Custom Debian Distributions and Non Profit Organizations

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9 slides
Enrico Zini (enrico@debian.org)
What I'll be talking about

1) Why Debian Non Profit
2) What means supporting non profits
3) The role of diversity
4) Pushing customization further
5) Conclusion
Why Debian Non Profit

We want to make the world a better place. But we are just peaceful computer people: we need to be smart:

- To influence governments you need skilled politicians
- To influence big and evil corporations you need lots of people
- To get people to love each other you need lots of fantasy

Non Profits are already doing all this, we just need to help them.
The Target: Non Profits

What is working with non profits like:

- They have very diverse needs, difficult to satisfy
- They have almost no money
- They don't want to loose too much time with technology
- They may be ideally motivated to use Free Software
- They are very nice people

Common requirements:

- Membership management, with tracking of donations
- Printing addresses and labels
- Communicating, offline and online
- Some unique mission-specific application

(all around, not an easy task)
Diversity of Non Profits

• Fair trade and charity shops need inventory management and country-specific accounting software
• Health related organizations need clinical files management
• Media activists need multimedia publishing and sharing frameworks
• Human Right organizations need very strong crypto and security
• ...

Enrico Zini enrico@debian.org
Custom Debians for Non Profits

Few common needs: we need to customize
Few resources: we need to share efforts

Custom Debian Distributions are The Perfect Thing:
• Debian Non-Profit Internet Server (to host internet services on behalf of various NGOs)
• Debian Non-Profit Intranet Server
• Debian Non-Profit Workstation for Fast Computers
• Debian Non-Profit Workstation for Slow Computers
Why only customize Debian?

- Debian NP Shop
  (Debian Non-Profit Workstation with inventory management)

- Debian EquoTrade
  (Debian NP Shop with EquoTrade shops specific software, and with applications configured to reach the EquoTrade central server)

- Debian EquoTrade Italia
  (Debian EquoTrade with accounting software specific for Italian laws, browser bookmarks database with links to the various Italian civil society websites and a fortune database with quotations from Gino Strada and Zanotelli)

- Debian EquoTrade Firenze
  (with fleur-de-lis flowered artwork and some local jargon)

(note: EquoTrade is a fictitious example)
But if everyone does their own one...

...Debian-NP keeps them together!

- Many subdistros but few (one?) developer community
- Central point for competence and experience exchange
- Sharing of best practices
- Sharing and reusing of ideas
- Sharing of documentation, cliparts, pictures, stories and other free content

Noone should work alone!
Conclusions

- Non profits are diverse
- Non profits need diversity
- Diversity is the key
- Custom Debian Distributions are the way to get it!

...and, of course:
- If this isn't a way to Total World Domination, what is?