
Life in Debian

Snapshots of everyday life in Debian

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“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)

Who we are

Socially speaking...

Who we are

Some are left wing activists



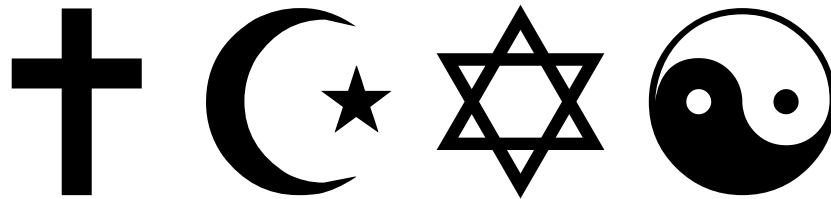
Who we are

Some are left wing activists

Many are not

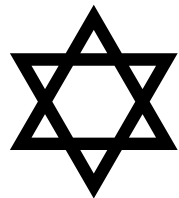
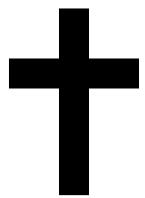
Who we are

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



Who we are

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



Who we are

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

Who we are

Some have children

Who we are

Some have grandchildren

Who we are

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

Who we are

**Some are married,
some are not**

Who we are

**Some married after meeting
at a Debian event**



Who we are

**Some went to a Debian conference
for their honeymoon**



**Socially, you should not
give much for granted**

In terms of profession...

What we do

Some are students
Some are professors

What we do

Some are scientists
Some are sysadmins
Some are programmers

What we do

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

What we do

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

What we do

Some own companies

What we do

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

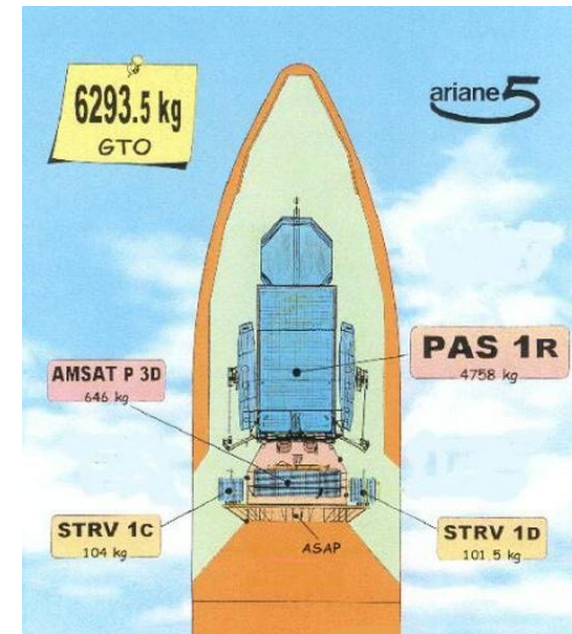
What we do

Some package videogames where you pilot a starship



What we do

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



What we do

**Some go to space
(on holidays)**



What we do

**Professionally, you should not
give much for granted**

“How did you start with Debian?”

*“I maintained genealogy software that I was using”
(bubulle)*

*“I packaged PHP apps but didn't upload them because I
thought it was a bad idea” (gunnar)*

“The first thing I did was to use it!” (dkg)

*“I maintained local packages against our RH servers, and
realized we could save time if we got those into the
distro - Debian, not RH” (vorlon)*

*“I was learning Perl and found lots of challenges in
Debian to practice my new skill” (buxy)*

“How did you start with Debian?”

*“I needed a capable, free operating system as a platform to develop software for an amateur satellite payload.”
(bdale)*

“Prevent wordnet removal from Debian.” (an3as)

*“Making internal proxy/DNS cache for small office”
(henrich)*

“I helped staffing Debian booths at events” (axel)

“It's so long I cannot remember anymore” (micah)

What you can do with Debian

What you can do with Debian

I use it on my computer

What you can do with Debian

**I use it on my computer
on my laptop**

What you can do with Debian

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

What you can do with Debian

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



What you can do with Debian

My parents use it
My partner uses it

What you can do with Debian

My Internet Provider uses it



What you can do with Debian

My accountant uses it



What you can do with Debian

My former high school uses it
My university uses it

What you can do with Debian

I have seen it used to drive industrial machinery

What you can do with Debian

**I have seen it used to drive
amateur telescopes**



What you can do with Debian

**I have seen it used in weather
forecast agencies**

What you can do with Debian

**I have spoken with people who
maintain it for governments**

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)

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)

“What do you use Debian for?”

*“Finding friends, running computers, playing games...”
(tolimar)*

“Making the Austrian health care system work” (rhonda)

*“Half my wardrobe consists of Debian clothing”
(anonymous)*

“Getting my daily work done” (abe)

“Everything” (bdale)

“What do you use Debian for?”

“All of personal use, and offering Clamav/Ubuntu mirror :)” (henrich)

“Keeping ETH Zurich's Dept. of Physics IT infrastructure running” (abe)

“I try to use it for everything where it fits, that is almost everything already” (rmayorga)

“Everything” (wouter)

**You should not give much for granted
about its limits**

Common ways of earning a living with Debian

Making money

System administration

*“Can you install / maintain / upgrade /
monitor / fix it for me?”*

Making money

System administration

“Can you install / maintain / upgrade / monitor / fix for me?”

“Sure, I'm, uh, one of the developers”

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.**”*

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.”*

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!”*

Making money

Customisation

*“I understand Debian does everything,
but I don't need everything!
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*“No problem: Debian allows customisation,
and many are already adapting it to all
sorts of specifications”*

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.”*

Debian does not come with a purpose

(except to be the best Free operating system)

Debian does not come with a purpose
You give it *your* purpose

Debian does not come with a purpose

You give it *your* purpose

(with some work)

“What is your best Debian work?”

“Running Debconf for 5 years” (gunnar)

*“Popularise the use of Vcs information in packages”
(zack)*

*“None: in Debian there is always space for improvement”
(dkg)*

*“A choice of 70 languages appears when you install
Debian” (bubulle)*

*“I'm really proud of the number of people I have helped
bring to the project over the years, both as users and as
developers.” (bdale)*

“What is your best Debian work?”

“Multiarch!” (vorlon)

“Making Debian the OS of choice for Free medical Software.” (an3as)

“Help running Local Community in Japan” (henrich)

“Being the bridge between software developers and the distribution” (abe)

“Building some of the QA infrastructure to help Debian scale” (buxy)

*“Being an autobuilder admin for just over 10 years now.”
(wouter)*

What keeps us all together

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 [...]

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

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.

Coordination

Coordination

The Debian Project Leader

Tries to talk to people so that things get done

Governing bodies

The Technical Committee

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

Governing bodies

General Resolutions

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

Governing bodies

Work

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

Were they talking about Debian?

*If we cannot by reason, by influence, by example,
by strenuous effort, and by personal sacrifice,
mend the bad places of civilization,
we certainly cannot do it by force.*

(Auberon Herbert, 1894)

Were they talking about Debian?

*We want to make good time,
but for us now this is measured
with the emphasis on “good”
rather than on “time”.*

(R. Pirsig)

Were they talking about Debian?

*We carry a new world here, in our hearts.
That world is growing in this minute.*

(B. Durruti)