Custom Debian Distributions and Non Profit Organizations

debian·np

Sep 24, 2004

9 slides

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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

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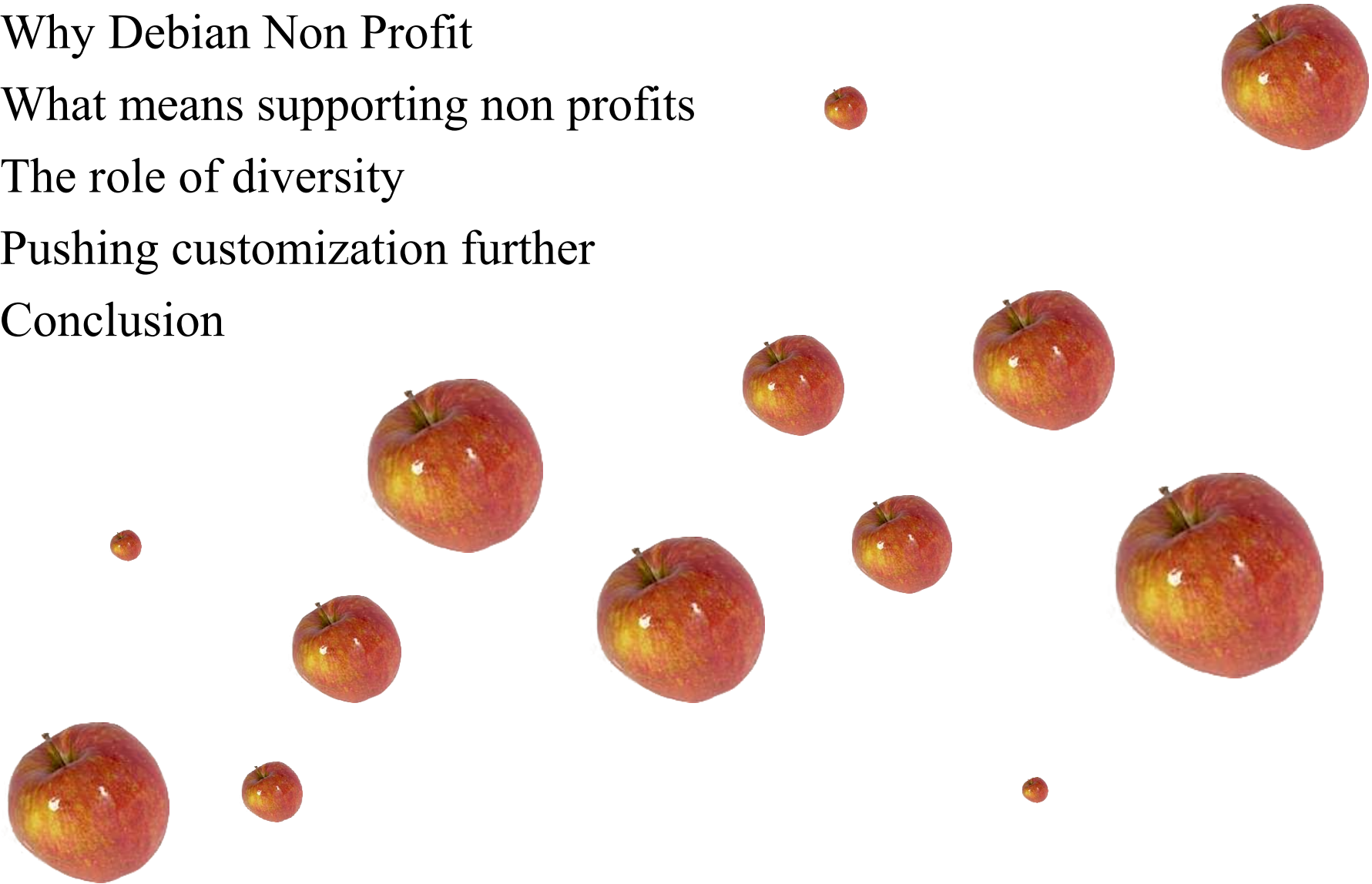
Why Debian Non Profit

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.

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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)

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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

- ...

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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

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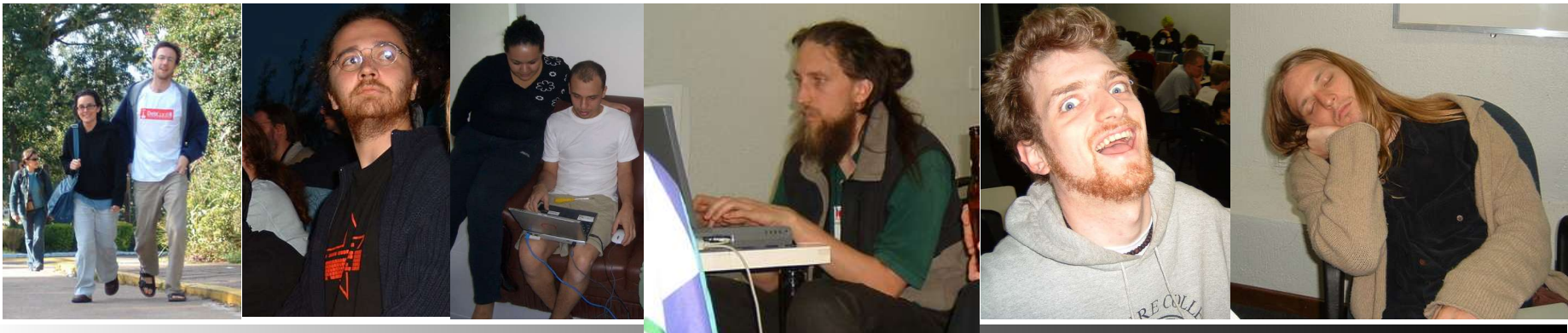
Why only customize Debian?

- 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 fictious example)

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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!

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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?

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