



Bits from DPL

Andreas Tille

Debian

Cambridge, 12. October 2024

# Debian is more than a technical project

- Susan Kleinman
- Morons! I'm surrounded by morons  
– Joel 'Espy' Klecker, 1979-2000
- Daughters and granddaughter

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# Fears and hopes

Neil McGovern promised free beer in his "Bits from DPL" 2015

# Fears and hopes

I wonder whether running for DPL is my cold turkey for my addiction to packaging.

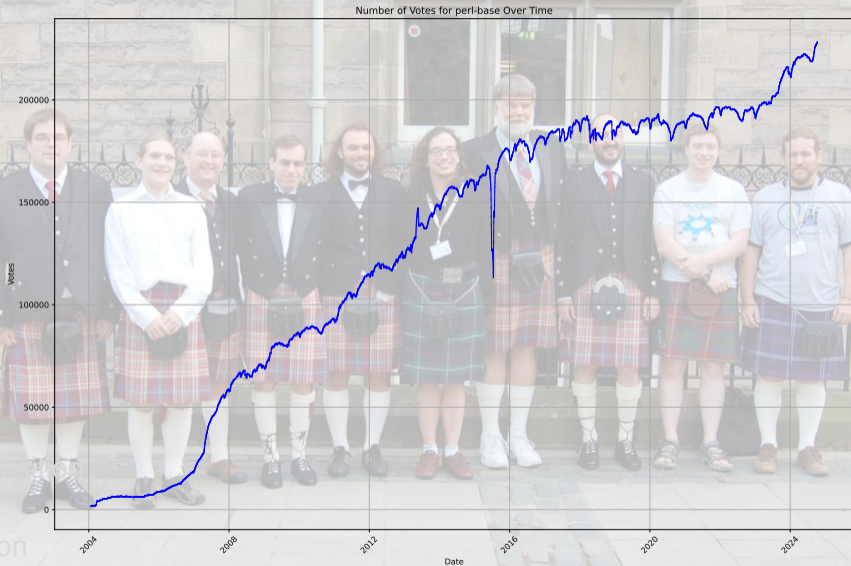
# Fears and hopes

Press:  
"humble individual, something that is rare in the tech arena which is full of bloated egos"

?

# Is Debian relevant?

- popcon
- [LUGs & lists](#)  
121819 or 18813 stocks
- [architecture](#)
- [64-bit](#)
- [\(late\) usmerge](#)
- [flying to the moon](#)

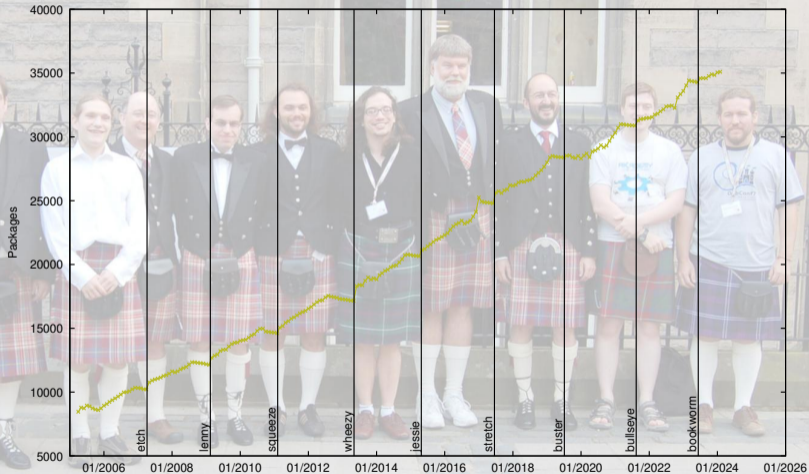




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- autopkgtests  
21319 of 38853 srcpks

