Collaboration Between Debian and Ubuntu

Four animals later

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Debian Project Leader

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Ubuntu Developer Summit — P
Orlando, Florida, USA
A brief (and biased) timeline of our relationship

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 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”
“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

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- Collaboration with Debian

Stefano Zacchioli (Debian)

Source: UDD, thanks Lucas

UDS-P, Orlando
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
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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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!
- A common view (?)

→ join Debian health check at 5:05pm

Questions?

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http://upsilon.cc/zack
http://identi.ca/zack
poke me at UDS-P!

about the slides:
available at
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