Bits from DPL

Andreas Tille

Debian

Toulouse, 17. November 2024

Debian is more than a technical project

- Susan Kleinman
- Morons! I'm surrounded by morons
  – Joel 'Espy' Klecker, 1979-2000
- Daughters and granddaughter

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Fears and hopes

Neil McGovern promised free beer in his "Bits from DPL" 2015

Fears and hopes

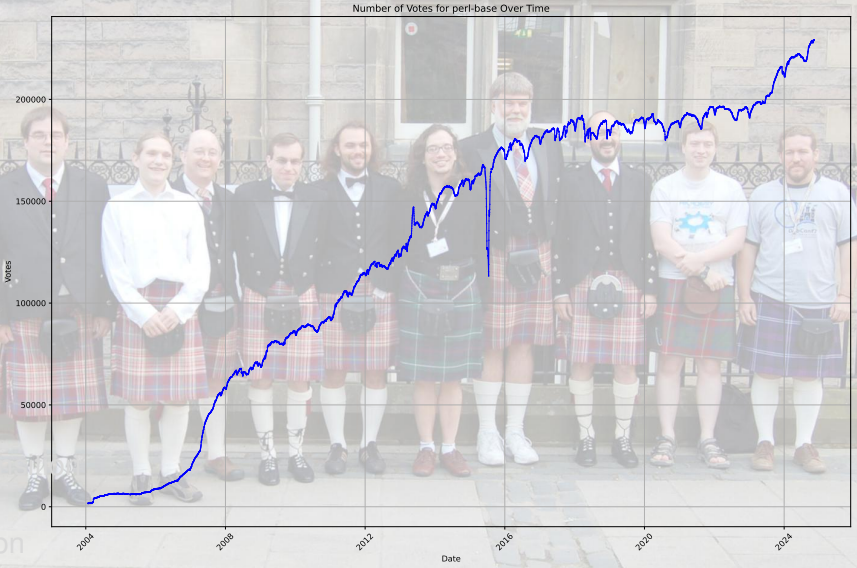
I wonder whether running for DPL is my cold turkey for my addiction to packaging.

Fears and hopes

Press:
"humble individual, something that is rare in the tech arena which is full of bloated egos"

?

Is Debian relevant?



- popcon
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- flying to the moon

Is Debian relevant?

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  21319 of 38853 srcpks
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- 64bit
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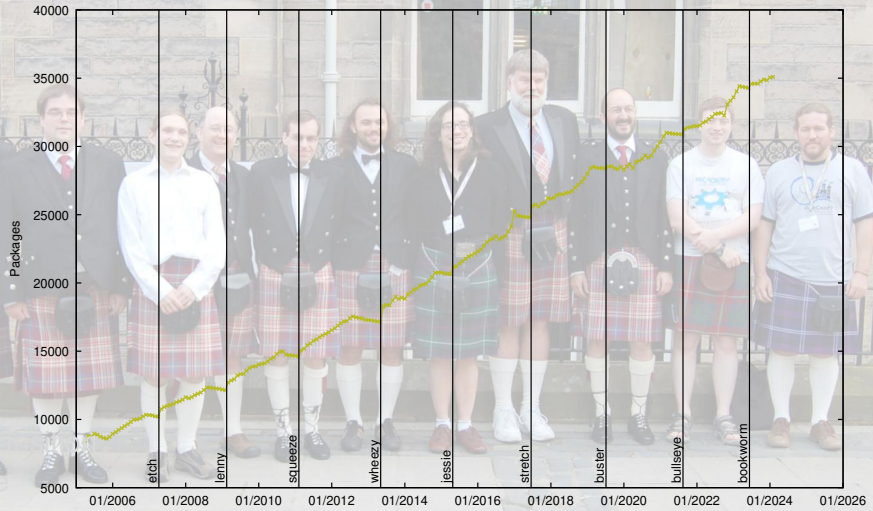

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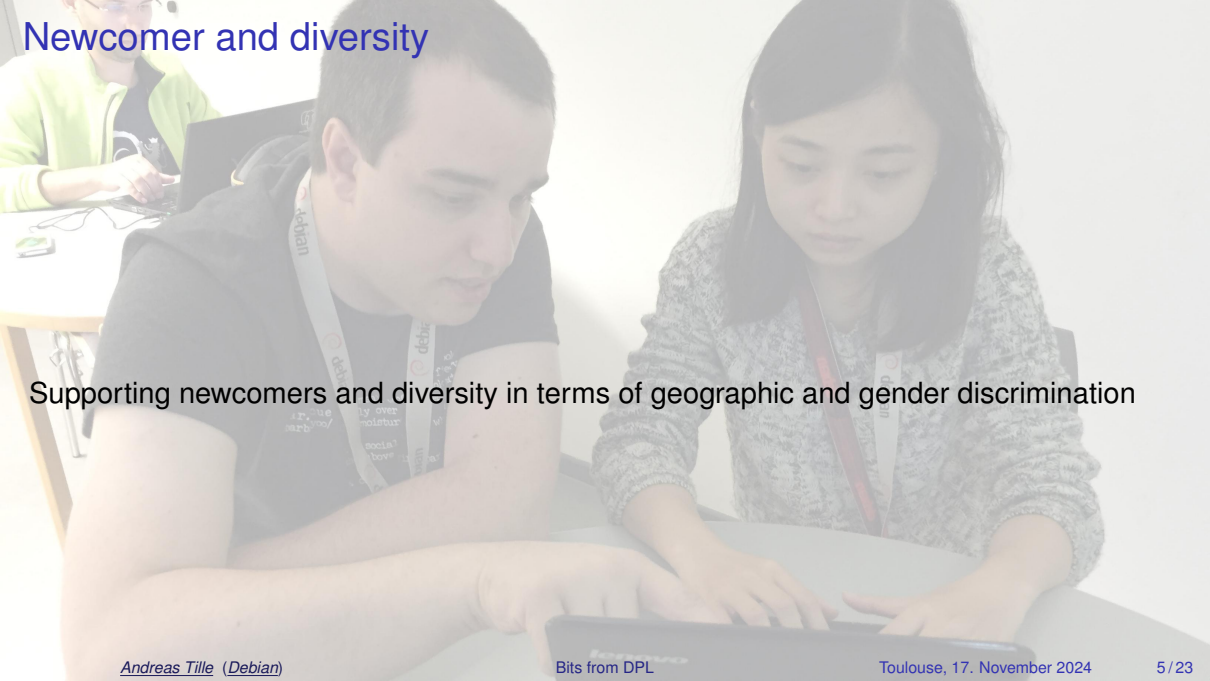
Apollo Nr: AS08-14-2383 (©NASA)

