



Bdale Garbee
Open Source & Linux Chief Technologist

debian

Who is Bdale?

- First contribution to Free Software circa 1979
- HP Open Source & Linux Chief Technologist
- Contributor to Debian GNU/Linux since October 1994, including service as Debian Project Leader, early design of infrastructure, porting to several new architectures, maintaining many packages. Currently serve as chairman of the Debian Technical Committee, and therefore also currently Acting Secretary.
- President, Software in the Public Interest
- Board member of Consumer Electronics Linux Forum
- Board member of Open Media Now
- Amateur satellite and high-power model rocket builder ...

debian

Goblin 10 – Level 3 Certification

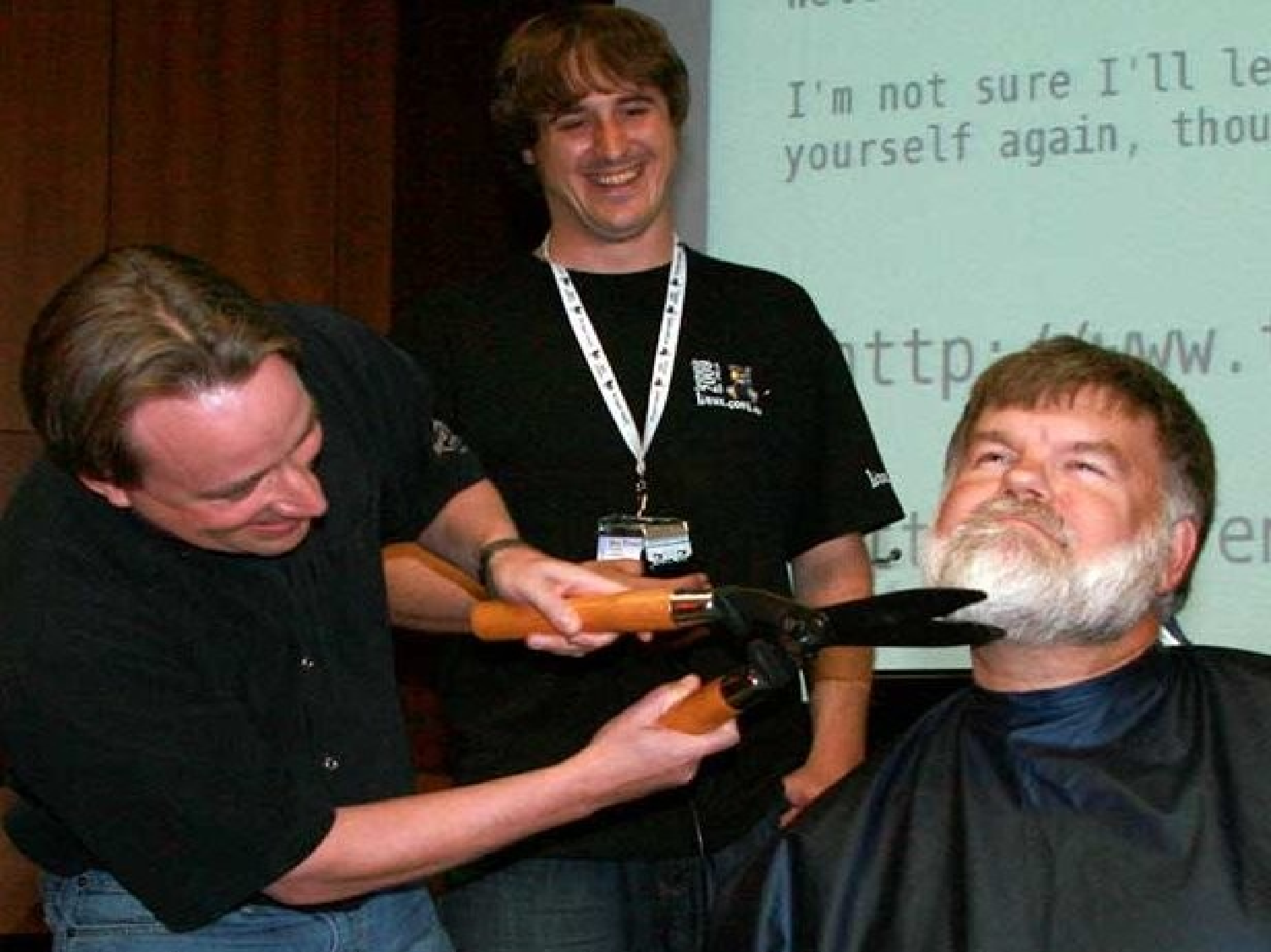


- Level 3 cert achieved
15 November 2008
- Modified kit design,
glassed fins, body is
265mm x 1.7m
- M1297W motor
- Successful recovery!
 - Main out at apogee
 - Descent rate
anomaly
 - Battery retention
failed on touch-
down



Who is Bdale?

- First contribution to Free Software circa 1979
- HP Open Source & Linux Chief Technologist
- Contributor to Debian GNU/Linux since October 1994, including service as Debian Project Leader, early design of infrastructure, porting to several new architectures, maintaining many packages. Currently serve as chairman of the Debian Technical Committee, and therefore also currently Acting Secretary.
- President, Software in the Public Interest
- Board member of Consumer Electronics Linux Forum
- Board member of Open Media Now
- Amateur satellite and high-power model rocket builder ...
- A man slowly recovering his facial dignity...



I'm not sure I'll le
yourself again, thou

http://www.

er



What is Debian?

*The Debian Project is
an association of individuals
who have made common cause
to create a free operating system.*

debian

Why does Debian Matter?

- It's about Freedom...
- Stable, functional development community
 - Non-vocal majority of developers just keep doing...
- Large number of architectures and packages
 - Open to contributions
 - Benefits of policy driving uniform experience
