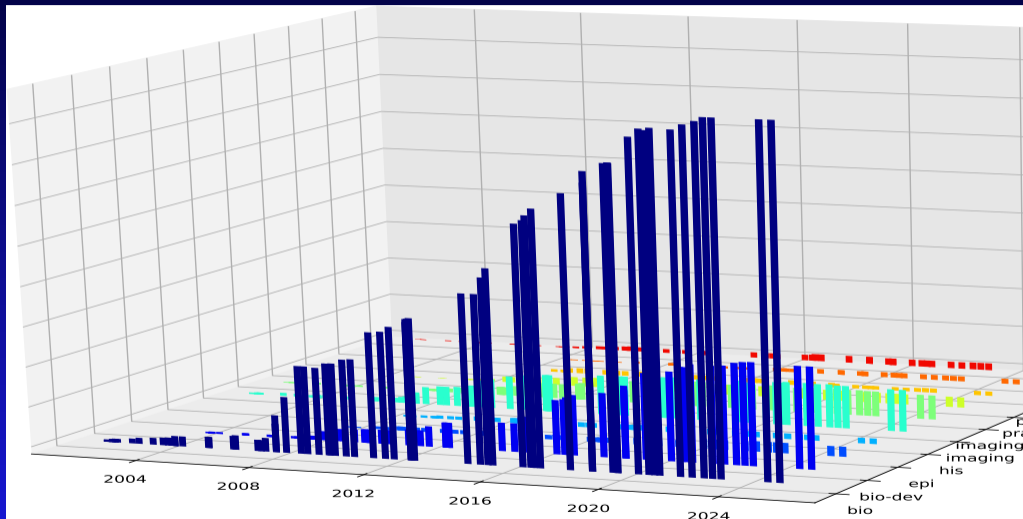
Role of Blends to attract specific users



Med-bio task of Debian Med



Packages in selected tasks of Debian Med



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)
- Epidemiology: several R packages, working on AI packages
- Hospitals: close to nothing (fis-gtm)
... besides a stable but unspecific OS

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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

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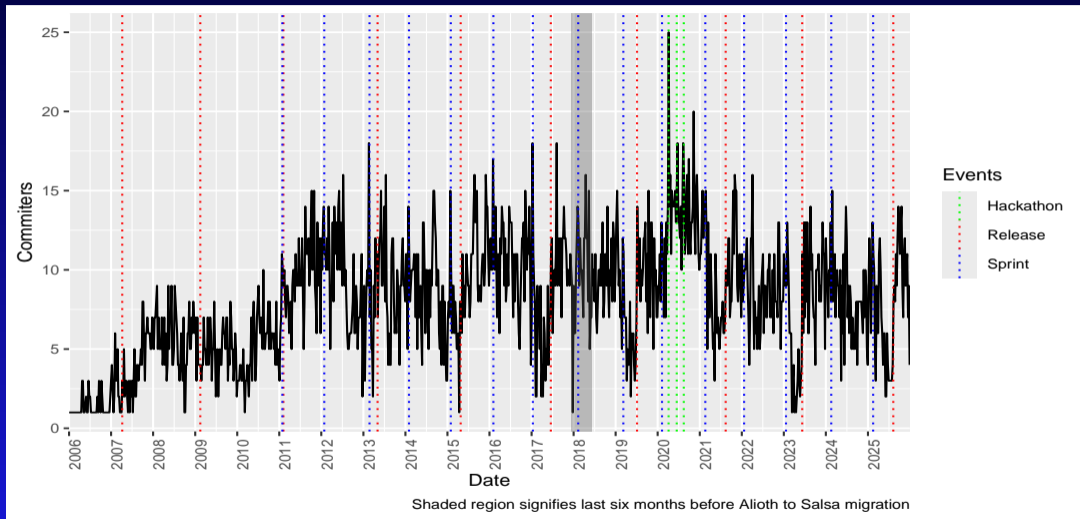
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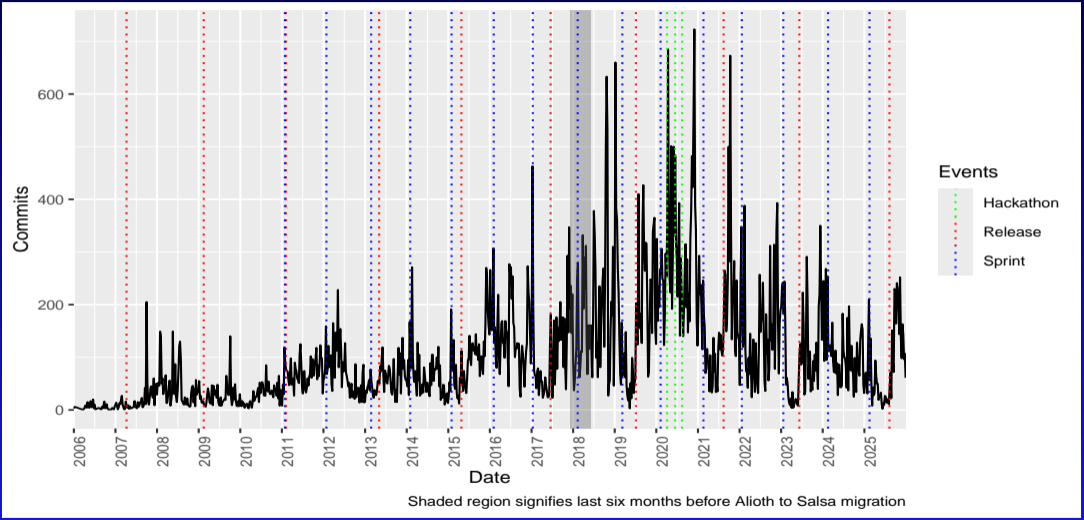
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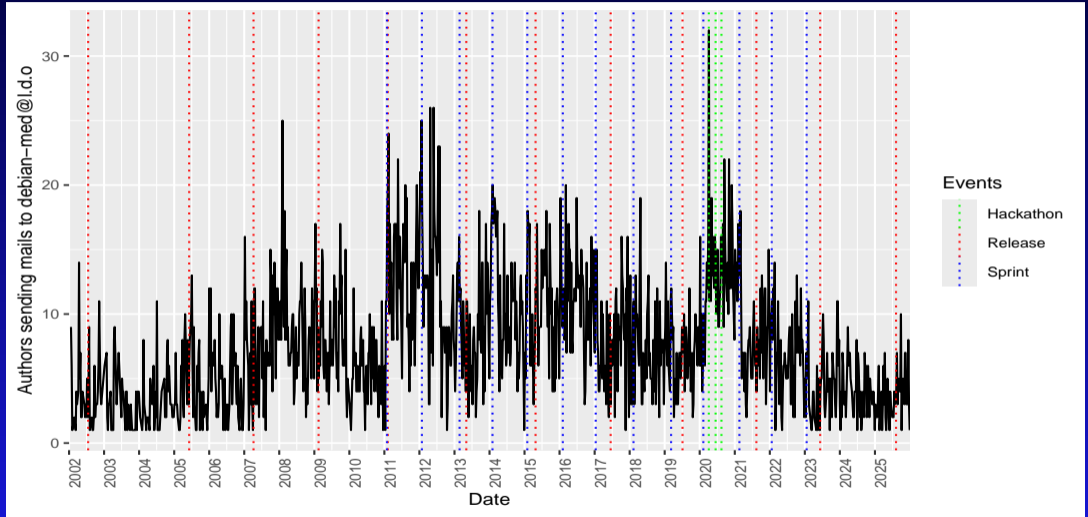
Persons committing to Debian Med packages per week



