

DebConf

Cáceres - España

FINAL REPORT

ANNUAL DEBIAN CONFERENCE 2009

FINAL REPORT

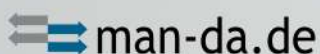
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This conference was possible thanks to the generous help of these sponsors



MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT LEADER

STEVE MCINTYRE
Debian Project Leader

Debian is one of the largest and most influential distributed software development organisations in the world, and right from the very beginning of the project we have effectively worked together remotely using a variety of means: email, IRC, phone, etc. But, no matter how well we have learnt to use these methods they will never compare with the bandwidth and efficiency of face-to-face meetings. As the largest of those meetings, DebConf will always be important to us. We bring people together from all over the world for a week or two, helping them to work and play better, sharing ideas, code and beer.

The government of Extremadura in Spain has hosted a number of Debian development meetings over the last few years, but this was the first time that they had committed to something the size of DebConf. With their help and continuing generous support from many of our key sponsors, we again managed to run a successful conference for several hundred attendees despite the looming financial problems affecting much of the world this year.

We saw the usual collection of technical sessions and workshops this summer, covering most of the areas that are important in Debian. Many of the core teams held meetings at the conference, helping them to

make plans for future work and solve some of their existing development issues. As usual, we took the time to mingle and meet friends old and new.

“We bring people together from all over the world for a week or two, helping them to work and play better, sharing ideas, code and beer.”

As always, DebConf depended on a number of dedicated volunteers. The organising team included people from future and previous DebConfS, along with the local people who spent so much of their time making things happen before and during the conference itself. And, lest we forget, year on year our video team continues to provide a very professional service, providing live video streams of the talks and downloadable video afterwards. Planning and running such a large conference takes a lot of work, and the team deserves a great round of thanks from the project as a whole for their efforts.

Looking back at DebConf9, I have lots of fond memories to take forward. I can't wait to meet many of you again in New York next summer for DebConf10!



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

THE KEY TO DEBCONF TALKS

GUNNAR WOLF

DebConf9 Academic Committee

SELECTING THE TALKS

The academic committee is charged with maintaining the high quality standards of the attendee talks at DebConf. This is quite a long task, reviewing and scoring countless submissions. Once we are done, the entirely separate long process of scheduling all talks begins, requiring coordination of rooms and speaker schedules, trying to minimize the overlap between talks interesting to the same subset of people. While this is a long task, we do get a preview of DebConf before DebConf.

Talks are rated based on relevance to Debian, technical merit, and usefulness to fostering discussion within the community. Most official track talks have some relevance to Debian.

The talk selection process begins many months before DebConf, when speakers draft and submit an abstract. We have events of all types, from keynote lectures to birds-of-a-feather, small discussion sections. Talks are not limited to those from current developers, users often hold discussion sessions to share wisdom or explain significant deployments to the Debian community.

The talk committee meets and evaluates all submissions based on technical merit and relevance to Debian. Reviewing more than 100 submissions is hard work, but it is well worth it for the preview of what is to come.

While not every talk can be selected, luckily DebConf can accommodate many more events. This is especially useful since not every event can be planned and submitted in advance. Anyone may consult the schedule, find an unoccupied room, and arrange a spontaneous gathering of developers. As such, there is no such thing as a complete rejection -- only unofficial and not scheduled in advance.

TALK HIGHLIGHTS FOR DEBCONF9

One of the most interesting events was the keynote by the release team. Their proposal was fascinating, but new and controversial. The ability to have a group discussion and get feedback from people in real time allowed a quicker and better resolution than discussion online could have produced.

LiMux also had a keynote describing the installation of a Debian derivative on over 14,000 of Munich government's computers. Such large installations produce a lot of useful feedback for the body of Debian developers, which made this keynote very useful for current Debian developers as well as others interested in large scale Debian deployments.

Another talk that was a great success was the presentation about the new debhelper features. A tool that has been helping packaging since more than a decade has recently added quite a number of new features and all the developers were eager to share ideas about the new work that could be done with it.

There were also many smaller events, presentation of several interesting new tools, research that has been going on, problems found and their solutions. As well as quite a number of workshops that allowed members of many different teams in Debian to get together and share their ideas with a fluency that can't be obtained through the internet.

The talk selection team is proud of the technical program that went on at DebConf9, and we encourage all interested people to consider reviewing talks in future years -- if you can't attend them all, at least you can read summaries of them all!

TALKS

These are the key technical talks given during DebConf9 , and the estimated number of attendees

