

The debian-devel List

Problems and How to Possibly Fix Them

Michael Banck <mbanck@debian.org>

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Outline

What is Wrong?

Some Statistics

What are Others Doing?

Code of Conducts

What Could We Do?



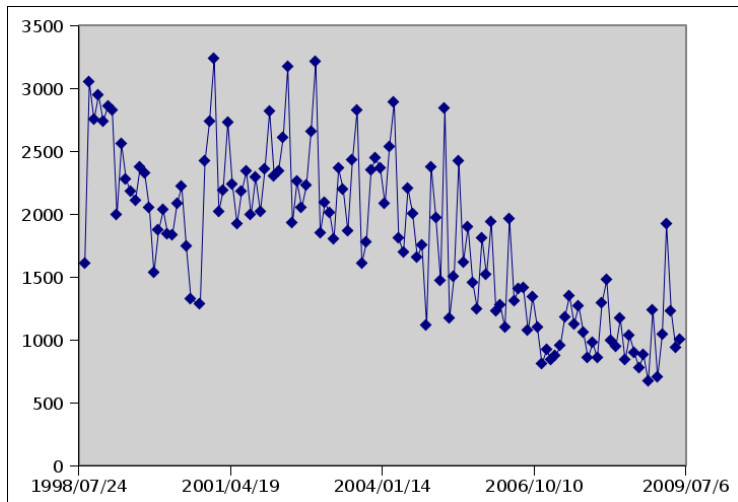
What is Wrong?

- ▶ Too flame-warish?
- ▶ Too chatty/off-topic/bikesheddy?
- ▶ Lots of DDs not subscribed anymore
 - ▶ Fragmentation of community
- ▶ What else?



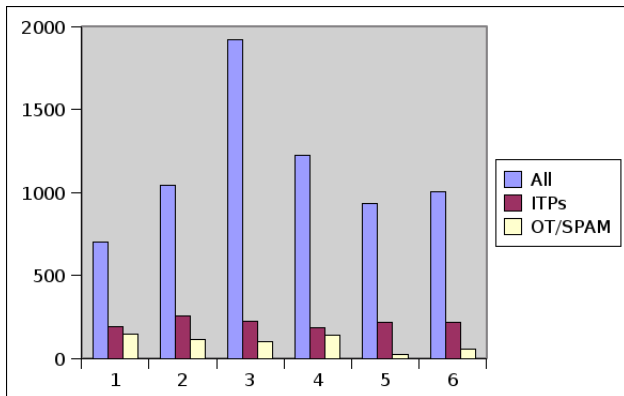
Some Statistics

► 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>
- 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"
- ▶ GNOME - <http://live.gnome.org/CodeOfConduct>
 - ▶ Focuses on positive behaviour - "Be respectful and considerate; Be patient and generous; Assume people mean well; Try to be concise"
 - ▶ No discussion about enforcement
- ▶ Gentoo - <http://www.gentoo.org/proj/en/council/coc.xml>
 - ▶ 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>
 - ▶ 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.