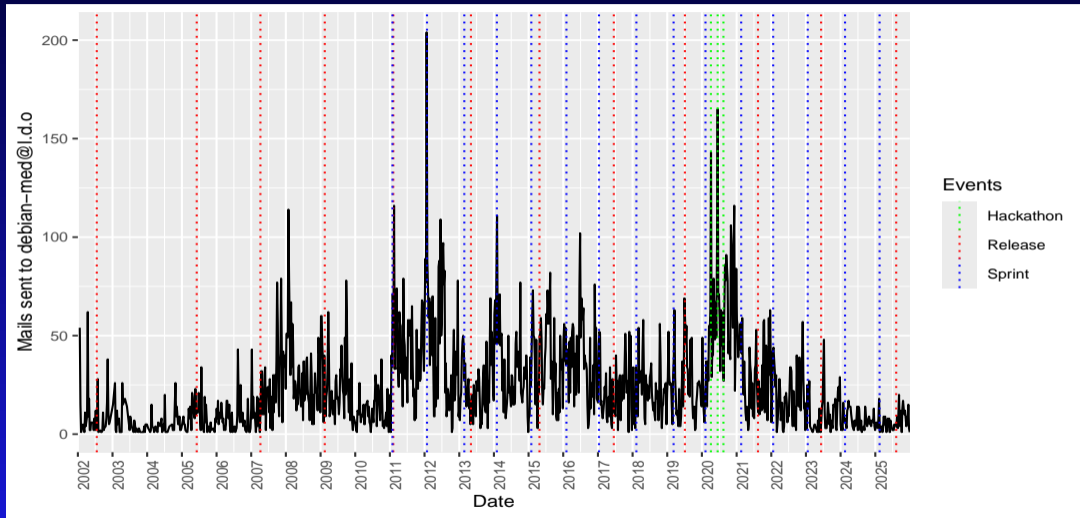
Commits to Debian Med packages per week



Persons posting to debian-med@lists.debian.org



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Communication

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- Mailinglist
- IRC
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- Many packages in NEW queue were processed in less than 24 h!
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- It is extremely motivating to get such support
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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 stucked to the project
- Former and new GSoC / Outreachy students
- Non-technical contributors checking licenses, program versions and contacting upstream
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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

→ Join our next sprint at 21./22.2 in Berlin!

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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
 - Etienne Mollier: HPC, Python, gcc, kept on in my 2 DPL terms, [https://salsa.debian.org/med-team/](#) has beaten me in several team metrics measures
 - Michaël Grall: Java competence, kept on in my 2 DPL terms
 - Nilesh Patra: Tried hard to beat me in uploads and succeeded
 - Shayan Doust: Contributed to teammetrics with R scripts
- Majority of the newcomers is not originated in the field of bioinformatics or medicine
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Morons!
I'm surrounded by morons.