Where does Debian fit in?: DPL keynote		State of the BTS: new features, changes and tips	
Steve McIntyre	100	Don Armstrong	50
This talk dealt with what makes Debian different from other distributions, and what new or not so new developers can do to help make Debian better, introducing ideas to make work done for Debian cooler and more fun.		The newly introduced features to the bug tracking system, including the affects, summary, and local debbugs mirror were be presented and demonstrated during this talk, as well as some of the underlying architectural changes to the codebase.	
Keynote from the Release Team		pam-auth-update: manhandling debconf for fun and profit	
Luk Claes and Adeodato Simó	90	Steve Langasek	50
This talk presented plans and ideas for Debian future releases, ensuing a lot of further discussion.		pam-auth-update allows to automatically enable PAM modules when installing. This talk provided an introduction to what it is, how to use it, and how to get good results with it.	
Not your grandpa's debhelper		Debian redesign: Introduction of the new look	
Joey Hess	90	Agnieszka Czajkowska	50
debhelper v7, dh sequences, pluggable buildsystems -- debhelper has added many new features while staying true to its decades-plus roots. This talk covered the new features, how to use then, and how it compares to cdb.		This presentation introduced new concepts and ideas for an innovative yet controversial image campaign for Debian, including boot sequence, wiki and webpages.	
Trust is good, control is better		Multiarch round table: Multiarch quick review and discussion	
Holger Levsen, Lars Wirzenius	60	Steve Langasek, Hector Oron	45
This talk showed how packages and maintainers can benefit from piuparts and piuparts.debian.org.		Multiarch design and implementation discussion. The current state of multi-arch was presented with a lot of enthusiasm of the audience.	
Lightning Talks		Accessibility and Debian	
Simon Richter	50	Sam Hartman, Mario Lang, Enrico Zini	45
* NM AM FD DAM BOF results, Enrico Zini		An overview of accessibility features present and missing in Debian, from the user and developer point of view.	
* Internationalisation sessions results, Christian Perrier		debian-devel list: its problems and how to maybe fix them	
* Genesis of an installer, Christian Perrier		Michael Banck	45
* Redirecting require, Joachim Breitner		This BoF focused on the problems perceived with the debian-devel mailing list. It discussed what can be done to make debian-devel be again a better place and the central point of Debian development.	
* Mastering po4a in 5 minutes, Nicolas François		DDE, Debian Data Export	
* Dpkg vs Microsoft Installer, Simon Richter		Enrico Zini	40
* MMUless systems, Simon Richter		Debian Data Export is a standard for publishing Debian information. This talk aimed to explain how the tool works, how it can be used to extract information from all the different data in Debian.	
* Free Software concept map, Rene Merou			
* apt-xapien-index, Enrico Zini			
QEMU for Debian Developers			
Aurelien Jarno	50		
This talk showed many potential uses of QEMU, a generic and open source machine emulator, for Debian Developers, particularly useful because it supports a good subset of official Debian architectures.			
HP and Debian			
Bdale Garbee	50		
This talk presented the relationship between HP and Debian from the perspective of a large corporation working with Free Software.			

Debian FTP Team

Joerg Jaspert 40

This talk presented the history and description of the work of the FTP team, and the people behind it, and an invitation for more people to help.

Debian on Network Storage Devices and Other Devices

Martin Michlmayr 40

An introduction to NAS devices currently supported in Debian, how to make it work, and lessons learned.

Ganeti, a cluster of debian machines on your own laptop

Guido Trotter 40

Ganeti is a cluster virtualization platform which can help scheduling virtual machines on clusters of physical nodes, using various virtualization technologies, like KVM and Xen. This talk aimed to help developers make extensive use of such platform.

LiMux in Munich

Florian Schießl 40

Munich's LiMux project uses free software in the 14,000 PCs of the administration. This talk presented the 3 years experience of the project, challenges regarding the integration of the linux client, the availability of business applications and the migration to OpenOffice.org.

Stable/Volatile/Backports/Security

Luk Claes 40

The stable release, volatile and backports.org all have their goals and rules. This BOF intended to gather ideas about a common policy, to clarify the interactions and borders of each of them and increase their use and cooperation.

Teams in Debian: Finding and integrating new members

Gregor Herrmann 40

This BOF discussed finding and integrating new members into teams, structures and procedures that could help. It focused on collecting models of good practice and developing ideas for improvement.

UDD: Ultimate Debian Database

Lucas Nussbaum 35

Ultimate Debian Database provides a central place to dig into Debian's information. This talk provided an introduction to UDD, discussing its current status, and possible evolutions in the future.

Libvirt

Guido Günther 35

Libvirt is a library that aims to make virtualization easier. This talk presented libvirt, explaining what it is, why it is useful, and how to use it.

immunity: securing untrusted processes

Torsten Werner 35

The immunity tool provides a secure container to lock down any application that processes untrusted data . A ready to install Debian package was presented as a proof of concept.

Cooperation and Social Status in Free and Open Source Projects

Gaudenz Steinlin 35

This talk presented research made on how the Debian project grows over time, how the workload is distributed among developers, the impact of releases and other events on the overall project activity, and the differences in social interaction

DSA BoF

S. Gran, P. Palfrader, M. Zobel-Helas 35

A discussion on how DSA manages Debian infrastructure, with an emphasis on feedback from teams and users.

Quality Assurance BOF

Lucas Nussbaum 35

A discussion of the current state and possible future changes of the several areas where the QA team works.

Changing the default system shell

Luk Claes, Raphael Geissert 35

An intense discussion on why, how, and when to make the switch, the possible side-effects and counter-measures.

Money!: How to spend more of Debian's money

Steve McIntyre 35

Debian has quite a large amount of money held in trust at SPI and elsewhere. This was a discussion of the better ways to spend that money

