Debian Diversity Showcase

Sep 24, 2008
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What is Debian

"The Debian Project is an association of individuals who have made common cause to create a free operating system.

This operating system that we have created is called Debian GNU/Linux, or simply Debian for short."
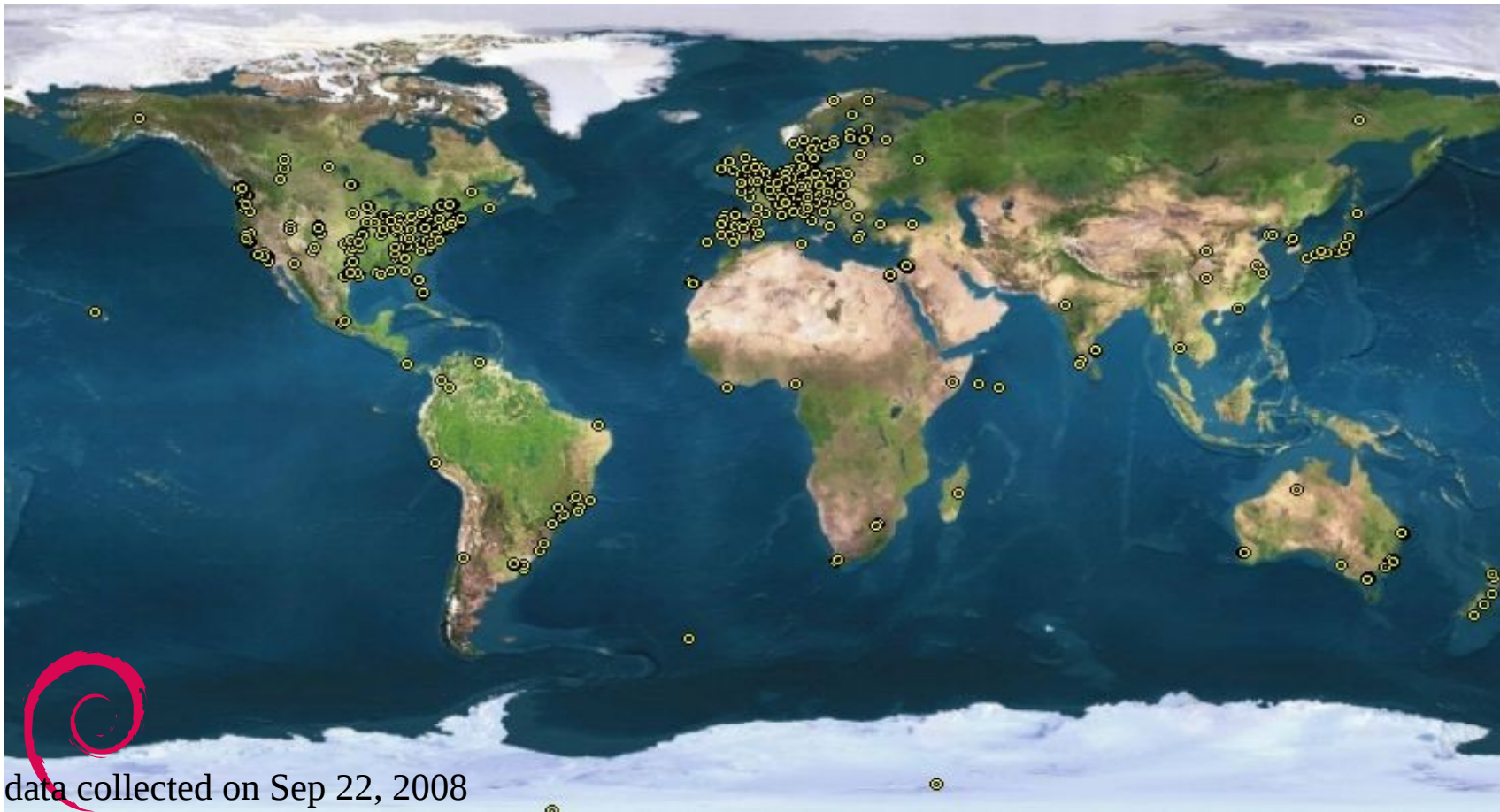
(from www.debian.org)

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Some numbers

Founded 16 August 1993.

32339 "packages" (programs, code libraries, documentation...) on 12 supported architectures

1014 volunteer developers from 51 different nations

data collected on Sep 22, 2008

343	us
194	de
97	uk
93	fr
56	ca
56	au
49	es
41	jp
40	it
38	nl
34	se
27	fi
22	at
21	ch
19	br
14	nz
13	pl
13	no
13	be
12	hu

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Who we are

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Socially speaking…

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Who we are

Some are left wing activists

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Who we are

Some are left wing activists

Many are not
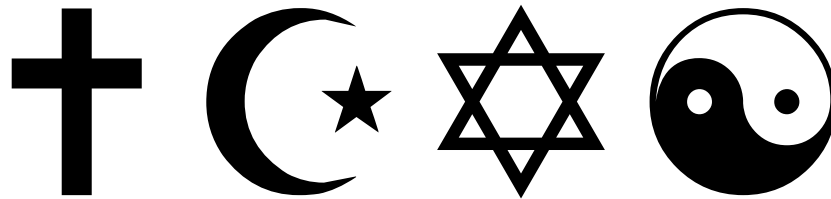
Enrico Zini enrico@debian.org

Who we are

Some are christians, muslims, jewish, taoists...