- Huge downstream dependency chain
 - Many derivative distributions
 - Embedded in lots and lots of interesting places

Debian Developer Locations



Key Moments in Early History

- Aug 1993 Debian 0.01 released
- Jan 1994 Debian 0.91 released
 - The Debian Linux Manifesto
 - Simple package manager
 - About 12 contributors, last “one-man release”
- Mar 1995 Debian 0.93R5 released
 - Concept of explicit package maintainers
 - Dpkg introduced
- Nov 1995 Debian 0.93R6 released
 - Dselect introduced
 - About 60 contributors
- Jun 1997 Debian Social Contract
 - Debian Free Software Guidelines led to creation of Open Source Definition
- Jul 1998 Debian 2.0 released
 - First non-ia32 architecture (m68k) supported

The Debian Linux Manifesto

- Debian Linux is a brand-new kind of Linux distribution developed openly in the spirit of Linux and GNU.
- Debian is being carefully and conscientiously put together and will be maintained and supported with similar care.
- The Debian design process is open to ensure the system is of the highest quality and that it reflects the needs of the user community.
- ... that Linux is not a commercial product and that it never should be, but that this does not mean that Linux will never be able to compete commercially.

Debian Social Contract

- Debian will remain 100% Free Software
- We will give back to the Free Software community
- We won't hide problems
- Our priorities are our users and Free Software
- Programs that don't meet our Free Software guidelines
- “Free” defined by Debian Free Software Guidelines

debian

Bug Tracking System & Policy Manual

- Since 1994 Debian has had a public bug-tracking system on the Internet. This is an open system to which people can submit bug reports, feature requests, and other comments. It is used primarily email-in, web-out.
- One important success factor for Debian is the integration of all the different packages. This is coordinated through the policy document, which gives guidelines for building and maintaining packages. Packaging and policy checking tools facilitate correctness.

