

Bits from the Debian Project Leader

Lucas Nussbaum

lucas@debian.org



Debian achievements since Debconf'13

- ▶ Made a decision on the init system debate
- ▶ LTS support for squeeze
- ▶ Debian stronger than ever as a foundation
 - ▶ Ubuntu followed the switch to systemd
 - ▶ SteamOS based on Debian
- ▶ Many new exciting developments
sources.debian.net, tracker.d.o, Debian contributors, Debian CI
- ▶ The Jessie freeze is looking good
(340 RC bugs, = 21 weeks to release!)



A look at Debian's money

- ▶ Focus of a lot of discussions during the DPL election
- ▶ Goal today: increase understanding of Debian's financial status
- ▶ Note: all values in USD (1 USD = 0.76 EUR = 0.92 CHF)



A look at Debian's money

- ▶ Focus of a lot of discussions during the DPL election
- ▶ Goal today: increase understanding of Debian's financial status
- ▶ Note: all values in USD (1 USD = 0.76 EUR = 0.92 CHF)
- ▶ Debian funds are held by Trusted Organizations, with different level of service/detail
 - ▶ **SPI** (US, USD)
 - ▶ **FFIS** (Germany, EUR)
 - ▶ Debian France (EUR)
 - ▶ DebConf Deutschland (EUR)
 - ▶ *Debian.ch* (Switzerland, CHF)



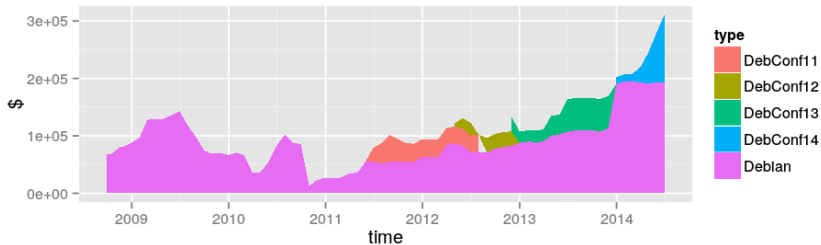
A look at Debian's money

- ▶ Focus of a lot of discussions during the DPL election
- ▶ Goal today: increase understanding of Debian's financial status
- ▶ Note: all values in USD (1 USD = 0.76 EUR = 0.92 CHF)
- ▶ Debian funds are held by Trusted Organizations, with different level of service/detail
 - ▶ **SPI** (US, USD): \$193,623.09 (2014-06-30)
 - ▶ **FFIS** (Germany, EUR): \$31,400
 - ▶ Debian France (EUR): \$3,800
 - ▶ DebConf Deutschland (EUR): \$0
 - ▶ *Debian.ch* (Switzerland, CHF): \$32,700

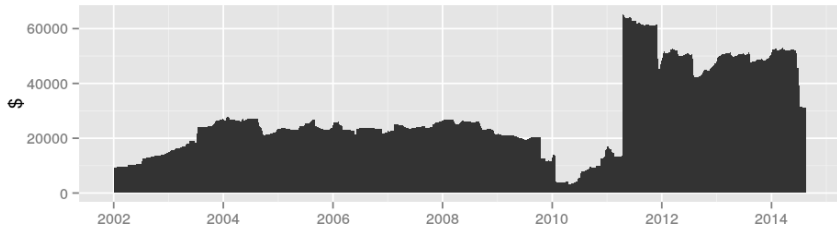


Historical status

► SPI



► FFIS



Looking at donations

- ▶ Credit card donations to Debian's SPI account
- ▶ Via Clickandpledge

The screenshot shows the Clickandpledge website interface. At the top is a blue header with the SPI logo. Below it is a navigation bar with five numbered tabs (1-5). The main content area is titled "Welcome! Select Your Items". On the left, under "Select Donations", there are four donation options: "SPI General Donation", "0 A.D.", "sptoid", and "Arch Linux". Each option has a form to "Enter Your Donation Amount" with a dollar sign icon and an "ADD TO CART" button. A "More info" link is also present for each item. On the right, under "Your Selections", there is a table with columns "Item", "Qty", "Delete", and "Price". Below the table is a "Repeat payment?" dropdown menu. A security notice box on the right states: "THIS IS A 256-BIT SECURE TRANSACTION. Your credit card information is being processed by Click & Pledge. Click & Pledge does not give or sell information to any third party organizations. To receive a detailed review of our privacy statement, please visit our TRUSTe approved Privacy Statement."

SPI

1 :: 2 :: 3 :: 4 :: 5 ::

Welcome! Select Your Items

Select Donations

SPI General Donation

Enter Your Donation Amount

\$

[More info](#)

0 A.D.

Enter Your Donation Amount

\$

[More info](#)

sptoid

Enter Your Donation Amount

\$

[More info](#)

Arch Linux

Enter Your Donation Amount

\$

Your Selections

Item	Qty	Delete	Price
Repeat payment? (Yes, do not repeat) ▼			

THIS IS A 256-BIT SECURE TRANSACTION

Your credit card information is being processed by Click & Pledge. Click & Pledge does not give or sell information to any third party organizations. To receive a detailed review of our privacy statement, please visit our [TRUSTe approved Privacy Statement](#).