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Who we are

Some are christians, muslims, jewish taoists, discordians, pastafarians...

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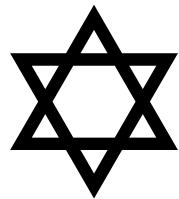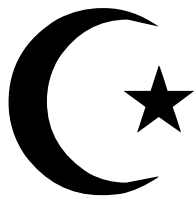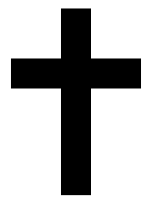
Who we are

Some are christians, muslims, jewish taoists, discordians, pastafarians... Many are neither, are not, don't care.

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Who we are

Some have children

Enrico Zini enrico@debian.org

Who we are

Some have grandchildren

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Who we are

**Some have children
who are also Debian developers**

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Who we are

**Some are married,
some are not**

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Who we are

Some married after meeting at a Debian event

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Who we are

Some went to a Debian conference for their honeymoon

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Socially, you should not give much for granted

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In terms of profession…

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What we do

Some are students
Some are professors

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What we do

Some are scientists
Some are sysadmins
Some are programmers

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What we do

**Some are monks
Some are dentists
Some are surgeons
Some are firefighters**

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What we do

Some work on Debian because their company asks them to do so

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What we do

Some own companies

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What we do

**Some own companies
that ask their employees
to work on Debian**

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What we do

Some package videogames where you pilot a starship

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What we do

Some design satellites
and send them to space
(as a hobby)

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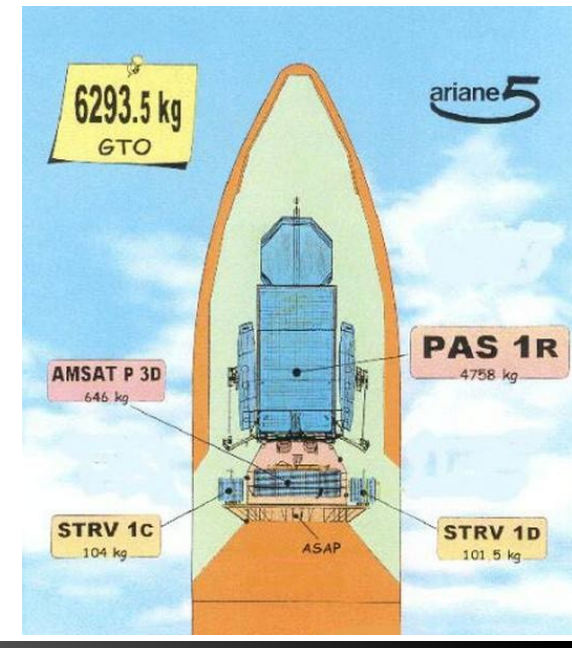
What we do

Some go to space (for vacation)

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What we do

Professionally, you should not give much for granted

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Debian is...
an ecosystem
a social world
a community of practice

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Debian is...
an ecosystem
a social world
a community of practice
(and a Free operating system)

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What keeps us all together

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What keeps us all together

The Debian Social Contract

- Debian will remain 100% free

- We will give back to the free software community

- We will not hide problems

- Our priorities are our users and free software

- Works that do not meet our free software standards […]

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What keeps us all together

The Debian Free Software Guidelines

- Free Redistribution
- Source Code
- Derived Works
- Integrity of The Author's Source Code
- No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
- No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor
- Distribution of License
- License Must Not Be Specific to Debian
- License Must Not Contaminate Other Software
- Example Licenses

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What keeps us all together

The Debian "Oath"

"Do you agree to uphold the Social Contract and the Debian Free Software Guidelines in your Debian work?"

"Have you read the Debian Machine Usage Policies? Do you accept them?"

This is **the only thing** that you can give for granted.