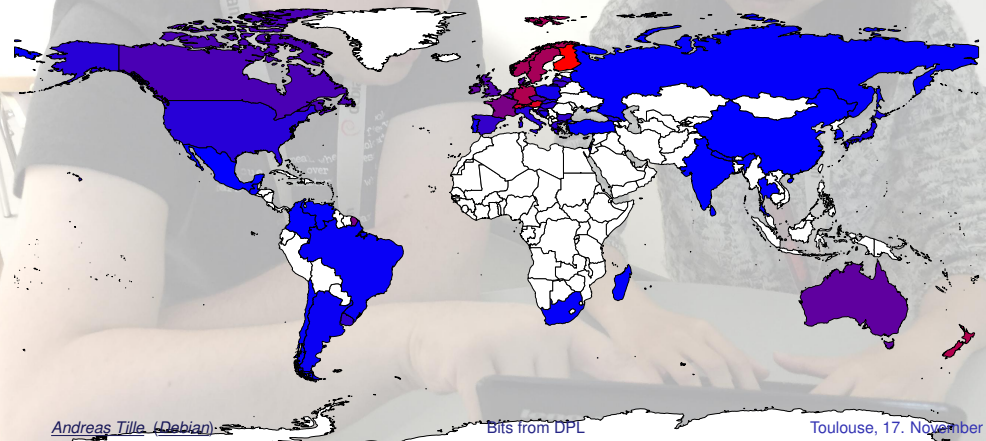
Newcomer and diversity



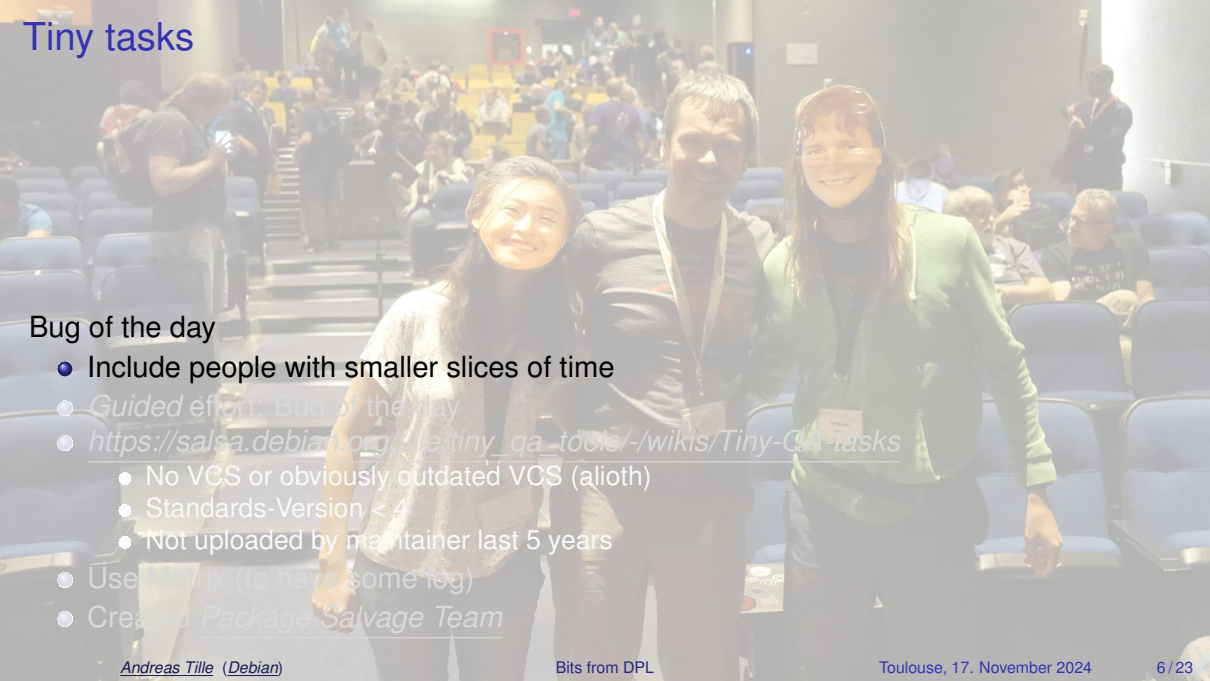
Supporting newcomers and diversity in terms of geographic and gender discrimination

Newcomer and diversity

Incidence of Debian Developers per 100,000 Inhabitants



Tiny tasks



Bug of the day

- Include people with smaller slices of time
- *Guided* effort: Bug of the day
- *https://salsa.debian.org/qa/tiny_qa_tools/-/wikis/Tiny-QA-tasks*
  - No VCS or obviously outdated VCS (alioth)
  - Standards-Version < 4
  - Not uploaded by maintainer last 5 years
- Use Mentors (to have some log)
- Create a *Package Salvage Team*

