The Debian Community Guidelines

Or, how to be able to plan total world domination with a public discussion in debian-devel.
What are the DCG

The Debian Community Guidelines are:
• A collection of what people normally do that works well.
• A list of suggestions for working online more efficiently.

The Debian Community Guidelines are not:
• A policy.
• A way to point fingers at people.
• Perfect.
Goals and contents of the talk

I want you to:

- know what's in the guidelines.
- tell people about the guidelines.
- watch out for potential additions to the guidelines.

So I will:

- run through what is in the guidelines
- tell my plans for the guidelines
- ask you for ideas on what more can be done with them
Editorial dogmas

- Collect suggestions, not blames
- Suggestions must be useful for all the parties involved in the communication
- No more than 6/7 points per section
Contents of the DCG

1. Main guidelines
2. Communication-specific guidelines
3. Debian-specific guidelines
Main guidelines

- Strive for quality.
- Work with others.
- Principles do not change, the rest changes with work.
- Support the reasonable, rather than attacking the arrogant.
Communication guidelines

Improving the *content*:

- Ensure you are adding useful information.
- Share the help you receive.
- Do some research before posting.
- Know what you want and make sure people know what they want.
Communication guidelines

Improving the *presentation*:

- Put the main point at the beginning, and the long details later.
- Talk with code or patches.
- Point to existing resources.
- Use a plain and simple style.
Communication guidelines

Ensuring sustainability

- Read messages smartly.
- Be positive before being negative.
- Give credit where credit is due.
- Be respectful and polite.
- Help the public knowledge evolve.
Communication mini-HOWTOs

Bringing long threads to a conclusion.

- Discuss controversial points off-list with the people you disagree with
- Take a leadership role
- Make summaries
- Start a new thread when the discussion drifts away
Coping with flamewars

• Send a private mail to your friends if they're being unconstructive or flameish

(this section could use more suggestions)
Debian-specific guidelines

Package management

• Suggestions on how to work with comaintainers (pkg-*
group on Alioth, collab-maint...).

• Suggestions on how to publish bzr or darcs trees.

• Link to the low-threshold NMU list
Debian-specific guidelines

Handling bug reports

• Take bugs positively.

• Interface with upstream.

• Be open minded.
What now?

- Add to NM documentation.
- Package in Debian and respond to bug reports.
- Publish on the Debian website.
- Link from wherever it could be useful.
- Work out the relationship with the Developer's Reference.
- Keep a watchful eye for useful things to add.
Goals of the talk

Beginning from now, I want you to:

- know what's in the guidelines.
- tell people about the guidelines.
- watch out for potential additions to the guidelines.
http://people.debian.org/~enrico/dcg
bzr pull http://people.debian.org/~enrico/dcg