Looking at donations

- ▶ Credit card donations to Debian's SPI account
- ▶ Via Clickandpledge

year	donations	tot inc. Debian	count	median	comment
2008	\$5,498	\$5,868	70	\$50	
2009	\$15,079	\$15,758	177	\$30	
2010	\$21,122	\$21,618	190	\$30	1x\$10,000
2011	\$30,237	\$31,138	195	\$25	1x\$20,000
2012	\$39,984	\$42,418	283	\$25	1x\$20,000
2013	\$18,718	\$23,521	335	\$25	
2014	\$11,952	\$13,492	215	\$25	



Expenses

How does Debian spend money?

- ▶ Debconf (budget: \$150k-250k/y, inc travel sponsorship: \$42k/y)
- ▶ Other travel: sprints, attending upstream conferences, etc.
- ▶ Funding for other events (e.g. MiniDebconfs, Tails hackfest)
- ▶ Infrastructure (inc. DNS, SSL, hardware warranty)

Example: FFIS

year	infrastructure	travel
2012	\$7,351 (63%)	\$4,326 (37%)
2013	\$2,406 (41%)	\$3,446 (59%)
2014	\$9,147 (47%)	\$10,471 (53%)



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian
- ▶ We have enough reserves (\approx one full Debconf)



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian
- ▶ We have enough reserves (\approx one full Debconf)
- ▶ We could improve on fundraising



Thoughts

- ▶ We must respect our donors
 - ▶ Use their donations to improve Debian
- ▶ We have enough reserves (\approx one full Debconf)
- ▶ We could improve on fundraising
- ▶ We sometimes feel too guilty about using Debian money



Ideas for spending (more) money

- ▶ Increase visibility, attract more contributors
 - ▶ Help organization of Minidebconfs (sponsor DDs to travel&talk)
 - ▶ Goodies (\leq T-shirts) for new contributors (\$5,000 per year?)
 - ▶ Material for Debian booths
- ▶ Improve security and trust
 - ▶ Cryptographic smartcards for DDs
- ▶ Improve efficiency of development
 - ▶ Sprints
 - ▶ Hardware used for Debian development
 - ▶ More travel sponsorship for Debconf
- ▶ Improve communication with upstreams
 - ▶ Sponsor travel + attendance to upstream conferences



Ideas for spending (more) money

- ▶ Increase visibility, attract more contributors
 - ▶ Help organization of Minidebconfs (sponsor DDs to travel&talk)
 - ▶ Goodies (\leq T-shirts) for new contributors (\$5,000 per year?)
 - ▶ Material for Debian booths
- ▶ Improve security and trust
 - ▶ Cryptographic smartcards for DDs
- ▶ Improve efficiency of development
 - ▶ Sprints
 - ▶ Hardware used for Debian development
 - ▶ More travel sponsorship for Debconf
- ▶ Improve communication with upstreams
 - ▶ Sponsor travel + attendance to upstream conferences

(red = needs coordinator)



Let's look at the future: SWOT analysis



(image source: Wikipedia)



Strengths and opportunities

Strengths:

- ▶ Strong shared common ideals/goals among contributors
- ▶ Widespread agreement with foundation documents & procedures
- ▶ Everybody cares about Debian, likes it (even when not using it)
- ▶ Large, active community of volunteers
- ▶ Independence, and we don't compromise with it



Strengths and opportunities

Strengths:

- ▶ Strong shared common ideals/goals among contributors
- ▶ Widespread agreement with foundation documents & procedures
- ▶ Everybody cares about Debian, likes it (even when not using it)
- ▶ Large, active community of volunteers
- ▶ Independence, and we don't compromise with it

Opportunities:

- ▶ One of the few remaining large community projects?
- ▶ Post-Snowden hostility towards some big corporate players



Weaknesses and Threats

Weaknesses:

- ▶ Dispersion of manpower, lack of manpower on *core* things
- ▶ Lack of interest & contributors for non-technical tasks
- ▶ Fragmentation: lack of common technical practices in some areas
- ▶ Packaging is difficult – this limits use of packages as a standard software distribution mechanism
- ▶ It's difficult to get started (lack of sponsors, high requirements)
- ▶ Disconnection from upstream



Weaknesses and Threats

Weaknesses:

- ▶ Dispersion of manpower, lack of manpower on *core* things
- ▶ Lack of interest & contributors for non-technical tasks
- ▶ Fragmentation: lack of common technical practices in some areas
- ▶ Packaging is difficult – this limits use of packages as a standard software distribution mechanism
- ▶ It's difficult to get started (lack of sponsors, high requirements)
- ▶ Disconnection from upstream

Threats:

- ▶ We aren't cool anymore – *distributions are solved problems*
- ▶ Required skills (mix of dev and sysadmin) are rare and typically not taught in typical university curriculums (see GSOC, gift bugs)
- ▶ Competition with emerging language-specific packaging solutions (rubygems, python eggs, OCAML OPAM, ...)





Thanks! Questions?

lucas@debian.org

Slides: <http://deb.li/dc14dpl>