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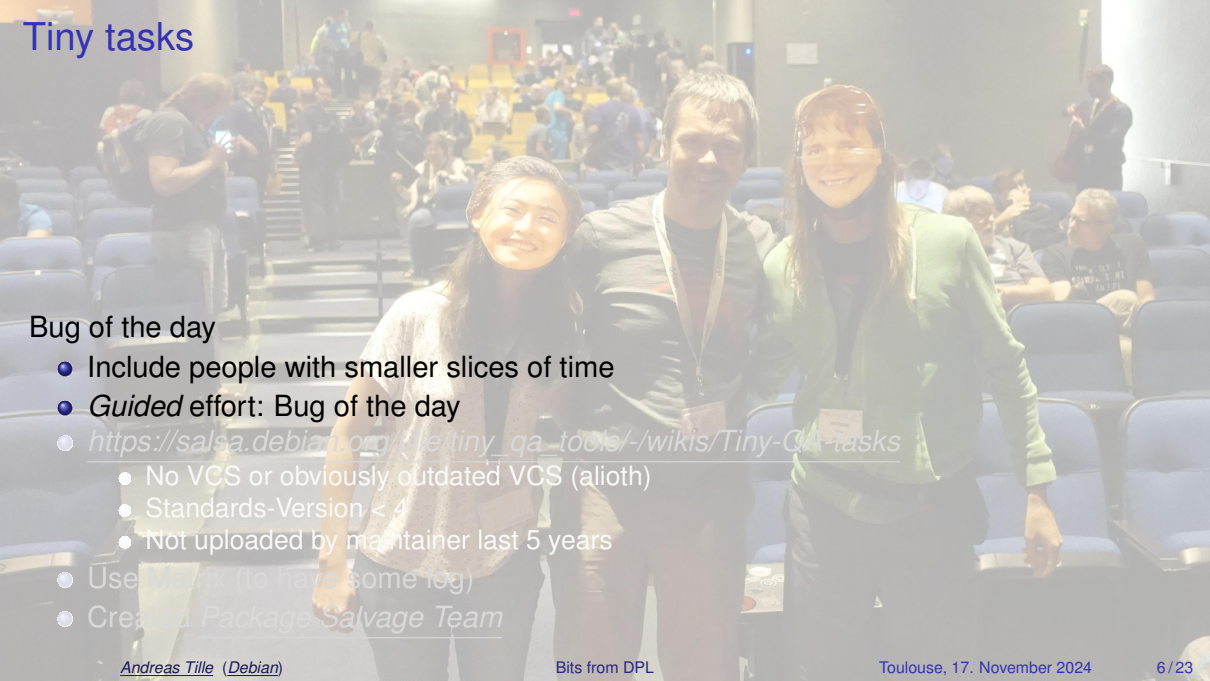

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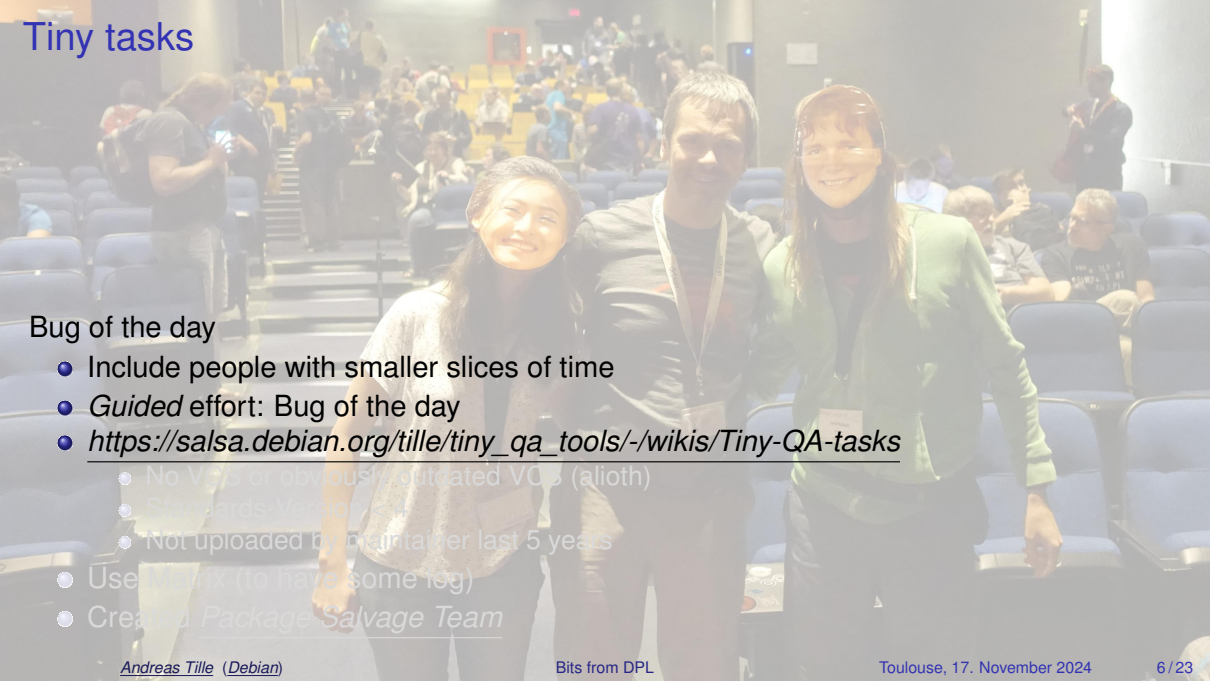