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- 64 bit
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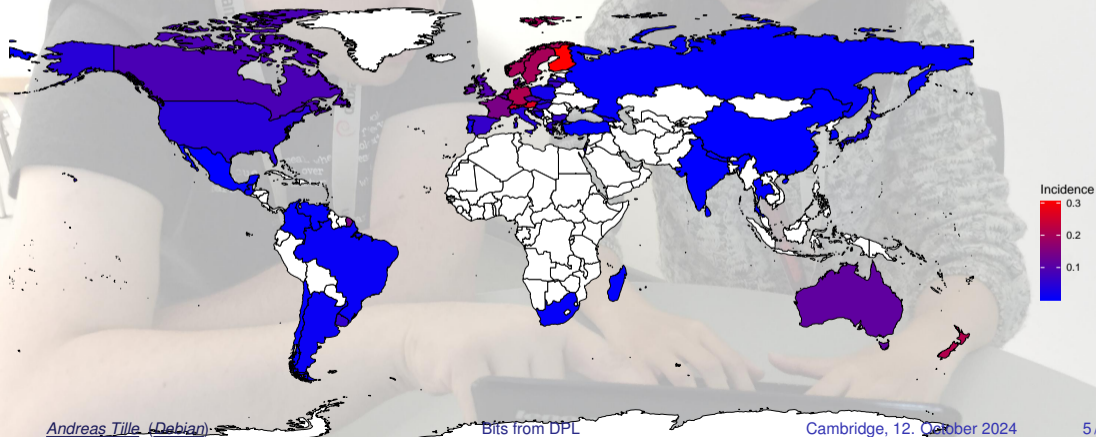
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# Newcomer and diversity


Supporting newcomers and diversity in terms of geographic and gender discrimination

# Newcomer and diversity

Incidence of Debian Developers per 100,000 Inhabitants



# Tiny tasks

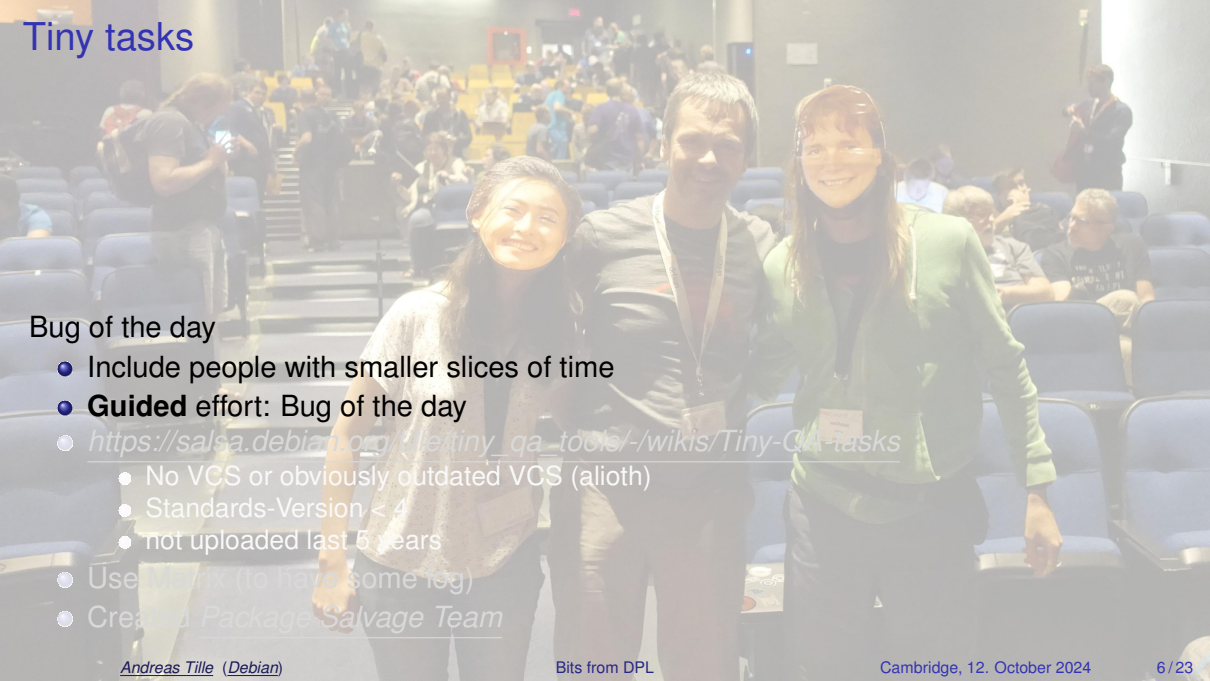
A photograph of three people standing in a large conference hall with blue seats. On the left is a woman with long dark hair wearing a light-colored patterned top. In the center is a man with short brown hair wearing a grey zip-up jacket and a lanyard. On the right is a woman with long reddish hair wearing a green zip-up jacket and a lanyard. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows many other people seated in the hall.

