

Some bits about the Debian Installer

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Finland



- 1 Past and present
- 2 Debian Installer internationalization and localization
- 3 The Installation Guide
- 4 The future of Debian Installer: how to help



Outline

- 1 Past and present
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R.I.P: boot-floppies

- Ahead of the times in the early nineties
- In maintenance mode since the end of the nineties
- A pain already for Woody:
 - Lots of new architectures
 - Localization
 - Designed for floppies, not for CD or netboot



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d-i design and key-features

- debconf
 - Different frontends are possible
 - I18n
 - Preseeding files for automation
- udebs
 - Modularisation
 - Small packages that fit better into ramdisk
 - Don't have to comply with policy
- main-menu
 - Dynamically orders udebs by dependencies
 - Can be hidden from the user (by DEBCONF_PRIORITY)



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d-i development process

- Team work, different people concentrate on specific areas, >100 committers
- Informal leadership, decisions are based on consensus or who does it first and well
- Coordinated over mailing-list `debian-boot@l.d.o`, IRC channel `#debian-boot` on freenode & RL meetings
- Subversion repository at `svn+ssh://svn.d-i.alioth.debian.org/svn/d-i/`
 - Commit messages go to mailinglist and IRC
 - Trunk for new developments
 - People branches for experimental stuff
 - Sarge branch



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Drawing ideas

- English sucks
- All displayed texts must be translated
- Use of debconf
- Use of gettext (po-debconf)
- All translatable material to debconf templates



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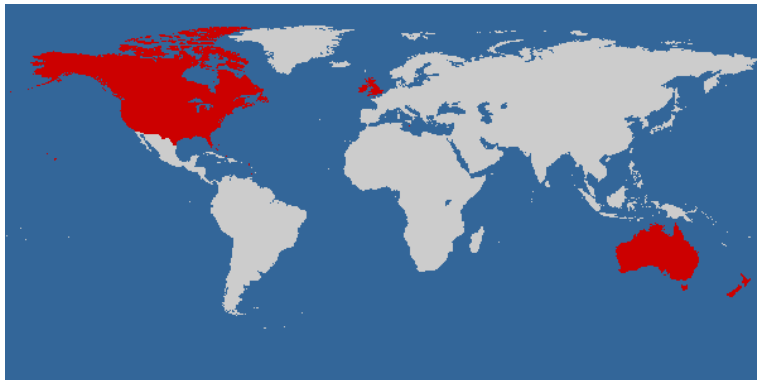


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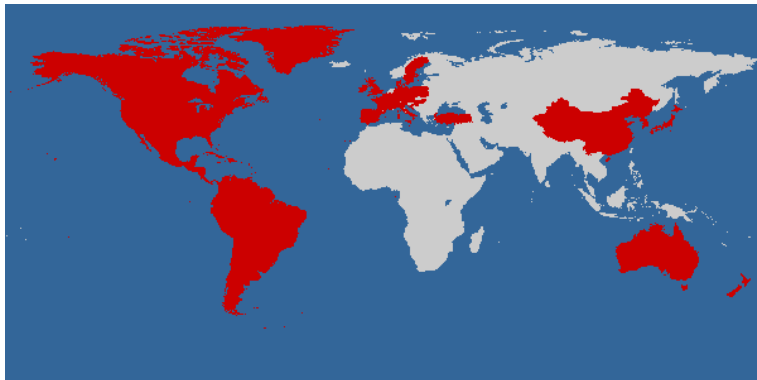
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Towards World Domination: potato



Towards World Domination: woody



Towards World Domination: sarge



Towards World Domination: etch



Levels: from d-i translation to World Domination

- Level 1: “core” d-i packages (stage 1)
- Level 2: default base system install - configuration
- Level 3: any level of base system install - configuration
- Level 4: any level of base system install - messages
- Level 5: default desktop install
- Level 6: debconf templates for all standard packages
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The future: Thou shalt be translated?

- **New languages: assist new translators**
 - More locales
 - Easier to use framework (Rosetta, Pootle, DDTP?)
- **New languages: we need the graphical installer**
 - Combining languages
 - Stop depending on Unicode “text-mode” fonts
 - Better RTL and Bidi display
 - Klingon support and Universe domination



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Introduction

- ?
- Overview
- Status
- Translations
- Future
- Technical aspects: see our paper



Overview

- **One source for all architectures**
- Available as: HTML, PDF, text, (Postscript)
- Available from several sources
 - official website
 - 1st full CD/DVD
 - package `debian-installer-manual`
 - <http://d-i.alioth.debian.org/manual/> (development version)
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Status

- Still largely based on manual for Woody :-(
- Not well balanced
- Need help: arm, hppa, mips, mipsel, powerpc, s/390

Warning

This installation guide is based on an earlier manual written for the old Debian installation system (the "boot-floppies"), and has been updated to document the new Debian installer. However, for arm, the manual has not been fully updated and fact checked for the new installer. There may remain parts of the manual that are incomplete or outdated or that still document the boot-floppies installer. A newer version of this manual, possibly better documenting this architecture, may be found on the Internet at the [debian-installer home page](#). You may also be able to find additional translations there.



Translations

- Originally direct translation of XML files: 7/12 languages
- Last year support for PO files was added: 13/19 languages
- Besides English, fully translated into 11 languages:
 - French, German, Spanish, Portuguese (pt and pt_BR)
 - Japanese, Chinese (zh_CN and zh_TW), Korean
 - Russian, Czech



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- More translations
- Better PDF support (oriental languages, Russian, Greek)
- Better integration with DDP
- Restructure/split manual?

Your help is welcome!



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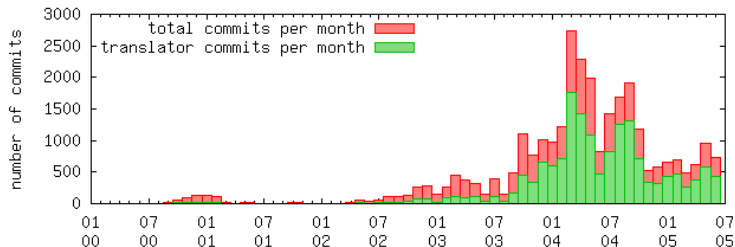
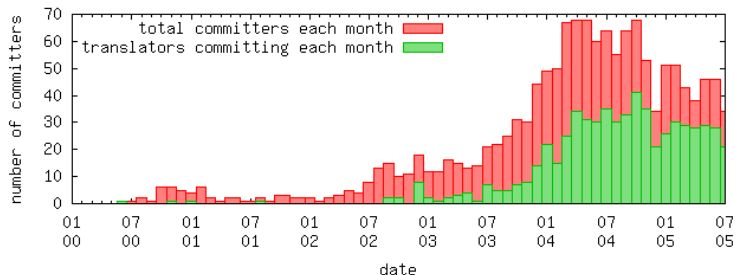


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Up and to the right?



TODO

- UTF-8 default
- d-i updates for sarge
- support installing sarge using etch installer
- graphical installer
- improve automated installs
- encrypted filesystem support
- improve hardware detection (hotplug, sata, nic renames)
- improve support for non-free firmware and drivers
- accessibility for the blind
- installs via PPPOE
- move base-config into first stage install
- disk space size checking for tasks
- make it easier to customise d-i
- remove a single question from the standard install



d-i BOF

Debian Installer open meeting at 19:00 today