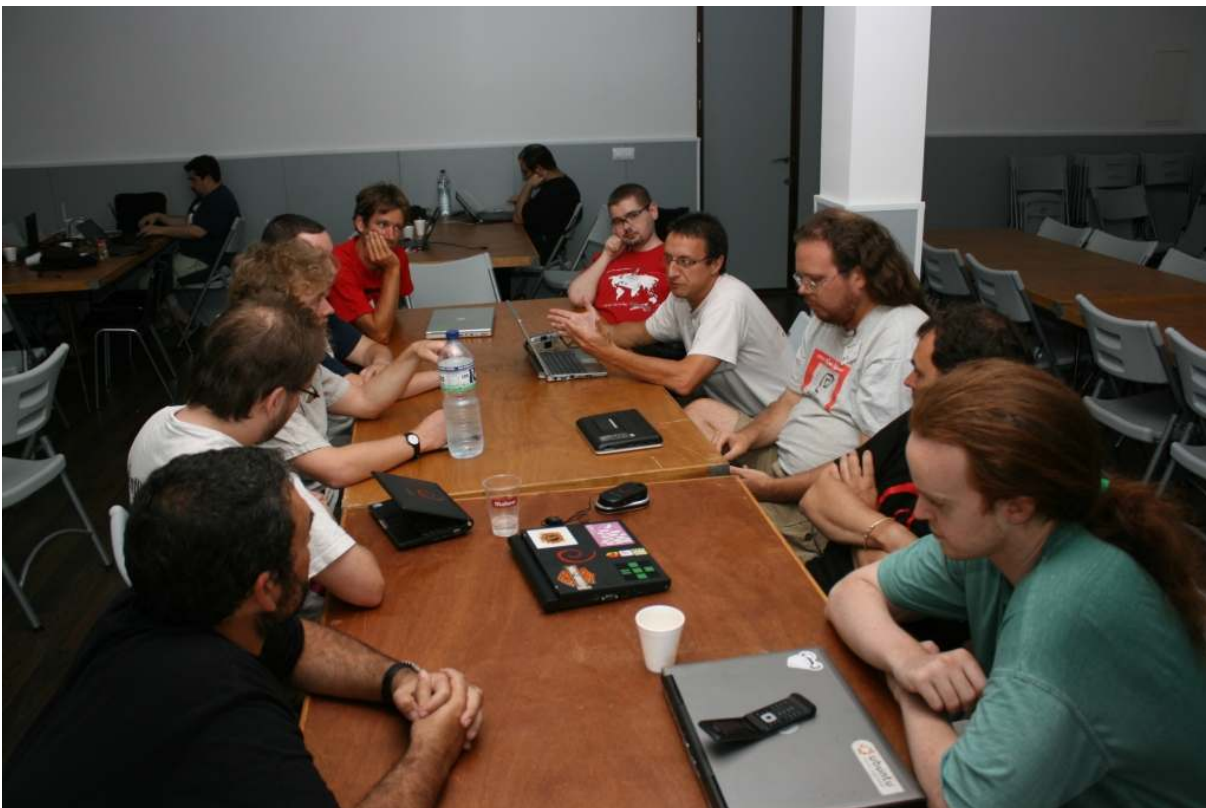
Drowning in Bugs: Getting more people involved in bug triaging

Don Armstrong 35

This BOF discussed techniques to deal with packages that have many bugs and what features might be added to the BTS to improve that.

SMALLER TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Tool adoption behaviour in the Debian project martin f. krafft 30	Using FOSSology for license analysis in Debian Martin Michlmayr 25
Package clusters and the MANCOOSI project Stefano Zacchioli 30	Upgrade-advisor, analysing system upgrade Franklin Piat 25
Counting Debian: How large is Lenny? Francisco Rivas 30	Application of Ultimate Debian Database in Debian Pure Blends Andreas Tille 20
Point releases Luk Claes 30	Packing the data in and getting it back out Blars Blarson 20
Using Debian for Hardware Design Bdale Garbee 30	News on Debian Autobuilding Philipp Kern 20
RFH maintaining big packages: Don't panic! Mike Hommey, Rene Engelhard 30	Crossbuilding on Debian for a derived distro Wookey 20
Shared libraries and the New Maintainer templates Enrico Zini 30	Debian and the Openmoko FreeRunner Luca Capello 20
Hardware Report, Database and PopCon Franklin Piat 25	



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

NM AM FD DAM BOF

Enrico Zini

Annual meeting of the Debian Perl Group

Gunnar Wolf

I18n sessions

Christian Perrier

Debian Java Packaging

Matthew Johnson

Kernel BoF

Ben Hutchings

D-I Work Sessions

Luk Claes

Debian Games Team BoF

Miriam Ruiz

Component-based software

Simon Richter

Scratchbox2 for crosscompiling debian

Riku Voipio

Introduction to Shaft

Adrián Pérez de Castro

Openstreetmap - What, Why, and How

Blars Blarson

Paper: a more semantic web in Debian servers

Olivier Berger

Getting Goals Done

Raphael Geissert

xcontrol

Simon Richter

Debian CD - what next?

Steve McIntyre

Debian Med BOF

Andreas Tille

Debian Wiki: License, Layout, what next?

Franklin Piat

Non-English IRC Support

Michael Banck

SPI BOF: Meet the SPI Board

Bdale Garbee, Joerg Jaspert, Jimmy Kaplowitz,
Michael Schultheiss

boot loaders: Should lilo be removed?

Giacomo Catenazzi

emdebian BoF

Simon Richter, Neil Williams, Wookey

Building Debian from Debian

Vagrant Cascadian

Distributing virtually boxed applications

Joachim Breitner, Robert Jaehne

Free Software and Renewable Energies

W. Martin Borgert

Large-scale Debian deployments BOF

paul cannon

Licence compatibility

Jose Lancho

Mer: Maemo Reconstructed

Carsten Valdemar Munk

PET BoF: PET-devel get together

Martín Ferrari

Publicity BoF

Alexander "Tolimar" Reichle-Schmehl

Security BOF

Micah Anderson

Smaller, faster, cheaper, for the new boot system?

Luk Claes, Petter Reinholdtsen

Technical Committee BOF

Bdale Garbee

ikiwiki bof

Joey Hess

vcs-pkg.org

martin f. krafft / James Westby

Debian Science round table

Michael Banck, Andreas Tille

lintian workshop

Raphael Geissert

piuparts workers unite!: no pasaran!

Holger Levsen, Lars Wirzenius

Reproducible Research with R and Sweave

Don Armstrong

BEHIND THE SCENES

LOCALTEAM IMPRESSIONS

ANTO RECIO

DebConf9 Organizer

Organising DebConf is a difficult job which requires keeping track of many details, not only local logistics but also many other details. Some details, like visas, are tasks which need to be kept track of closely and which require a lot of time by themselves.

The Local Team has a very positive assessment of DebConf9. In the end, all the efforts were worth it because the majority of the attendees passed on to us their good feelings about the organisation. During the entire conference, all the attendees enjoyed the conference events but also the cultural and recreational activities which we arranged. As the Local Team we feel very proud that Extremadura was able to host a DebConf, for everything which this region means to Free Software.

“The majority of the attendees passed on to us their good feelings about the organisation.”

CHOICE OF THE VENUE

From the beginning, the Local Team's main goal was to find a venue where all the events could take place and where people could relax whenever they wanted, with most if not all of the sleeping rooms in the same building.

