
Understanding serious Debian deployments

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9 slides

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What is Debian

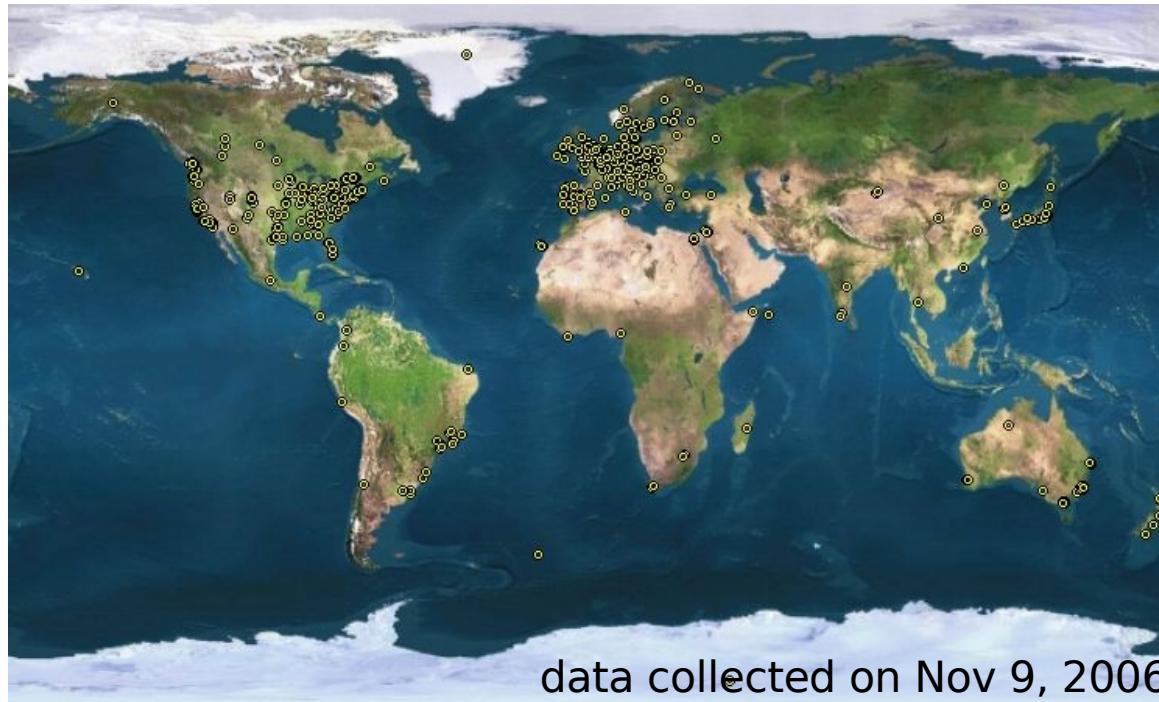
Founded 16 August 1993.

25514 "packages" (programs, code libraries, documentation...) on 11 supported architectures

1014 volunteer developers from 51 different nations



debian ubuntu linspire
progeny lliurex DSL
knoppix guadalinex
skolelinux xandros
morphix debian-br
agnula arklinux mepis
grml ichtux parsix
lamppix edubuntu
kubuntu eduknoppix
adamantix kanotix ...



data collected on Nov 9, 2006

330	us
174	de
95	uk
70	fr
58	ca
56	au
44	es
40	it
39	jp
36	nl
30	se
24	fi
18	ch
18	at
16	br
12	pl
12	nz
12	no

Why people use Debian

A system with lots of Free Software:

- You can use it
- You can study it
- You can build on it

You can get all the software you need, just from Debian.

Debian adds: package management, extra quality control, security support, common behaviours, license scrutiny.

Why people use Debian

- Libraries are there to use
- Source code is there to learn and borrow
- Everything you do with Debian, can be the start of your own business
- A moderately big IT department can control it (like in the city of Munich)
- You can build your own system on it (like many in the Greather Debian world)
- Meticulous attention to licenses guarantee that all of this is possible



How Debian works: motivations

*“We want to make the best Operating System,
which is 100% Free Software.”*

(the meaning of “best” has been wisely omitted)

There is no common motivation: you can even find developers with opposite motivations (for example, paid job / voluntary ideals).

Debian comes from of the intersection of many diverse of goals and motivations.

It also enables cooperation of possibly competing actors.

How Debian works: governance

Common ground:

- Social Contract
(the only shared vision and nontechnical document)
- Constitution (defines the governance procedures)
- Technical policies

Governance:

- Developers (and the Condorcet voting system)
- Technical Committee
- DPL and Delegates

Admission:

- The NM process (trust the identity, trust the principles, trust the skills)

How Debian works: steering

*The principles (Social Contract) do not change.
The rest changes with work.*

Every contribution in Debian is voluntary as far as Debian is concerned: choices and deadlines cannot be forced.

If what you need does not get done, you need to do it.

Debian never had a business phone contact. Actually, it had thousands.

Example uses of Debian

- ERPOSS3 (security)
- City of Munich (vendor independence)
- Skolelinux (customisation)
- Ubuntu (business on extra guarantees)
- Dhongzha Linux (localization and technological independence)
- EDOS (research on large scale software systems)



Using it locally

There are far more Debian Developers in Europe than in the United States: with Free Software we are not underdeveloped!

You can use the local language.

You can use and grow the local know-how.

You can get / hire help from outside.

Tip: try to minimise isolation:

- minimise the amount of new code
- reuse existing components
- involve existing groups

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