Debian Constitution

- Describes the organizational structure for formal decision-making in the project. It does not describe the goals of the project or how it achieves them, or contain any policies except those directly related to the decision-making process.
- Division of Powers
 - Developers
 - Technical Committee
 - Project Secretary
 - Project Leader
 - Delegates
- Voting processes widely respected

Two Things I've Learned

- Never underestimate the value of values!
 - Values, then Vision, then Strategy, then Objectives
 - Values provide an anchor when things get stormy...
- An internal social contract is potentially as useful and important as an external one!
 - Debian has no explicit “Code of Conduct”
 - Very hard to retrofit a change in values after the fact
 - Tyranny of a vocal minority

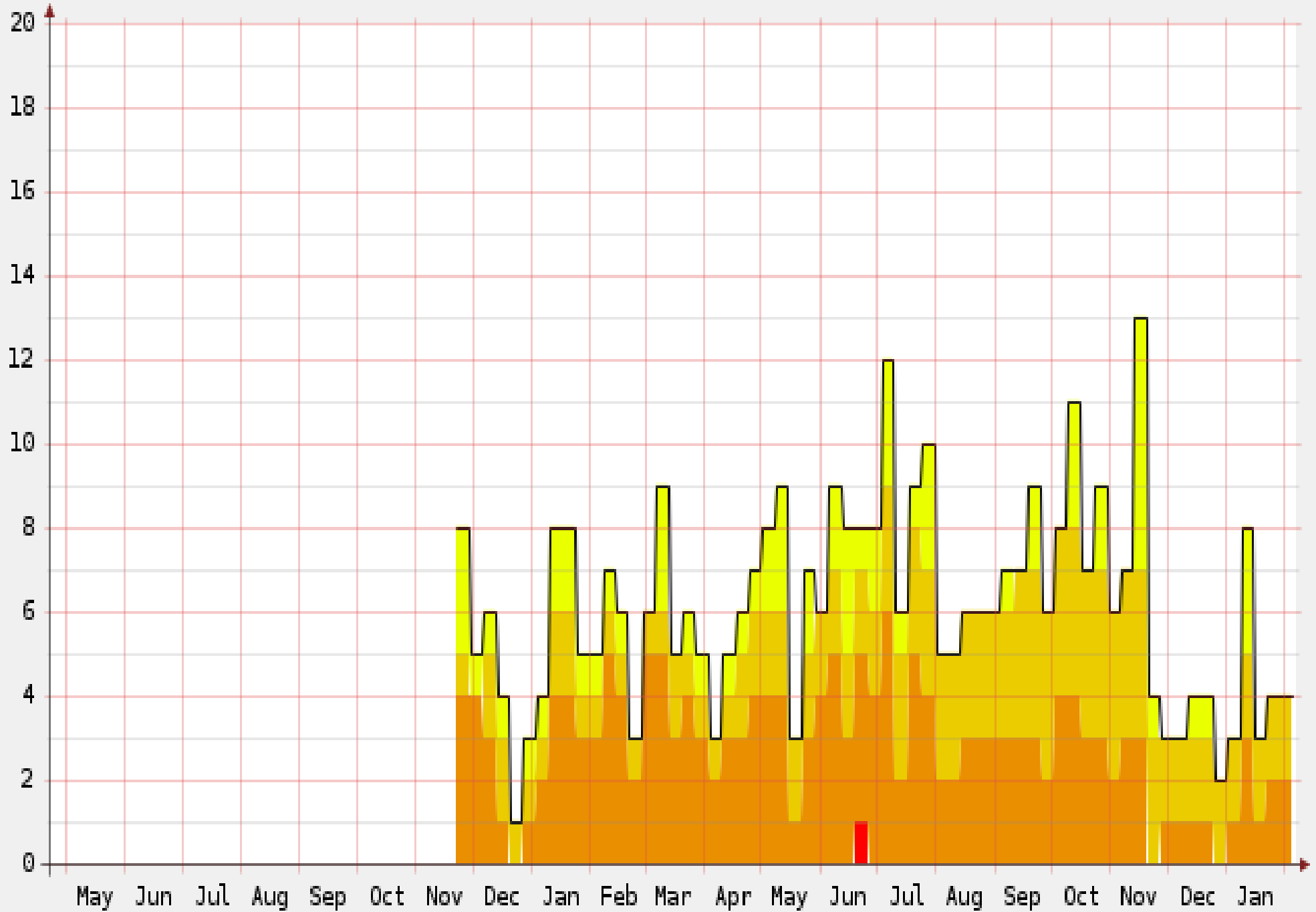
debian

Debian's Future

- Lenny
- Don't expect radical change, it isn't needed
- The Debian community is **very** strong
 - Well structured to survive current economic downturn
 - Continues to attract new contributors