At first we considered the possibility of using another venue, an 18th century building which is very well equipped for conferences and much cooler because of its age. In the end we decided that the Muñoz Torrero University Residence was much better suited to a DebConf.

The main advantages of the Muñoz Torrero University Residence which drew us there for DebConf9 were:

- Since the residence belongs to the Junta de Extremadura, the DebConf organisation would not need to pay to use it, it was 100% sponsored.
- Good large rooms where we could hold the events and meals. We were planning a dining room for 300 people.
- Very good internet connectivity. We were planning a fibre optic link which would allow us to have a very good connection during the whole conference.
- The sleeping rooms were very well equipped. Air-conditioning was very important for the high temperatures in summer.
- The whole residence was adapted for people with special needs.

LOCAL SPONSORSHIP

Several public institutions and companies sponsored DebConf9. We started approaching these institutions at the beginning of 2009. Some quickly realised that the Debian Conference was a very important international event and that they should get involved through financial sponsorship. Here is a list of the financial sponsorship from the various institutions in Extremadura:

- Junta de Extremadura, Platinum sponsor
- Telefónica, Gold sponsor (fibre optic connection)
- Ayuntamiento de Cáceres, Silver sponsor
- Comparex, Silver sponsor
- Gabinete de Iniciativa Joven, Bronze sponsor
- Consorcio Cáceres 2016, Bronze sponsor
- Cenatic, Bronze sponsor

The total income which the Local Team arranged for DebConf9 was €71500.

WORKING AT THE FRONT DESK

DAMYAN IVANOV
DebConf9 Organizer

Being at DebConf9 was exciting as usual. This was my second attendance and this time I had the chance to help with the organisation. During DebConf7 (my first), it was amazing to see how many volunteers are needed to run the conference, During DebConf8, I followed the fun on the organisers' IRC channels and video streams since I couldn't attend. It was all very clear to me that (1) I wanted to be in Cáceres; and (2) I wanted to help with the organisation.

Front Desk was the perfect match. Although I was busy with other interesting things during the most busy days (like working on the funny signs you could see all around the venue) I took care of Front Desk several days in a row. It was an addictive job. :)



PICTURE BY GERFRIED FUCHS

Front Desk gave me the ability to meet and interact with new people, certainly not a usual experience for a typical introvert geek. Being able to help people with all the tiny little problems that come up at conferences was very rewarding. And it was not a hard job: you just have to attend the organisers meetings and listen, then tell people what you've heard. There were some additional tasks like selling food tickets and the unique Debian wine. Some



PICTURE BY TIAGO BORTOLETTO VAZ

puzzle-solving skills were required in order to assemble the fancy carton boxes used for carrying three bottles at once. This task required more than one puzzle-solver but the end result was quite satisfactory. We employed typical Debian synergy.

I recommend volunteering on the Front Desk to everybody who wants to get a bit inside the organisation of DebConf. It is an interesting, rewarding job with no special requirements. It is not a heavy-load position, you'll have plenty of time for regular DebConf hacking. The hardest part is getting up early on morning shifts, but the excitement of being at DebConf helps there.

See you at Front Desk!



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

VIDEO TEAM

BEN HUTCHINGS & HOLGER LEVSEN
Video Team Coordinators

The video team continued to build on the experience of existing members while recruiting new volunteers to work for nothing more than a video team T-shirt. As usual, we provided live video streams and also recorded events for later viewing. This year we published over 50 hours of video covering 76 events.

Unlike the hotel in Mar del Plata, the venue did not provide staff to support A/V. However we were free to arrange furniture, cables and equipment ourselves. The second talk room was designed as a video theatre and had limited lighting controls, so it was a challenge to light the speaker without also lighting the screen and making it unreadable. Sometimes we succeeded in this; sometimes not.

Instead of recording directly to a file server, we set up each room's video mixer to record to local files and then moved the files to the file server after each half-day of recording. This change meant that we no longer required the network team to set up a separate video network, and that recordings could be reviewed and

transcoded at any time of day.

The video team now has a good set of audio equipment, with which we recorded high quality audio for most events as well as providing PA in the main talk room. During the 'Accessibility and Debian' talk we were able to mix in speech synthesiser output directly from Sam's laptop.

Some mistakes we made that we should correct next year:

- We didn't get all the 'cheat sheets' ready, so new members made mistakes and had to ask a lot of questions that we could have answered in advance.

- There was not enough time to update the Pentabarf video code during DebCamp, so we could not make some enhancements to the video workflow. We need to work on this in advance.

- We decided to reuse video tapes once we knew we had good recordings on disk, but we didn't set up a process for this. We ran out of tapes and sometimes had to reuse them without checking.



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

WATCHING THE STREAMS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD

MARGARITA MANTEROLA

For several reasons, I couldn't be present at DebConf9. This is to say, I couldn't be there physically, but thanks to the awesome work done by the Video Team, I was definitely there for the talks.

I've always appreciated the hard work done by the Video Team volunteers to give the best possible coverage of DebConf. It was not until I was on the other side of the screen, however, that I realized how much their work meant to those not present at the conference.

Each DebConf day I woke up at 5 AM in the morning and had breakfast while watching the morning talks; through IRC I was able to ask questions to the speakers and get them

answered in the streams. The on-the-fly editing done by the "Directors" of each talk allowed us, the viewers from all over the world, to watch the speakers, their slides, and the audience reactions, just as if we were there ourselves.

Even though I missed being at DebConf9, thanks to the Video Team I didn't miss a single talk. And I know I was not the only one, quite a number of Debian developers, maintainers and contributors, who for some reason or another couldn't make it to Cáceres, were able to keep up to date with what was happening at the conference through the streams.

Thank you. Danke. Gracias. Merci. There just aren't enough words to express my gratitude to all those that worked to make this possible.

