Collaboration Between Debian and Ubuntu
Four animals later

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Debian Project Leader

31 October 2011
Ubuntu Developer Summit — P
Orlando, Florida, USA

A brief (and biased) timeline of our relationship

http://xkcd.com/523/

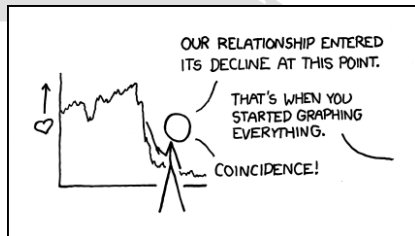|	
Aug 1993	Debian birth
Jul 1997	Debian Social Contract
Mar 2004	Canonical birth
Oct 2004	Ubuntu Warty release
Apr 2005	Ubuntu Hoary release
Jun 2005	Debian Sarge release (after a long delay)
2006–2007	The Big Crisis™

- Debian: *"Ubuntu is not giving back!"*
- Debian: *"Ubuntu is taking all the credit!"*
- Ubuntu: *"Debian is not easy to work with"*
- Ubuntu: *"Debian is hostile to us"*

2008 getting better, signs of mutual interest in collaboration

April 2010 — still a touchy topic

We've had in the past ~~multiple~~ discussions about what we don't like about our relationship with Ubuntu/Canonical [...] it's about time to step forward and present our feelings to Ubuntu and Canonical.

I'm well aware that this topic is controversial. [...] That is why, for the moment, I solicit comments in private mail

— Yours truly, preparing UDS-M attendance

`http://lists.debian.org/debian-project/2010/04/msg00069.html`
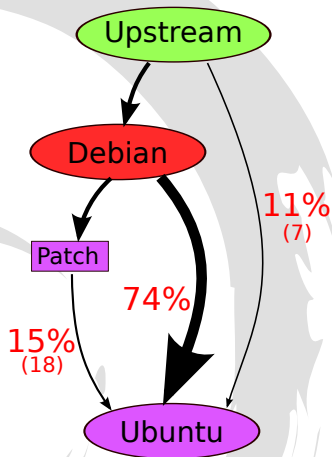
making LWN headlines — not exactly a "good sign"

Distribution News

Debian GNU/Linux
The Debian leader goes to UDS

Recently elected Debian leader Stefano Zacchiroli went to the Ubuntu De improve relations between the two. He has posted a couple of interesting first being the results of a survey of Debian developers: "The most ap and Ubuntu seems to be 'mixed teams', where about a dozen such teams,

April 2010 — state of the art

- *"Debian is the rock upon which Ubuntu is built"*, in numbers
- mythbustering: Debian does ~~not~~ welcome Ubuntu contributions
- don't make Debian cry
  - be a good downstream
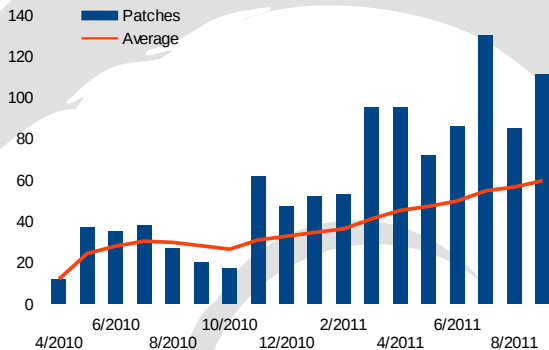 - be a good upstream
- call for feedback: what makes *you* cry

Upstream → Debian

Debian → Patch → Ubuntu: 15% (18)

Debian → Ubuntu: 74%

Upstream → Ubuntu: 11% (7)

data for Oneiric (Natty), main+universe;

source: UDD, thanks lucas

What *you* have done since then

forwarded Ubuntu→Debian patches per month; source: Debian BTS, thanks Laney

- increase in forwarded patches
- new "upstream first" guidelines for new packages (in Universe)
- more Ubuntu people getting involved in Debian as DMs/DDs

What *we* have done since then   (excerpt)

Derivatives Front Desk   `wiki.debian.org/DerivativesFrontDesk`

- contact point and discussion place
- make emerge a critical mass of DDs interested in collaboration

Debian dErivatives eXchange (DEX)   `dex.alioth.debian.org`

- short-lived cross-distro projects to merge back changes
- visible progress

Derivatives Census   `wiki.debian.org/Derivatives/Census`

- gather detailed information about derivatives
- useful for QA and for relationship development
- **new**: "patches.ubuntu.com" equivalent for all derivatives

Solutions for *all* derivatives, obtained generalizing what we've
learned from the Debian ↔ Ubuntu experience.

Progress.

On the bright side

- talking to each other makes a difference
- mixed teams is still the way to go
- Ubuntu: taking their downstream hat more seriously
  - dark spots still exist   (but we aren't w/o sin either)
- we appreciate, we really do, keep the fun going!

On the dark side

- getting Canonical software into Debian ain't easy
  - mismatched expectation about the upstream hat

New opportunities

- mentoring, together

New challenges

- the role of ISVs / 3rd party applications

Work in Progress.

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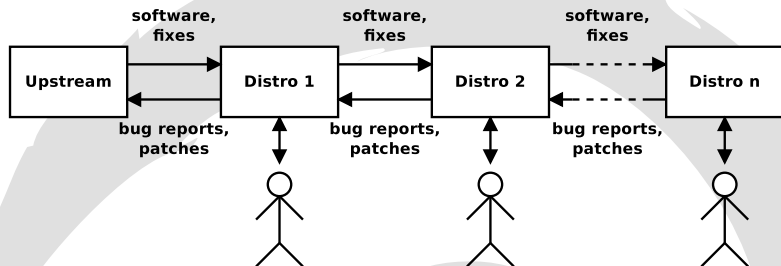 - ▸ mismatched expectation about the upstream hat

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Our view on Free Software distribution

Free Software is bigger and more important
than Debian, Ubuntu, and any other distro or project

- embrace the responsibility of reducing patch flow "viscosity"
- all contributions propagate, everybody wins

Free Software universally available [on a deadline]

— sabdfl, today's keynote

Summary:

- Progress.
- Let's do better!   → join Debian health check at 5:05pm
- A common view (?)

Questions?

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poke me at UDS-P !