debian

Bug count for debian-maintainers



■ RC: 0 ■ I & N: 2 ■ M & W: 2 ■ F & P: 0 ■ Total: 4

Debian's Future

- Lenny
- Don't expect radical change, it isn't needed
- The Debian community is **very** strong
 - Continues to attract new contributors
 - Well structured to survive current economic downturn
- Changes to the Technical Committee
- New Secretary

debian

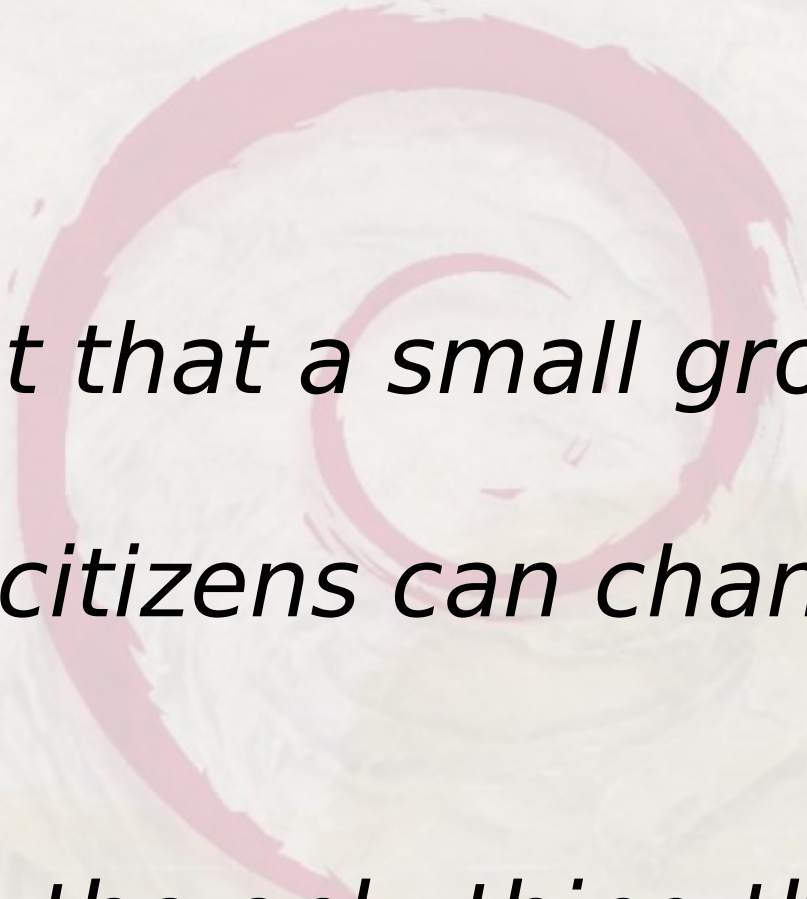
How HP Participates in Debian

- Debian support from HP, <http://hp.com/go/debian>
- Internal Uses
 - Development platform
 - Hardware enablement
 - Benchmarks and Research Projects
 - Embedded distro in various products
 - Infrastructure
- Many current debian.org servers were donated by HP
- LWN subscription for Debian Developers
- Participating in Debian helps HP stay “connected” with the Free Software community

How You Can Help Debian

- Use Debian GNU/Linux!
- Report bugs, offer solutions. We like patches!
- Help with areas that always need more help, like documentation, testing, translation, web pages...
- If you are capable, committed, and want to maintain packages or do other work for Debian, you can become a Debian Maintainer or Debian Developer

debian



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

debian

Questions?



debian.org
hp.com/go/debian