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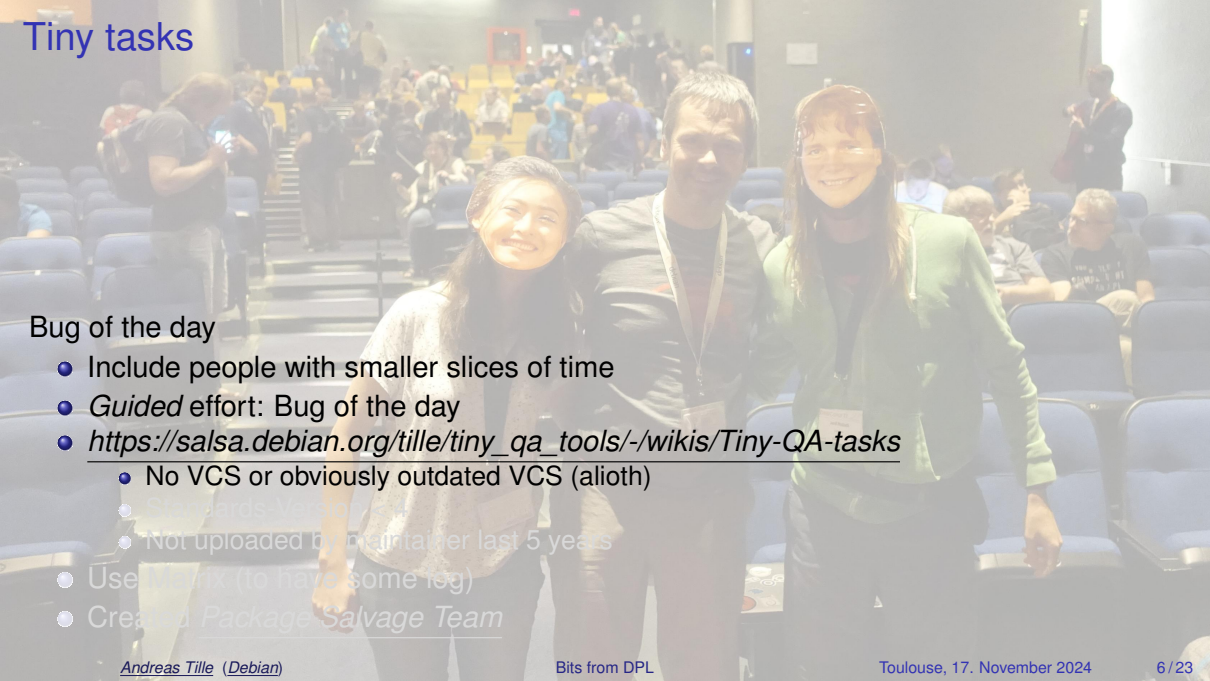

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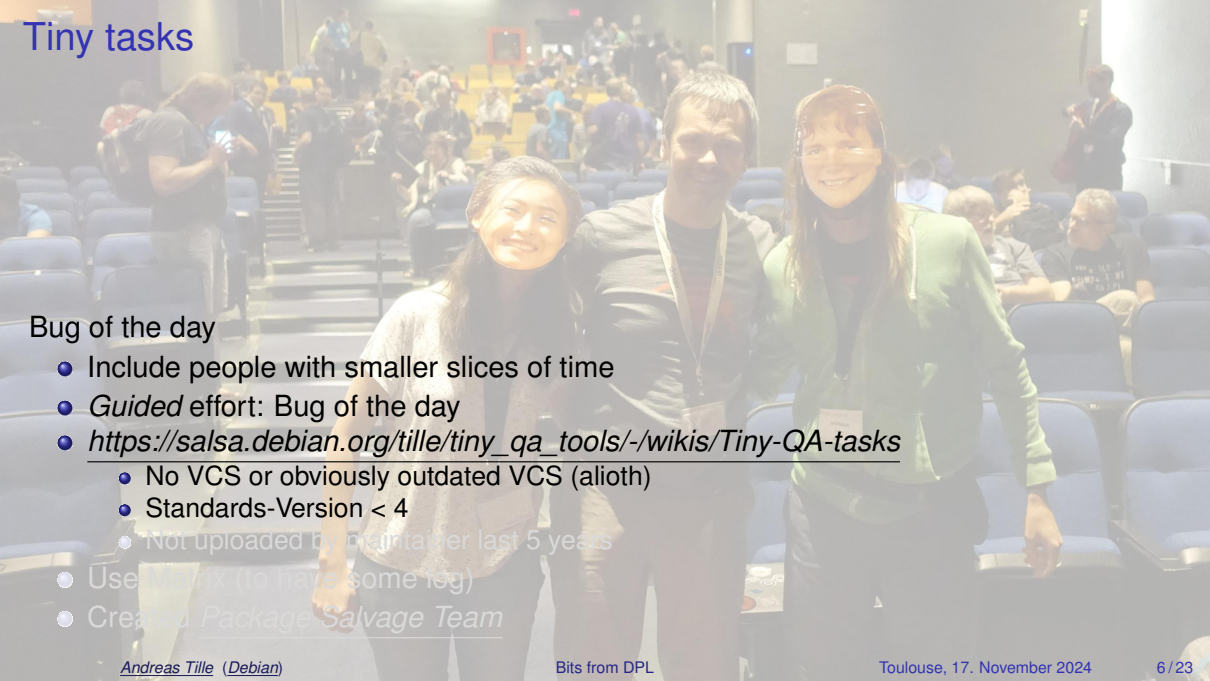