## Bug of the day

- Include people with smaller slices of time
- Guided effort: Bug of the day
- [https://salsa.debian.org/file/tiny\\_qa\\_tools/-/wikis/Tiny-QA-tasks](https://salsa.debian.org/file/tiny_qa_tools/-/wikis/Tiny-QA-tasks)
  - No VCS or obviously outdated VCS (alioth)
  - Standards-Version < 4
  - not uploaded last 5 years
- Use Matrix (to have some log)
- Created *Package Salvage Team*



# Tiny tasks

A photograph of three people standing in a large conference hall with blue seats. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair wearing a white patterned cardigan, a man in a grey zip-up jacket, and a woman with red hair wearing a green zip-up jacket are smiling. They are all wearing lanyards with badges. The background shows many other people seated in the hall, some looking at their phones.

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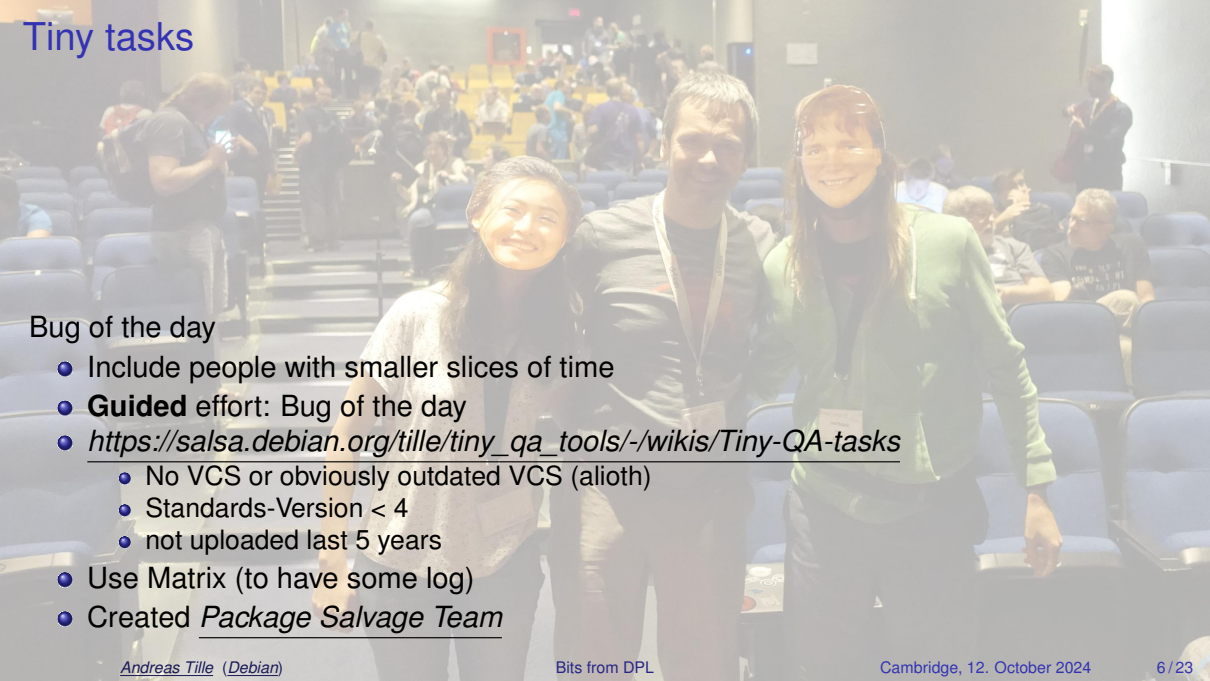
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A photograph of three people smiling in a large conference hall. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, a man with short grey hair, and a woman with long red hair are standing together. The background shows rows of blue seats and many other people, some sitting and some standing, in a well-lit auditorium.

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Autopkgtest of the day



Debian is for everyone

A Blend for every taste



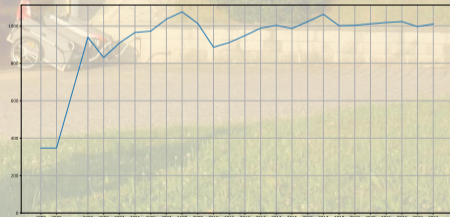
# Debian is resilient



# Debian is resilient

Developers come and go

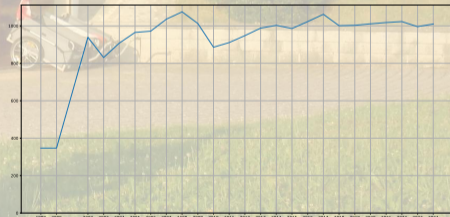
- DD might become inactive  
important work will be picked up
- Works even for me
- Easier if common workflows  
were used



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Developers come and go

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- Works even for me
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# Trademark

Debian has successfully defended its trademark



# Trademark

World would be such a great place if we could simply concentrate on coding only!



