

Debian Pure Blends

Making Debian the distribution of choice for specific work fields

Andreas Tille

DudesConf

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- Goals

2 Used techniques

- Blends features
- Web tools

3 Future

- Planned features
- TODO

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 - Main misunderstanding: CDD was regarded as “something else than Debian” even if people were told that it is a concept *inside* Debian explicitly
 - Dropped the misleading name in favour of a name where you just have to read the docs
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- Debian Med
- Debian Edu
- Debian Science
- Debian EzGo, BrDesktop
- Debian Accessibility, DebiChem
- Debian Lex, Debian GIS
- Debian Multimedia?
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- Users interested in *subset*
- Groups of specialised users
- Easy installation and configuration
- While Debian stays general support specialists as well
- **No derivative** from Debian

Basic idea: Do not make a separate distribution but make Debian fit for special purpose instead

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- 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
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“Debian developers == ‘*secret society*’” 😊
- We know we are everything but secret
- At least one feature of secrecy: concealment

→ *Breaking the secret by advertising complete solutions*

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- 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)

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- Rise user interest by providing ready to install software in the context of their work field

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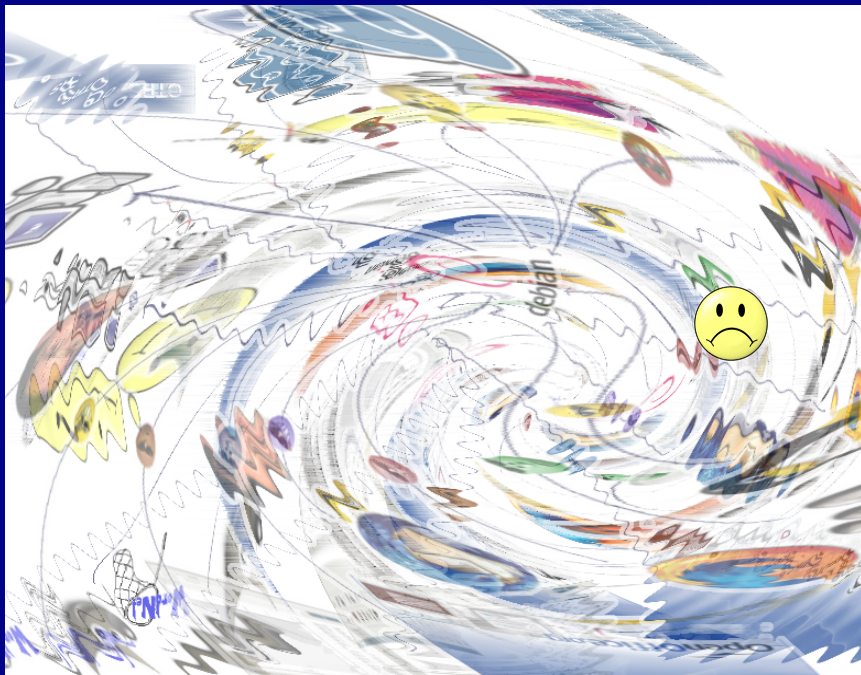
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Similar to *debian/control*

Task: *taskname*

Description: *Shortdescription*

Longdescription

Depends: *some dependant packages*

Recommends: *some recommended packages*

Suggests: *some suggested packages*

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- Reading tasks files from Blends SVN containing
 - Dependency relations of packages inside Debian
 - Preliminary package interdependencies
- Gathering all available information about the package dependencies defined in the tasks file

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- Quick overview about what's inside Debian regarding their specific work field
- Turned out to be QA tool for developers as well
- Meta information like

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→ Demo <http://blends.alioth.debian.org>

- Try to find a measure for bugs of dependant packages
- Currently not normalised to the number of dependencies but rather regarding absolute number of bugs
- Weighting numbers for the different severities ranging from 10 for the RC bugs until 0 for wishlist bugs

Example calculation

1 serious bug in dependent pkg:	$1 * 10 * 3 = 30$
2 important bugs in dependent pkg:	$2 * 5 * 3 = 30$
1 important bug in suggested pkg:	$1 * 5 * 1 = 5$
1 normal bug in dependent pkg:	$1 * 3 * 3 = 9$
1 minor bug in dependent pkg:	$1 * 1 * 3 = 3$
weighted sum =	<hr style="width: 100px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 77

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assessment	limit
excellent	5
<i>verygood</i>	10
good	30
<i>satisfactory</i>	50
pass	70
bad	100

- Metapackage can not be in status "good" if there is at least serious (or higher) bug in a dependant package
- Not "very good" if there is a RC bug in a suggested package
- Two RC bugs in suggested packages might qualify for "good" - if there are only a very view other bugs

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- Adding Ubuntu bugs

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- Thus enabling `architecture=any` metapackages
- Include tasks file information into UDD
- I18n information of applications

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 - Rewrite *blends-dev* to use UDD
 - Make even more projects like DebiChem and Debian-GIS actively using the framework
 - Try to bring back external projects to Debian by providing attractive tools

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This talk can be found at
<http://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/>
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