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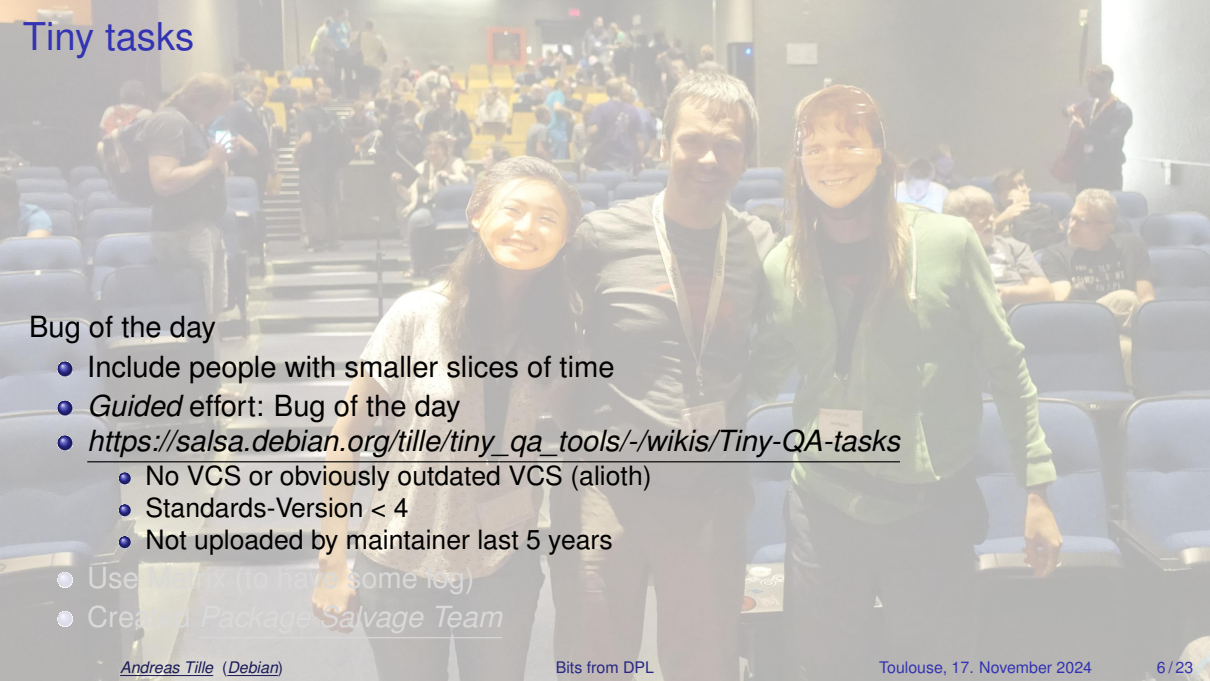

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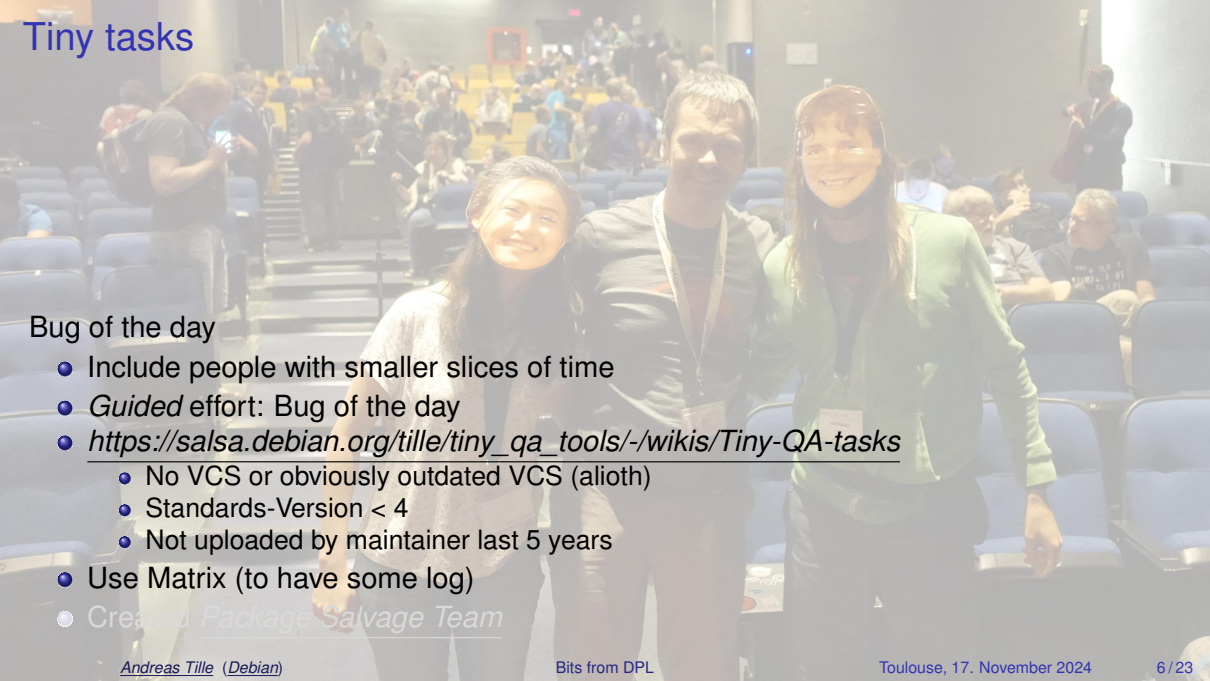