DEBCONF9 OPEN DAY

ANA BEATRIZ GUERRERO LÓPEZ

Open Day Organizer

With DebConf changing venue every year, we try to give all the Debian developers and contributors the chance to attend a Debian conference close to home. But what about users, people working on companies using Debian or just enthusiastic people who want to learn more about Debian? Is DebConf also for them?

“... topics such as how and why to contribute to Debian, how Debian works, and the differences between software licences.

We tend to think DebConf is for everybody who is interested, and in the case of advanced users or people working in free software companies in the area, this is right. However, there are plenty of users who are interested in Debian, sometimes new to free software, who do not speak fluent English. We want them also to have the opportunity to enjoy the conference and learn more about Debian. This is why we hold a Debian Open Day at every DebConf, with talks in the local languages.

This year we held the Open Day mostly in Spanish with some talks in English. The day was begun by the Director General of ICT of the regional government of Extremadura who gave an overview of how they are deploying and using Free Software solutions in fields such as education and healthcare. The day continued with a mixture of talks given by Debian Developers in Spanish about topics such as how and why to contribute to Debian, how Debian works, and the differences between software licences. Also, some local companies

explained how they work with Debian, how they earn money by giving support to free software, and how they develop using free software.

Extremadura inhabitants are already quite lucky, since their regional government has been holding many international free software events in the last years. Despite this, and despite holding the event in the middle of the summer holidays, we had about 50 people from Extremadura and adjacent regions attend the Open Day. This is not the best part: the talks were recorded and now all Spanish speakers in the world have good quality videos with talks about Debian.

FLOSSInclude Project Presentation

Jose Antonio Recio Cuesta, Marta Quintanilla

¿Por qué contribuir a Debian?

Luciano Bello, Steve Langasek, Enrico Zini

Debian por dentro

Adeodato Simó

Contando Debian: ¿Cuál es el tamaño de Lenny?

Francisco Rivas

Licencias de Software Libre en Debian

Miriam Ruiz

Adaptación de Debian a un entorno corporativo

Diego Martínez Castañeda,

Entendiendo Debian

Hector Colina

Extrayendole el jugo a Debian para dar vitaminas a la Educación

José L. Redrejo

Extremadurathome

Daniel Lombraña González, IDENTIC

EzWeb: Open Source Mashup Platform

Sebastian Ortega Torres

DEBCONF9 NETWORKING

THE WIRELESS SETUP

ANDREW McMILLAN
DebConf9 Infrastructure Team

MUÑOZ TORRERO

Thanks to Fon.com, DebConf9 had a supply of access points that many attendees gazed enviously at. Of course, with such a pile of APs we faced challenges of how to configure them to provide as much coverage as possible without interference. We also had to bear in mind that most attendees were using laptops, and that hacklabs had a very high-density environment.

Overall the wireless worked well, and the problems that were encountered pretty much happened at the times and places when you would expect to encounter problems.

"We had to bear in mind that most attendees were using laptops, and that hacklabs had a very high density environment."

Coverage was concentrated on the talk rooms, the hacklabs, and around the infrastructure team, with some further (less successful) efforts to cover the sleeping areas and the bar across the road. In order to reduce casual snooping all access points advertised a WPA2 PSK encrypted SSID. In order to reduce the barriers to WiFi for new arrivals, core access points also advertised an unencrypted SSID so that even the forgetful could still get their Internet fix.

When laying out the access points we were fortunate that the venue was somewhat linear, so we were able to start from one end using channels 1, 6, 11, 1, 6, 11, 1, 6, 11, ... and so on. All access points were bridging the wireless directly to the LAN, which was assigning DHCP and so forth. The APs themselves were allocated static IPs on a separate RFC 1918 sub-

net overlaid on the LAN, enabling SSH access for management and SNMP for monitoring. Each AP was given a number allowing us to physically correlate an AP with its management IP address.

Once all APs were in place and working we tuned the output power so that no AP could see the broadcasts from another AP on the same channel.

We used 15x Buffalo WHR-G54 for most of the network, supplemented by a few Foner-as. All routers were installed with OpenWRT Kamikaze 8.09.1. Initially we tried to use the 2.6.x kernel on the Buffaloes but some clients had problems connecting, so we switched to the more stable 2.4 series. I expect that next time we deploy these it will be OK to deploy with a 2.6 kernel from a more recent OpenWRT.

FRANCISCO DE SANDE

Unfortunately the hostel network at Francisco de Sandes was not great. The venue was some distance away from the main venue at Muñoz Torrero and was unavailable for setup until the main conference was almost upon us.

Given this, further complicated by the historic nature of the building, it was only possible to cover a limited amount of the building with wireless. To confuse the matter even further there were two upstream DSL connections, complete with telco-supplied wireless APs, but no equipment or time to implement bonding across them.

FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORING

FUNDRAISING FOR DEBCONF9

STEVE MCINTYRE

Raising funds to support DebConf is often a stressful task, but in 2008-2009 it reached a whole new level of difficulty. With economies all over the world contracting, many of our usual sponsors were feeling the squeeze. It's hard to convince sponsors to donate to a Free Software conference when they're struggling to meet their normal costs of business.

On top of that, we saw a number of mergers which meant that many of our potential sponsors were swallowed up by other companies. In some cases this was not a problem for us, but in others the new owners were not interested in promoting our work in Debian. We will continue to work on them in the future, of course, but this year we weren't successful everywhere.

Against that background, we must thank many of our returning sponsors for coming back and supporting us nonetheless. Large, well-known companies like HP, Nokia, Intel and Google helped us a great deal again this year. Meanwhile, plenty of smaller specialist Free Software companies (Collabora, Credativ, SiriusIT, Green Quadrant) continued as sponsors this year despite the nightmare marketplace as did others already well known for working with Debian: Canonical, Bytemark, Univention, hands.com.