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What you can do with Debian

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What you can do with Debian

I use it on my computer

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What you can do with Debian

I use it on my computer
on my laptop

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What you can do with Debian

I use it on my computer
on my laptop
on my server

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What you can do with Debian

I use it on my computer
on my laptop
on my server
on my mobile phone

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What you can do with Debian

My parents use it
My partner uses it

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What you can do with Debian

My Internet Provider uses it

Enrico Zini enrico@debian.org

What you can do with Debian

My accountant uses it

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What you can do with Debian

My former high school uses it
My university uses it

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What you can do with Debian

I have seen it used to drive industrial machinery

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What you can do with Debian

I have seen it used to drive amateur telescopes

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What you can do with Debian

I have seen it used in weather forecast agencies

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What you can do with Debian

I have spoken with people who
maintain it for governments

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What you can do with Debian

Some use it to test compilers

(after all, it contains several gigabytes of source code,
and it supports automated build procedures)

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What you can do with Debian

Friend of mine uses it to control the light effects of a theatre play, while sitting among the public

(with an EeePC, connected via wireless lan
to another computer on the stage)

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You should not give much for granted about its limits

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Common ways of earning a living with Debian

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Making money

System administration

"Can you install / maintain / upgrade / monitor / fix it for me?"

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Making money

System administration

"Can you install / maintain / upgrade / monitor / fix for me?"

"Sure, I'm, uh, one of the developers"

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Making money

Support

"But... I can't install Debian in my Agency, because it doesn't have a phone number to call in case something goes wrong"

Making money

Support

"But... I can't install Debian in my Agency, because it doesn't have a phone number to call in case something goes wrong"

*"It doesn't have **a** phone number: it has **many**."*

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Making money

Support

"But... I can't install Debian in my Agency, because it doesn't have a phone number to call in case something goes wrong"

*"It doesn't have **a** phone number: it has **many**."*

*"One is **mine**, and these are my rates."*

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Making money

Customisation

"I understand Debian does everything,
but I don't need everything!
I need it to do one thing, and do it well!"

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Making money

Customisation

*"I understand Debian does everything,
but I don't need everything!
I need it to do one thing, and do it well!"*

*"No problem: Debian allows customisation,
and many are already adapting it to all
sorts of specifications"*

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Making money

Customisation

*"I understand Debian does everything,
but I don't need everything!
I need it to do one thing, and do it well!"*

*"No problem: Debian allows customisation, and many are
already adapting it to all sorts of specifications."*

*"Here is my business card,
call me for a free quote."*

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Debian does not come with a purpose

(except to be the best Free operating system)

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Debian does not come with a purpose

You give it *your* purpose

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Debian does not come with a purpose

You give it *your* purpose

(with some work)

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Involvement in Debian

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Involvement in Debian

Users

- Can report, comment, triage, fix bugs
- Can translate packages
- Can categorise packages
- Can maintain packages, as long as they find a Debian Developer who *sponsors* uploads for them
- Can have Alioth accounts and join Alioth-based development groups

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Involvement in Debian

Debian Maintainers

- Need to agree to the Debian Social Contract, Free Software Guidelines, and Machine Usage Policy
- Need to have a GPG key signed by at least one Debian Developer
- Need at least one Debian Developer to advocate them
- Can independently upload new versions of packages, as long as a Debian Developer has approved their first upload

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Involvement in Debian

Debian Developers

- Needs to pass the *New Maintainer Process*
- Can upload new versions of any package
- Can sponsor uploads
- Can vote
- Can read debian-private
- Can log into Debian machines
- Can leave the project and join again

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The Debian infrastructure

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Debian infrastructure

Communication infrastructure

1. Bug tracking system
2. Mailing lists
3. IRC channels
4. Debian Developers Package Overview
5. Package Tracking System

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Debian infrastructure

Quality assurance

1. Automatic archive tests
2. Detection of inactive maintainers
3. Ultimate Debian Database
4. Popularity contest

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Debian infrastructure

Software development

1. Archive management
2. Buildd network
3. Developer accessible machines (at least one per architecture)
4. Official GPG keyring and web of trust
5. Alioth
   (open Gforge machine)

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Coordination

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Coordination

The Debian Project Leader

Tries to talk to people so that things get done

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Governing bodies

The Technical Committee

Is called to solve a dispute
when interested Debian Developers
cannot solve it among themselves

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Governing bodies

General Resolutions

When needed, Debian Developers can vote on an issue
with an electronic voting system
matematically guaranteed to find the best compromise

Governing bodies

Work

The (few) principles do not change
all the rest changes with work

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To sum it up

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To sum it up

Selbstenfaltung?

"autonomy in interdependence"
dependency is not reduction
but extension of own possibilities

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To sum it up

Work democracy?

Theorised by Wilhelm Reich

A system where the power relationships between people
are defined by what they need from each other
to get their work done

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To sum it up

Cooperation of competitors?

Game theory has lots of literature about it

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To sum it up

**Don't ask yourself
what you can do for Debian**

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To sum it up

Don't ask yourself what you can do for Debian

Ask yourself
what Debian can do for you

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To sum it up

Don't ask yourself what you can do for Debian
Ask yourself what Debian can do for you

Then work until you make it do it

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To sum it up

Don't ask yourself what you can do for Debian
Ask yourself what Debian can do for you
Then work until you make it do it

That is what you can do for Debian

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