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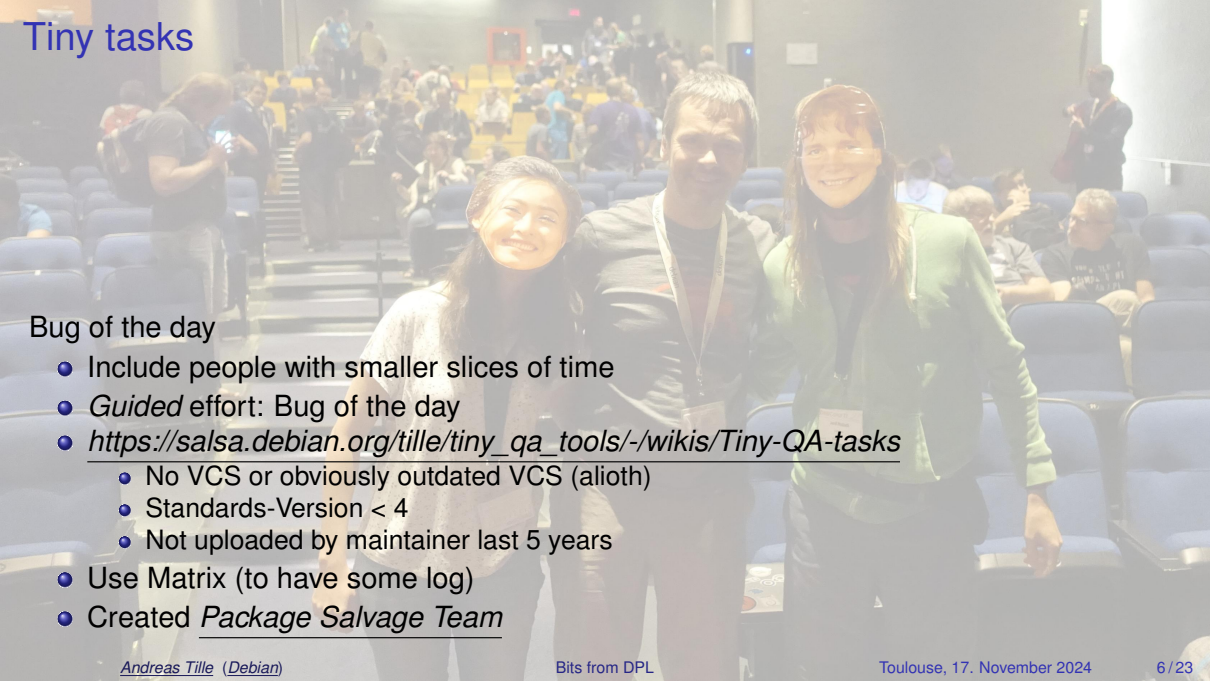

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Autopkgtest of the day

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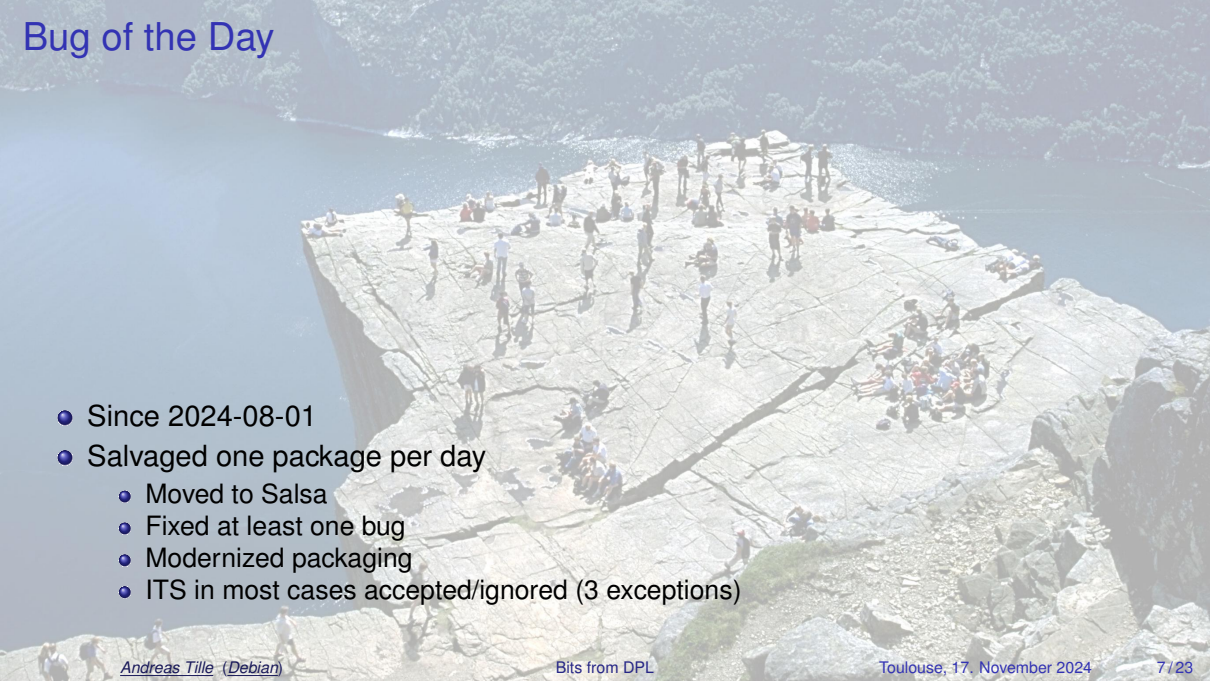

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Debian is for everyone

A Blend for every taste

Debian is resilient

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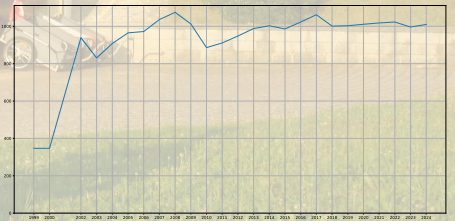
Developers come and go

- DD might become inactive
  important work will be picked up
- Works even for me
- Easier if common workflows were used



