The debian-devel List
Problems and How to Possibly Fix Them

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Outline

What is Wrong?

Some Statistics

What are Others Doing?

Code of Conducts

What Could We Do?
What is Wrong?

- Too flame-warish?
- Too chatty/off-topic/bikesheedy?
- Lots of DDs not subscribed anymore
  - Fragmentation of community

- What else?
Some Statistics

- Posts/month
Some Statistics

- Number of ITP and off-topic/spam threads
What are Others Doing?

- Different projects/distributions have different guidelines
- Gentoo
  - gentoo-dev - around 500 mails/month (quite volatile, 250-800)
  - Moderation team
  - Not moderated except in extreme, rare cases
- Ubuntu
  - ubuntu-devel - 200-300 mails/month
  - non-developers get moderated
  - Non-moderated (before the fact) ubuntu-devel-discuss list
  - ubuntu-devel-discuss several times bigger than ubuntu-devel - 200-700 mails/month
What are Others Doing?

- **Fedora**
  - fedora-devel-list - 2000-2500 mails/month
  - "Fixing the fail that is fedora-devel-list" – [http://jkeating.livejournal.com/69477.html](http://jkeating.livejournal.com/69477.html)
  - Fedora Board recently introduced Mailing List conduct
  - One-day list moderation (with notice to the poster)
  - Fedora Board decides in case of further abuse

- **GNOME**
  - Several earlier devel lists
  - desktop-devel-list - 100-450 mails/month
  - Mostly only desktop-wide and specific announcements issues on-topic
  - Mostly self-maintained
  - Threads or people get moderated in very rare cases
  - gnome-hackers for non-development (not used very much)
What are Others Doing?

- **OpenSuSE**
  - Not very clear what the development list is
  - opensuse-packaging: 180 mails in June
  - (opensuse-kde: 170; opensuse-marketing: 320)
  - Apparently opensuse-factory general development list (450 mails in June)
  - Packaging discussions split off to another list

- Other Good/Bad Examples?
Code of Conducts

- **Fedora**
  - "Be excellent to each other"

  - Focuses on positive behaviour - "Be respectful and considerate; Be patient and generous; Assume people mean well; Try to be concise"
  - No discussion about enforcement

  - Focuses on negative behaviour as well - "Flaming and trolling; Posting/participating only to incite drama or negativity; Being judgmental, mean-spirited or insulting; Constantly purveying misinformation"

- **Ubuntu -** [http://www.ubuntu.com/community/conduct](http://www.ubuntu.com/community/conduct)
  - Similar to GNOME - but more verbose and more user-oriented (e.g. "When you are unsure, ask for help")
  - Teams leaders held to higher standards (Leadership CoC)
What Could We Do?

- Defining On-Topicness more sharply, e.g.
  - Packaging Issues which pertain to more than one package
  - Non-packaging Development of Debian
- Reconsider rewriting (list) Code of Conduct
  - (Make it useful for non-list communication as well?)
  - Model it after one of the simpler FLOSS Code of Conducts? (GNOME’s?)
  - Maybe at least drop the CC regulations?
- Maybe split off Packaging questions/issues to a new -packaging list?
- Maybe split off WNPP Traffic to a more-useful-than -wnpp list?

- Discuss.