# Statement about the EU Legislation

GR: EU Legislation "Cyber Resilience Act and Product Liability Directive"

→ CRA and PLD proposals include regulations detrimental to FOSS

# AI in Debian

- We need some policy about usage of AI-generated content in Debian
  - Debian AI team
  - "slowly move ROCm from 'make it work' to 'make it fast'" (Cordell Bloor)
  - For new *technical* problems somehow magically arise people
  - Only true for technical, not organisational problems



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Sometimes we need patience to find solutions



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## lintian

- Policy checker important for packaging
- Some design decisions have led to slow operation
- Suggestion to check earlier in build-process (bug #1076759)
- Only statically tests source and binary packages
- Changed Maintainers often over time, social frictions between Maintainers
- Found volunteer for `lintian.debian.org`
- Maintainer could use more help → any volunteers?

# Sometimes we need patience to find solutions



## tag2upload

- Pushing a signed Git tag instead of uploading a bunch of files
- Written in 2019
- Finally agreement how to deploy 2024

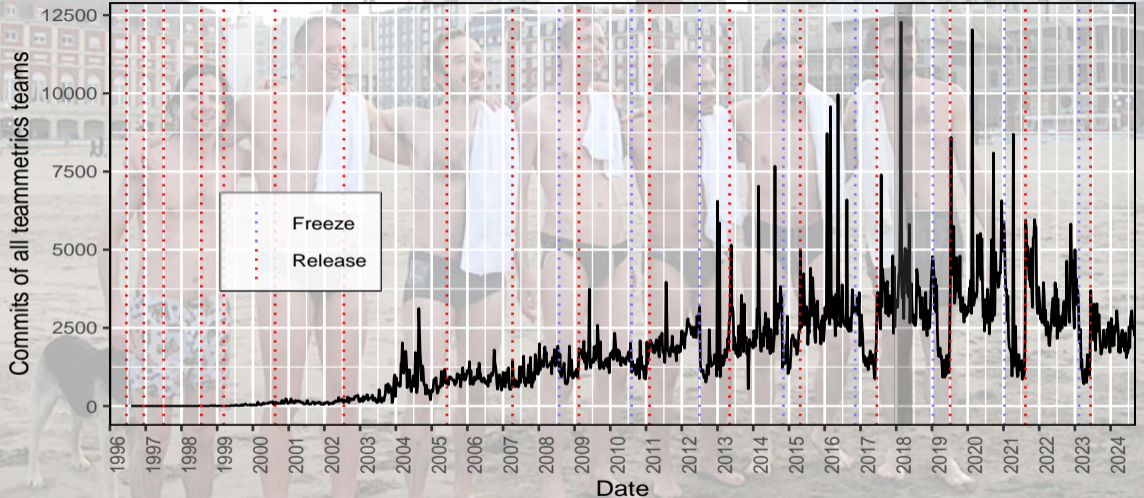
# Sometimes we need patience to find solutions

## General decision making

- Sometimes its not clear who is in a team
- Its even less clear who can make decisions