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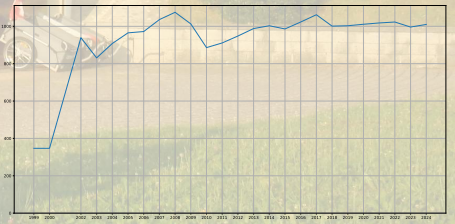
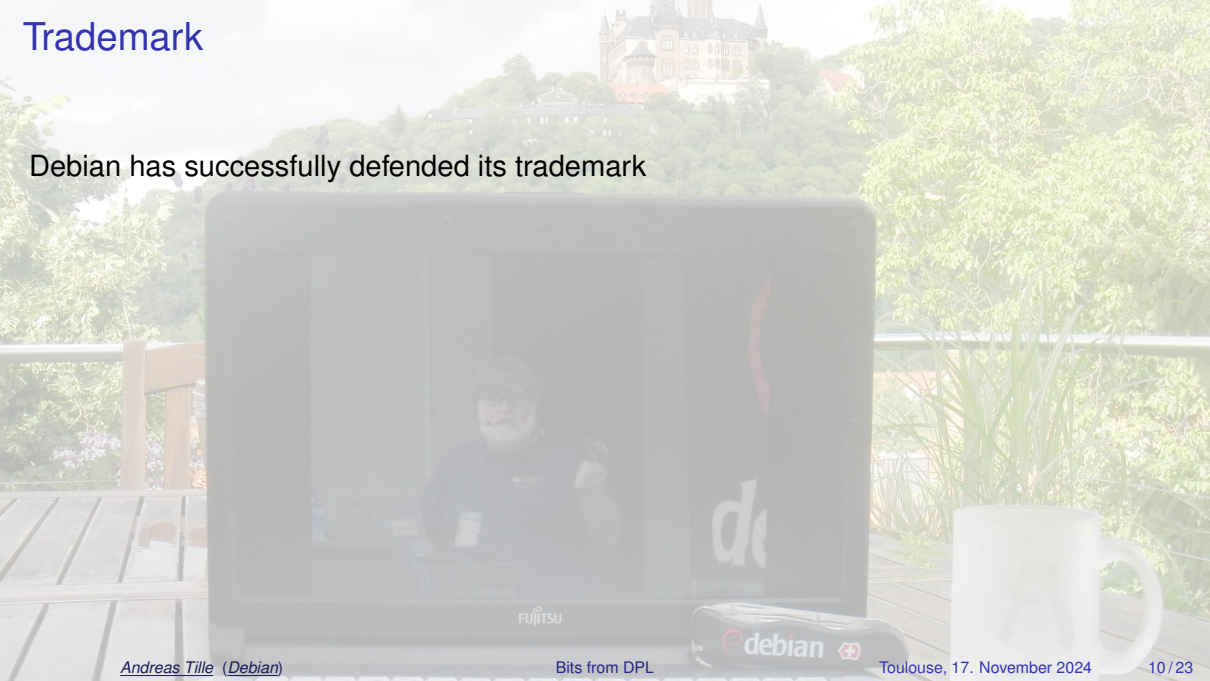


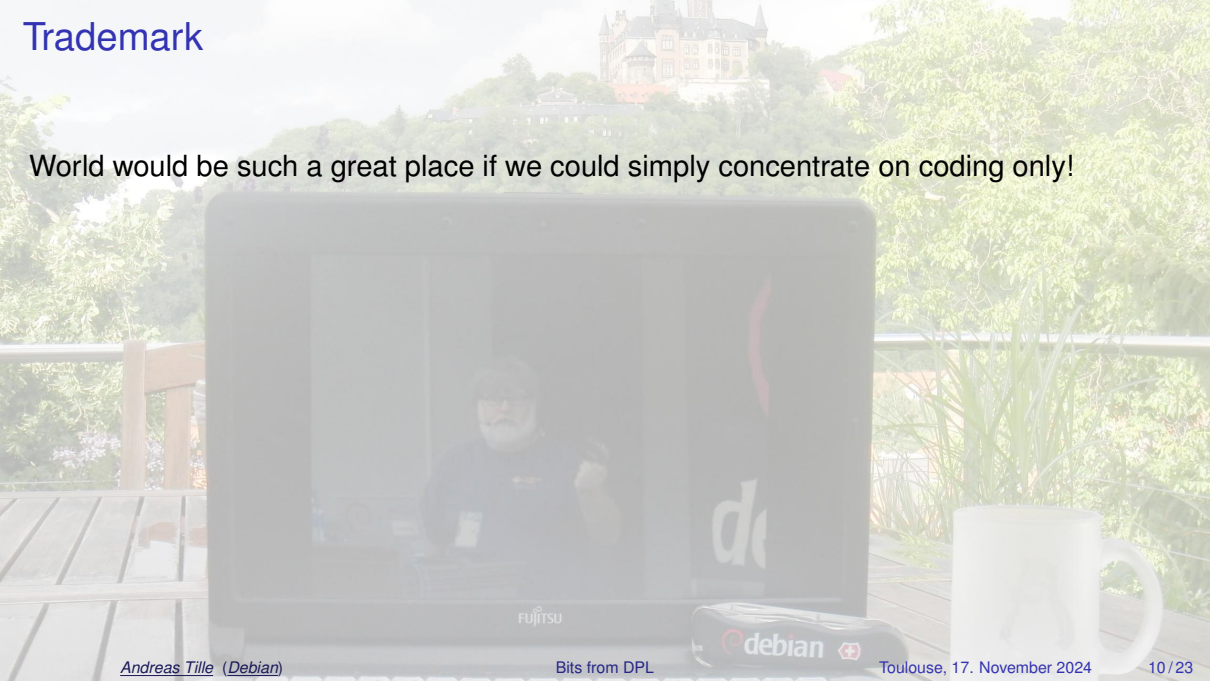
Trademark

Debian has successfully defended its trademark



Trademark

World would be such a great place if we could simply concentrate on coding only!