We also managed to find several new sponsors this year, and by far the most prominent of those were the local government agencies of Extremadura and Cáceres. The Extremadura government have been very supportive of Debian for several years, arranging and hosting meetings for several teams. This year, they expanded that effort and invited us to bring a full DebConf to their region. This was a wonderful offer and we were happy to accept!

On behalf of all of the organisers and attendees of DebConf9, we express our gratitude to all of our sponsors. Without their help, there would be no DebConf. We'll be in touch shortly to see if they'd like to help DebConf10.

SPONSORSHIP TEAM

MICHAEL SCHULTHEISS

DebConf is very proud of how affordable it is to attend. Thanks to our many sponsors, not only is there no registration fee required but everyone who applies by the early registration deadline is eligible for sponsored food and lodging. Historically, all who applied by the deadline received both of these. There is also an option for attendees who can afford it to pay for their accommodation with the group.

DebConf is also able to provide limited travel sponsorship. Unfortunately, every year we get more requests for travel reimbursement than we can provide. The sponsorship team is responsible for allocating the travel money.

We strive for fairness. A team of experienced developers reviews applications and rates applicants based on their contributions to Debian and DebConf. Attendees whom have been selected to give a talk have a high priority. Core members of important teams also have a high probability of getting sponsored. Sponsorship is not exclusively decided by Debian Developer status, but by public contributions to things like mailing lists and bug reports. Thus, even new contributors can have a good chance at travel sponsorship.

Travel sponsorship is made possible by contributions by DebConf's sponsors above and beyond that needed to fund the basic conference, so the travel sponsorship team would like to thank our many sponsors for making all of this possible!

MANAGING THE BUDGET

MICHAEL SCHULTHEISS

DebConf9 Budgeting Team

Budgeting for DebConf9 was very challenging, particularly since the DebConf9 budget team did not include anyone local to Spain. Despite these challenges, the budget team was able to develop a workable budget and continued to refine it up to and through the conference itself, allowing yet another excellent DebConf to occur.

Fortunately, DebConf9's budget was logistically less complex than DebConf8's, as we only needed to deal with two non-profit organizations rather than three. Since DebConf9 was being held in the EU, we utilized FFIS (Förderung Freier Informationen und Software) to receive money on behalf of DebConf9, primarily from the eurozone. SPI (Software in the Public Interest) also received money on behalf of DebConf9, primarily from countries outside of the eurozone.

When we started preparing for DebConf9, we were expecting 400 attendees. As always, we worked on a very tight budget: we wanted to stretch the money from our external sponsors to cover as many attendees as possible. We were fearful that many planned events would have to be canceled or downgraded due to lack of money. We also considered charging for some events rather than sponsoring them outright.

Year	Venue	People	Budget (USD)
2000	Bordeaux, France	30	\$0,00
2001	Bordeaux, France	50	\$0,00
2002	Toronto, Canada	90	\$5.000,00
2003	Oslo, Norway	130	\$25.000,00
2004	Porto Alegre, Brazil	150	\$75.000,00
2005	Helsinki, Finland	300	\$130.000,00
2006	Oaxtepec, Mexico	310	\$150.000,00
2007	Edinburgh, Scotland	394	\$180.000,00
2008	Mar del Plata, Argentina	223	\$160.000,00
2009	Cáceres, Spain	246	\$75.000,00

An uncertain global economic climate and other factors led many people to cancel their travel plans. We ended up with 246 attendees, of which 23 and 3, respectively, were in the "Professional" and "Corporate" categories paying the cost of their stay directly. Further, 72 more found lodging spaces by themselves in Cáceres. We covered the costs of lodging and food for 148 conference attendees.

Cost	Amount (EUR)
Travel Reimbursements	€21.094
Accommodation	€15.120
Conference Dinner	€6.550
Infrastructure and Equipment	€6.810
Food	€3.612
T-shirts	€1.760
Transportation	€1.500
Total	€56.446

Many of the usual needs that need to be covered when organizing a DebConf, such as Internet access, renting of the conference facilities, and even part of the lodging and food were directly paid by local sponsors.

From DebConf funds, we partially or fully reimbursed 49 people's travel expenses. Many of them would have been unable to come to the conference without this help, so this was an important part of our budget.

On the leisure and entertainment side, we covered the cost of the DayTrip and provided some really nice DebConf T-shirts. Finally, we held a nice dinner to celebrate in style and invited the flamenco band from the dinner to perform again the next night.

In summary, we received 109,571 EUR in total for DebConf9, and spent 56,446 EUR on the conference. We will thus be able to pass on 53,125 EUR as startup funding for DebConf10 in New York.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

DEBCONF9 DAYTRIP, A CASCADE OF GEEKS

ANDREW McMILLAN

During the middle of the conference, three full buses of attendees headed off early one morning to the Reserva Garganta de los Infiernos in Valle del Jerte. First, we visited the park information centre to get an idea of what all was around.

In typical fashion many of us were impatient with looking at dioramas of the park when the real thing was just up the hill, so a trail of developers headed off on the seemingly shortest path to the most scenic part of the park: the cascade of Garganta de los Infiernos from which the nature reserve takes its name.



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

These amazing cascades were a real treat, and a very attractive location for us to eat the prepared lunch while many conference goers attempted to negotiate the cascades first in a downwards direction, and then (for the more physically motivated) in the upwards direction. It was great to see our two blind attendees also enjoyed making their way down the cascade with a little help from everyone else.

After an hour or two at the cascades we reluctantly returned to the buses for the short journey into the town of Jerte itself where there was a river pool and we were further able to swim, or simply sit, socialising and sipping sangria in the shade. A fourth bus for the less ener-



PICTURE BY MORAY ALLAN

getically inclined had come to Jerte directly, since the nature preserve was particularly unfriendly for wheelchairs, or indeed for anyone not keen on climbing up 150m in the hot Spanish sun.