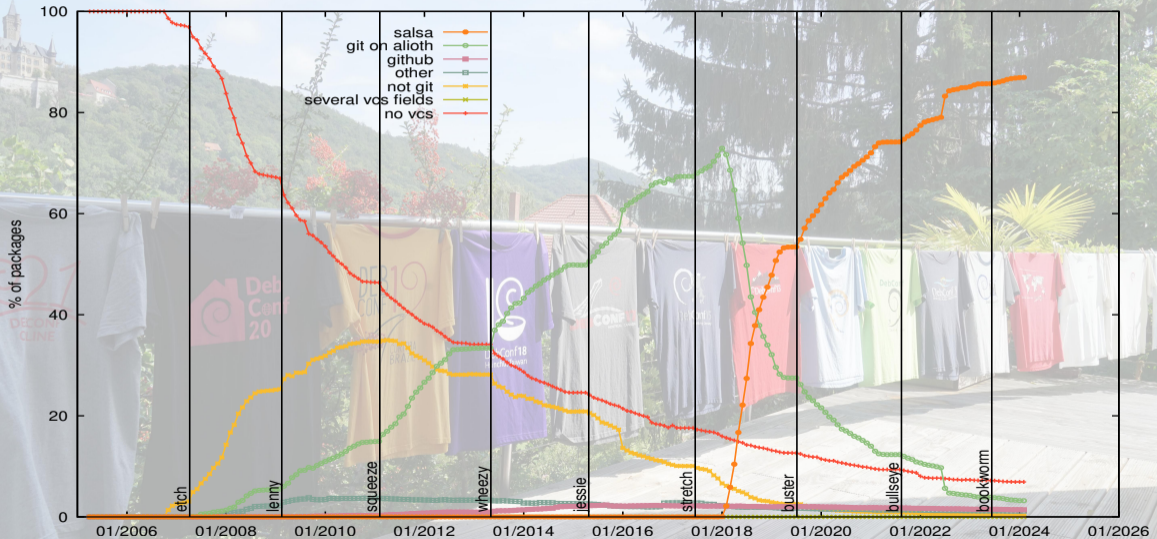
# Freeze depression



Shaded region signifies last six months before Alioth to Salsa migration

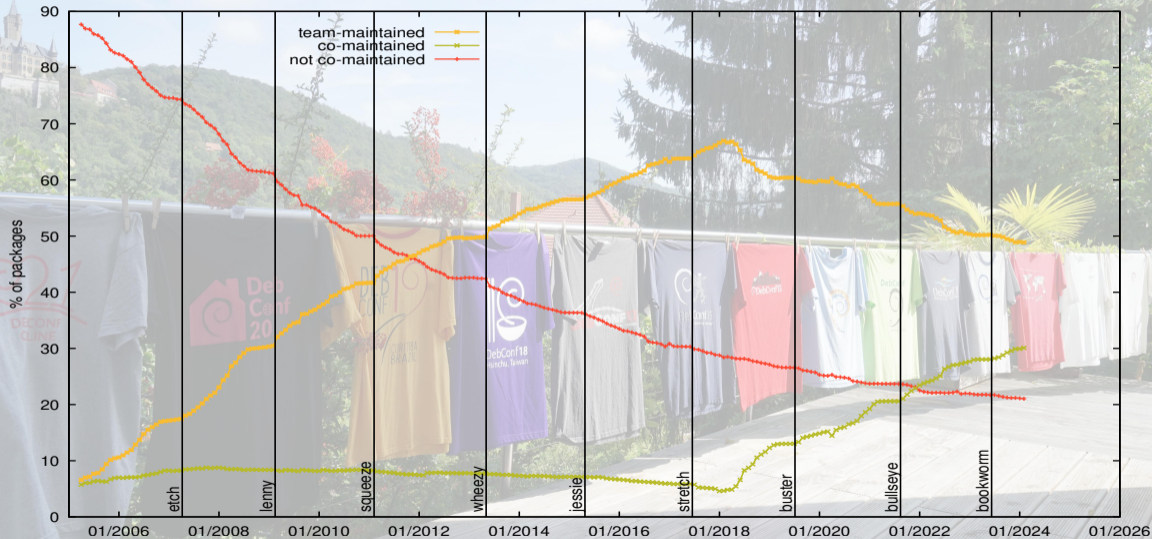
# Trends

VCS hosting in testing in percent



# Trends

Team maintained packages in testing in percent



# Personal opinion: We should end single maintainership

Single maintainer is preventing contributions finally restricting freedom to contribute

# Contacting teams

- **Healthy teams**
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coders (the person teams)
- Barely barely attending to teams

# Contacting teams

- Healthy teams
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coders (the person teams)
- Barely barely able to find teammates

# Contacting teams

- Healthy teams
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coders (one person teams)
- Barely or only communicating between

# Contacting teams

- Healthy teams
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coders (one person teams)
- Rarely actively attracting newcomers



# How to meet future?



- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (DVCS)
- Others use Git but not GitHub
- Some prefer to work on their own

# How to meet future?



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- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git/bu
- Some use P...

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● Some

# How to meet future?



- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not Salsa
- Some DDs seem to think team maintenance is the end of Debian

# Communication with ftpmaster

- 1 Mailing list
- 2 Wiki
- 3 BoF at DebConf 2023 "Chatting with ftpmaster"
- 4 What now?
  - Meet the ftpteam at DebConf24 (transcript)
  - Clarify legal situation of >20 years old restriction
  - Seeking for volunteers writing DAK features
  - Example: Accept+bug report



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## Helpful culture

Prioritize your tasks in such a way that someone seeking help has the highest priority.

# Make emails more productive

- Delay mails if you feel you are in heated temper.
- Ask for review if your mail has some importance / big audience.



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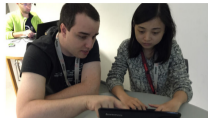


# Publicity

Volunteer coders are not good in advertising their work







Thank you  
 Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>  
<https://people.debian.org/~tille/talks/>

Maybe

