

Welcome, members of the cabal

Overview

- How did it begin?
- Where are we now?
- Why do we do it?
- Random reactions
- Q & A

How did it all begin?

In the words of the man who knows best:

From: imurdock@shell.portal.com (Ian A Murdock)
To: debian-linux@netcom.com
Subject: The FSF and Debian Linux
Date: Fri, 22 Oct 1993 10:16:04 -0700 (PDT)

I was contacted by Richard Stallman yesterday; he is interested in an FSF distribution of a version of Linux and wanted to know if I was interested in gearing Debian toward this objective. I told him yes. Feelings on this? I personally feel that Linux could only benefit through direct association with the FSF, and I also feel (though this is obviously a biased opinion) that Debian will soon be the best Linux distribution available. I'm hoping to be "done" by the end of the year. When I say "done", I am referring to a public release, though of course Debian will continue to grow and improve with Linux so it will actually never be "done" in the literal sense of the word.

Debian growth-rate

- November 1995: 0.93r6
 - 60 developers
- June 1996: 1.1 Buzz
 - 474 packages
- December 1996: 1.2 Rex
 - 848 packages, 120 developers
- July 1997: 1.3 Bo
 - 974 packages, 200 developers
- July 1998: 2.0 Hamm
 - i386 and m68k
 - 1500+ packages, 400+ developers
- March 1999: 2.1 Slink
 - alpha, i386, m68k and sparc
 - 2254 packages, 450+ developers
- July 2000: 2.2 Potato
 - alpha, arm, i386, m68k, powerpc and sparc

Where are we now?

- most comprehensive GNU/Linux
- runs on more architectures than any other distribution
- not just English, we are also doing Japanese and Chinese
- consistently in the top-3 of the server market
- being used as basis for commercial distributions (Corel,

Progeny, Stormix)

- used by most large Linux websites (freshmeat, slashdot,

linux.com, the register)

- well represented:

- Linux International
- FSG (formerly LSB)
- LPI
- Corel Linux Advisory Board

Where does it end?

As long as Free Software exists it won't end.

The real question is: where will we go?

- Continuously growing
- Continuously adapting
- Continuously improving

Why do we do it?

- it's fun!
- the learning experience
- we can make a difference

What does being DPL involve?

- contact-point
- managing organizational details
- herding a flock of developers

What does being DPL involve? (cont'd)

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xterm
q:Quit d:Del u:Undel s:Save n:Mail r:Reply g:Group ?:Help
610 N + May 14 Joy Met ( 9) Tracking & Billing software for Debian
611 N + May 14 David H ( 32) Parallel distrib info
612 N + May 17 pl ( 9) Debian ?
613 N C May 18 Dan Shearer ( 27) Hardware detection projects
614 N + May 22 Dustin Puryear ( 15) 32BitsOnline.com
615 N + May 24 Nathan Appleton ( 57) FW: Debian <---> Linux Hardware Database
616 N + May 29 Denzil Solomon ( 49) Next Release
617 NsT Jun 01 Ian Jackson ( 134) forwarded message from Branden Robinson
618 N C Jun 02 Christopher R. ( 11) Madrid photos
619 N + Jun 02 cgabriel@firenz ( 9) Madrid Photos
620 NsT Jun 03 Anthony Towns ( 47) woody release manager
621 N C Jun 03 Ben Collins ( 22) L->
622 N C Jun 06 bechly ( 31) 3000,- $ reward to KDE for Debian compata
623 N C Jun 09 Bdale Garbee ( 11) Re: Bind for slink
624 N + Jun 09 Sair Linux and ( 265) Sair Linux and GNU Newsletter Issue 5
625 N + Jun 10 Johnson ( 36) Oh boy
626 N + Jun 16 Burie Guillaume ( 13) connection FTP
627 N T Jun 16 James Christens ( 23) information request
628 N Jun 18 mosfet ( 40) Debian FUD and whining
629 NsT Jun 20 Torsten Landsch ( 40) Potato release: What is "official"?
630 N C Jun 21 J.A. Bezemmer ( 31) L->
~:Mutt: =debian-leader [Msgs:630 New:131 Old:354 Post:3 Inc:2 5.7M]--(threads/
```

Some random reactions

Being productive pays off...

From: Bradley Glonka <bradley@linuxcentral.com>
To: Darren Benham <gecko@debian.org>
cc: Wichert Akkerman <wichert@cs.leidenuniv.nl>
Subject: Re: CDs for developers
Date: Tue, 16 Mar 1999 15:27:04 -0500 (EST)

First let me say you guys are great! Your response is super and your ability to mobilize and organize is admired. I am always inspired when dealing with anyone involved with Debian Linux.

[...]

Some random reactions

Dealing with non-native English speakers can be amusing!

From: <snip>
To: leader@debian.org, wakkerna@debian.org
Subject: Debian Chinese and discussion ... ^ ^
Date: Wed, 19 May 1999 21:43:18 +0800

[...]

To be horniest, I would like to have a closer relationship between us and Debian.

[...]

Some random reactions

Mr. linux.com has been converted

From: Trae McCombs <x@linux.com>
To: debian-www@lists.debian.org
Subject: Debian "Point of Contact"
Date: Tue, 15 Jun 1999 22:13:28 -0400

Hi gang,

I want to start out by saying that I LOVE debian ;) I've been converted and have been free of other distro's for well over 2 weeks now. All I can say is, apt-get RULES! :)

[...]

Questions and Answers

You ask the questions, I'll try and come up with reasonable answers.

The end