An ambulance was called when Joey Hess's foot managed to find some broken glass in the river pool, but the efficient Spanish medical system had him back with us before the buses left for Cáceres. And throughout the day, amongst all of this walking about and swimming I overheard plenty of chitchat about Debian, and plenty of geeks communicating, making friends and making plans for large and small changes that will contribute to the project in the future.

Admittedly, though, at the end of a long, hot and energetic day the main thing I heard were content snores.



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

CHEESE AND WINE PARTY

CHRISTIAN PERRIER

CheeseMaster

Each year the traditional "Cheese and Wine Party" is one of the favorite social events for DebConf attendees.

With DebConf9 being hosted in a region and a country where cheese and wine are a tradition, we could not miss that great opportunity. So, once again, a few dozens of DebConf delegates managed to bring the required "material" to make this party a success.

Local cheese was also widely represented and we would like to issue a special mention for the "Torta del Casar" provided by a local cheese shop.

The Extremaduran heat in summer turned all this into a "how to store several dozens of odorant milk derivatives for a few days" challenge. But, once again, the Debian cheese team

(organized in "Cheese cutters", "Cheese labelers", "Wine openers" and "Cheese dispatchers") was able to release on time with top quality material and avoid release-critical biological degradation.

As Debian likes new challenges, this year saw the appearance of specific Debian Wine. A local wine producer provided a high quality Vino de la Tierra de Extremadura and unique wine labels were created for that occasion.

Next DebConf will see us facing a new challenge: organizing an even better Cheese party while respecting the drastic regulation for chemical weapon importation in the United States of America. This is of course nothing that motivated free software developers can't manage. See and stink you in NYC!



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOV

DEBCONF9 CAME WITH A SURPRISE

DEBIAN WINE!

HOLGER LEVSEN
DebConf9 Organizer



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

Some time in March 2009, I had the idea of producing some bottles of Debian wine for this DebConf. Somehow I knew that Anto had contacts at a vineyard, so I asked him if, and how, it might be possible to make a few hundred bottles. As he said yes, I drank some glasses of that very wine (though obviously with a different label) and started to think about a Debian label and so on.

Together with a friend, winni@T42.de, the label design was done. We only needed 15 (saved) versions of the PDF. :-) The PDF itself is error free, though the printing process introduced three errors in one area. If you find those bugs, please make sure to fix them with a pen, so your fellow wine lovers can enjoy the beverage more purely.

All in all 1770 bottles were made, of which we had 600 for sale in Cáceres. JOY FUN EXCITEMENT! Almost all were happily bought and even more happily drunk, judging by the

faces of the Debian crowd and comments on the net.

This wine is now available from a webshop until all is sold out.

See <http://wiki.debian.org/DebianWine> for information regarding how and where to order. While the shop is able to ship worldwide, shipping to many countries is unfortunately quite expensive. This is a known bug. But, at least it is possible and has been done. If you can, please submit patches or build a new service (the wine label is released under the CC-3.0-by or W4UPL licence, at your choice) – Without doubt, it would be great to see more and even better (distributed) wine next year and the years to come!

Cheers! Enjoy sharing the wine and the software!



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS

PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

ÁNGEL VIVAS VIVAS

I went to DebConf9 because I live in a village near Cáceres, and I'm a free software supporter. I had been using Linux as my main OS for three years, and Debian about a year by the time of DebConf9, so I expected it to be a good way to meet people with the same concerns and lifestyle as mine.

For me, it was great. My initial idea was still largely overwhelmed by what DebConf was. I met a lot of people working on things I like, and sharing my same ideas. I also wanted to help as a volunteer because I use Debian, and Debian is maintained by the community, so my duty as a Debian user is to collaborate, and not only be a passive user. For me, it's very difficult to start maintaining the kernel or working on PostgreSQL packages, but I can help cabling the DebConf9 building, selling wine or t-shirts, and in many other ways.

And, for people who are starting with more technical things, there were some interesting talks at the Debian Open Day: Debian por dentro (Debian Inside), and ¿Por qué contribuir a

Debian? Experiencias personales (Why contribute to Debian? Personal experiences), and that was where I heard the best advice for getting involved in a free software project: ask yourself what Debian can do for you, and extract all the juice. Participating in the things you love and need, and with the tools you like, will be where you can contribute more to Debian.

I also asked a lot of people where they are working, what their concerns are, and that kind of stuff... most of them recommended the same I said a few lines above: ask yourself what you need, what you like, and what languages you like, and find your place in Debian.

I would also recommend to people interested in participating in Debian that having a fluent level of English will help a lot. If you want to work with people from a lot of different countries over the world, the best language for that is English.

Finally, the best part of being a volunteer is not the technical side but the human side. After DebConf, I have kept contact with a lot of great friends.



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVS



Debian: a universal operating system made by universally fun people.



See you next year at:
 **DebConf10**
New York City

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JOHNATHAN MCDOWELL

People often aren't entirely sure what to make of my annual trips to DebConf. They're impressed that I've travelled so widely, but then bemused that I do this on my own time and money for something that isn't really that related to my day job. It has to be said that part of the appeal of DebConf is the social side of things; it's always great to see the many friends I have in Debian in person, people I've only ever spoken to before online. This year was no exception to that – I had many a pleasant lunch and beer over the course of the conference, with people I would rarely, if ever, see if not for DebConf. The reasonably central location of the venue within the city of Cáceres meant it was easy to go for a wander around during the break between the morning and afternoon talks, providing plenty of places to explore for lunch and dinner with other conference goers.

