RC bug fixing + NMU = Fun
how to have fun via NMU campaigns and RC bug fixing

Stefano Zacchiroli
zack@debian.org

Debian

August 1st, 2010
DebConf10, New York City

Outline

1. Experience report: RCBW

2. BoF — open discussion

Outline

Credits

Sesse original idea

. . . , gregoa, Rhonda, Tolimar, spang, cjwatson, thorsten, pochu, marcot, rafael, Clint, . . .

and everyone else that one way or another participated and/or contributed to spread the verb

Motivations

- ~~fix as many RC bugs as possible~~
- raise awareness and collaboration on RC fix, motivate people
- dispel myths: *"NMU are bad"*, *"NMU are not welcome"*

---

underlying assumption [IMVHO]

the "my own pet packages" model does not scale

we can't keep on releasing that way for much longer
releasing is not *only* the release team job
we need a cultural shift

Some details

- 26 "weeks", $\lesssim$ 1 bug per day (on average), $\approx$ 180 NMUs
- "easy" bugs, or at least not the hardest left
- maintainer feedback   dispel myths ✓
  - ▸ no single complaint
  - ▸ (a couple of overrides)
  - ▸ lots of "thank you"
- $\lesssim$ 10 people joined, to various degrees

thesis

all this would have been pointless without communication

Communication

- a web page: `http://deb.li/rcbw`
  - ▸ motivations
  - ▸ used NMU work-flow / best practices
  - ▸ pointers to: HOWTOs, docs, primers, . . .
- one blog post to announce the start of the initiative
- one blog post / week
  - ▸ bugs squashed, summary
  - ▸ pointers to other people joining the initiative
- μblogging happy

Outline

Working questions

- do you have NMU (campaign) experiences? good or bad ones?
- *advertising* NMU campaign: useful or just SPAM?
- is the goal of "more collaborative" RC-fix worthwhile?
- how can we motivate people to do more NMUs?
- (how) should we communicate about NMU campaigns?
- are *current* NMU rules (devref §5.11.1) good enough?
    - is LowThresholdNMU useful anymore?
- do we need an "NMU" equivalent for package removals?
- provocation: as an NMU-er, is `Maintainer` a feature or a bug?

Help out with collaborative minutes:
```
# apt-get install gobby-0.5
$ gobby-0.5 -c gobby.debian.net
open dc10-bof-rc-bugs
```

Thanks!

Stefano Zacchiroli
zack@debian.org
http://upsilon.cc/zack