Don't get the impression that I think DebConf is all about having a good time however. It's important to realise that underneath all of the socialising is a lot of very important contact for Debian. We are often accused of being quick to anger on our mailing lists, and part of this is due to the highly decentralised nature of the project. My experience in the commercial world has been that telecommuting is fine for

most of the time, but it must absolutely be accompanied by the chance to meet colleagues face to face. This allows both an understanding of where other people are coming from (are they a serious person, do they joke a lot, etc., which helps understand their online posts) as well as a chance for exchange of ideas and the opportunity to have useful discussions that may simply not happen without in-person contact. With my keyring-maint hat on I achieved two very useful pieces of work at DebConf9: first talking to Gunnar Wolf about him joining the keyring-maint team and then also being able to sit down with representatives from the DM team, DSA and FTP masters to discuss how to best move the DM keyring into the keyring.debian.org infrastructure. Yes, both of these could have been achieved remotely, but DebConf allowed it to get done much more efficiently and swiftly, simply by having all the appropriate people in the same place.

It takes a lot of work to make DebConf come together, but it pays off in terms of the benefit to the project that comes out of it. While many people were involved in making DebConf9 great I have to say special thanks to César and Anto, the local team members who gave up a considerable portion of their lives for many months to produce this year's event.

GUNNAR WOLF

This has been a great two weeks. DebCamp was – of course – followed by DebConf. My blog postings were kept silent to an absolute minimum, just as my measurable productivity. Of course, this does not mean I have been scratching my belly or anything. Orga team work is HARD and tiring. But it is great fun. And sitting at the front desk means you get to interact with everybody. For \$DEITY's sake, it is the best way to get to know people



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVŠ



PICTURE BY AIGARS MAHINOVŠ

MICHAL ČIHAŘ

Thanks to all people who organised DebConf9, from my POV everything went really smoothly and I enjoyed my time there. I finally met people I meet daily on the mailing lists and now I can finally imagine people behind those email addresses.

GREGOR HERRMANN

After having attended the Debian conferences in Edinburgh and Mar del Plata, there was no question that I would join DebConf9 in Cáceres, too. After meeting some other participants on my trip there, first in Munich and then in Madrid, we were welcomed by the helpful members of the local team in the Residencia Muñoz Torrero and later by the friendly catering staff – and I immediately felt comfortable in this place which would be our "home base" for the next two weeks.

DebCamp was relaxed and productive as in the years before, and being able to sit outside in the shadow with great WiFi coverage made it even more fun to work on Debian stuff. The nearby park made it easy to go out in the evening and have a chat and a drink

with fellow Debian guys and get to know them better than is possible via email or IRC.

DebConf itself was exciting again: with cool talks, productive workshops and ad-hoc meetings I could feel how this bunch of volunteers work hard to improve the great operating system we are producing – and have lots of fun while doing so. Social events like the cheese and wine party, the day trip and the conference dinner, or spontaneous excursions to Cáceres' old town topped off a successful conference.

I'd like to thank everybody in the local and the global team who contributed to this experience, and I'm looking forward to the next DebConf in New York and especially to meeting so many great people again!

DEBCONF9 IN NUMBERS

GUNNAR WOLF

DebConf9 PentaBarf Team

When we started working towards DebConf9, we were expecting it to be probably the largest DebConf ever. However, it soon became obvious we would not be able to escape the global recession. In the end 271 people reconfirmed their attendance and 246 actually attended the conference. This was still a 10% increase from the previous year.

Year	Registered	Confirmed	Attended
2007	544	456	394
2008	500	252	223
2009	452	271	246

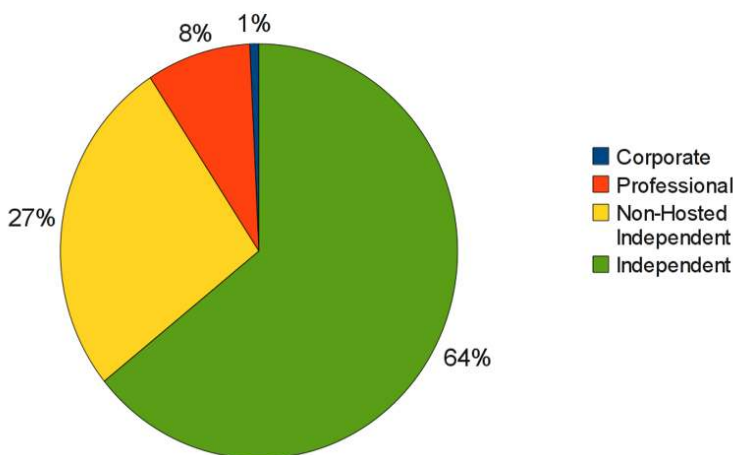
Even though DebConf is fully sponsored for all of those who register on time, since DebConf7 it's possible for attendees to help DebConf by covering the costs of their accommodation and food expenses, if either they or their employers could afford it.

Some people also chose to help DebConf by paying the €15 per day for their meal, which is a low price by Spanish standards, and while 166 people requested full food sponsorship, 105 decided to pay by themselves.

There's a relatively high number of vegetarians and vegans in our ranks: close to 10% of the attendees are vegetarian or vegan, a much higher number than that of the general population.

Few things show as much diversity as the geographic origins of our attendees. We had attendees coming in from 39 different countries; 160 attendees were from Europe, 26 from North America, 19 from South and Central America, 7 from Asia, and 3 from Oceania. This distribution has roughly held for past DebConf9s occurring in Europe, and shows what an international effort DebConf is.

Attendees by Category



ATTENDEES BY COUNTRY

Unspecified	56
Germany	38
Spain	36
United Kingdom	27
United States of America	23
France	15
Austria	8
Venezuela	7
Switzerland	6
Brazil	5
Argentina	4
Belgium	4
Japan	3
Finland	3
Mexico	3
Italy	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2
Hungary	2
Australia	2
Netherlands	2
Portugal	2
Ireland	2
Denmark	2
Poland	1
Israel	1
Iran	1
Taiwan	1
China	1
Greece	1
Bulgaria	1
El Salvador	1
Peru	1
Luxembourg	1
Colombia	1
Russia	1
New Zealand	1
Norway	1
Latvia	1
Czech Republic	1
Romania	1

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE!