Statement about the EU Legislation

GR: EU Legislation "Cyber Resilience Act and Product Liability Directive"

➜ CRA and PLD proposals include regulations detrimental to FOSS

AI in Debian

- We need some policy about usage of AI-generated content in Debian
- Debian AI team
- "slowly move ROCm from 'make it work' to 'make it fast'" (Cordell Bloor)
- For new *technical* problems somehow magically arise people
- Only time for technical, not organisatorical problems

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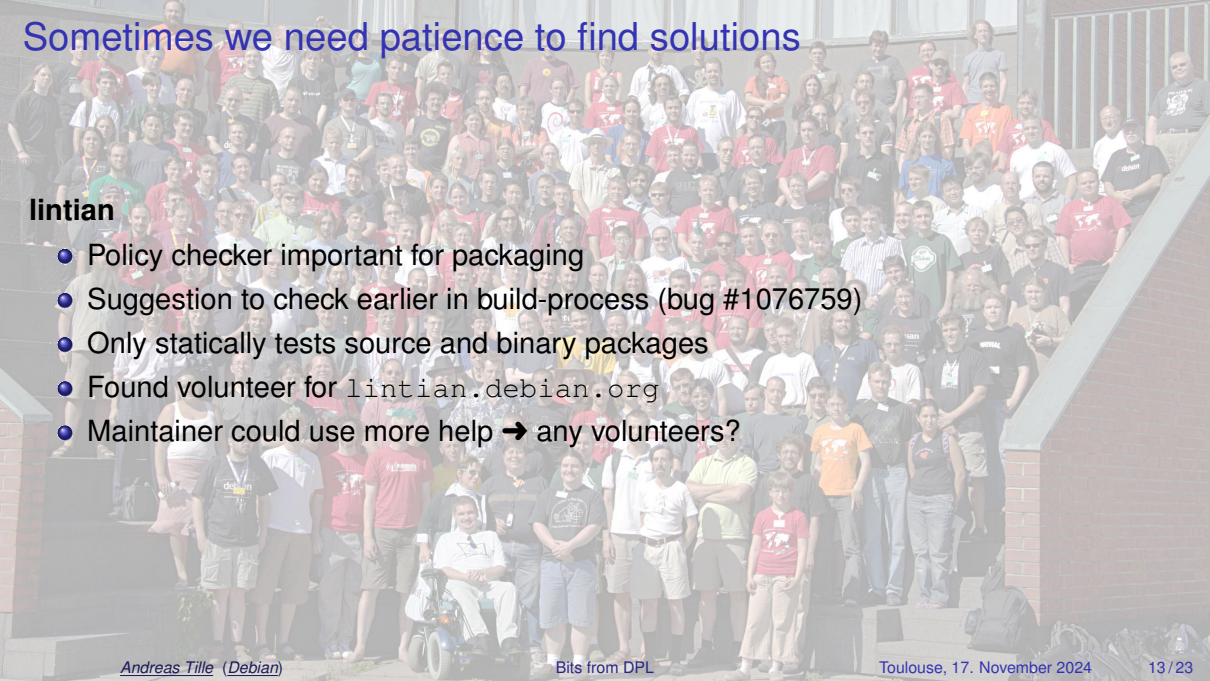
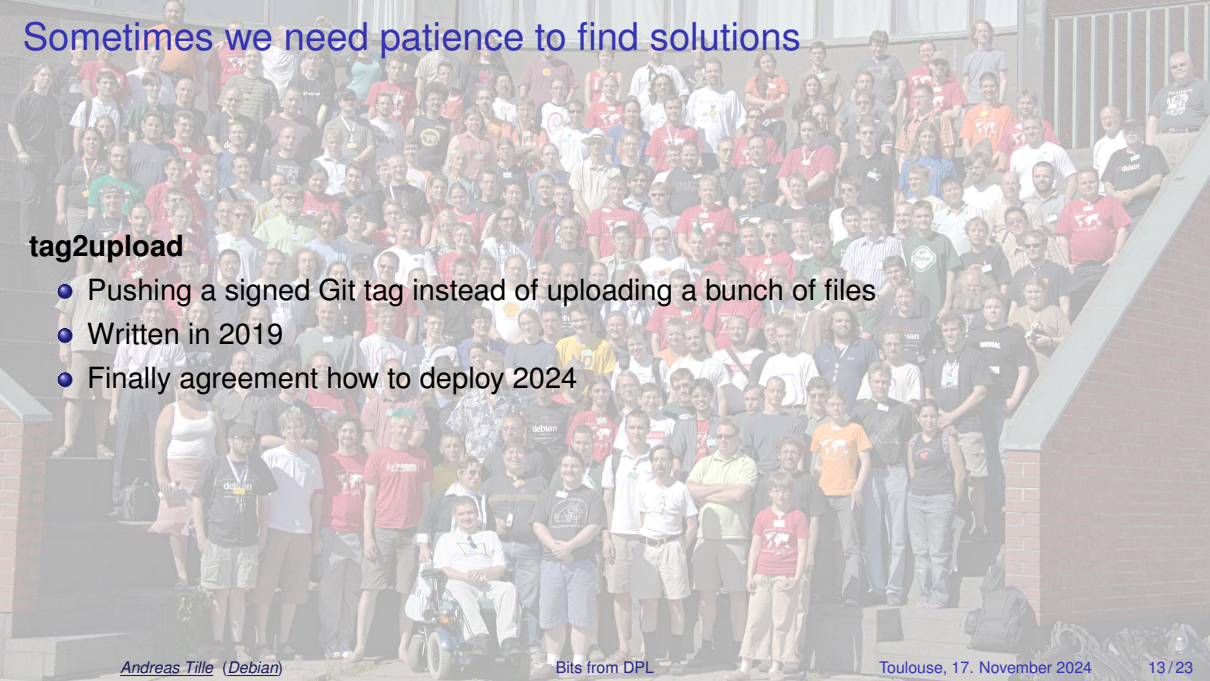


lintian

- Policy checker important for packaging
- Suggestion to check earlier in build-process (bug #1076759)
- Only statically tests source and binary packages
- Found volunteer for `lintian.debian.org`
- Maintainer could use more help ➜ any volunteers?

Sometimes we need patience to find solutions



tag2upload

- Pushing a signed Git tag instead of uploading a bunch of files
- Written in 2019
- Finally agreement how to deploy 2024

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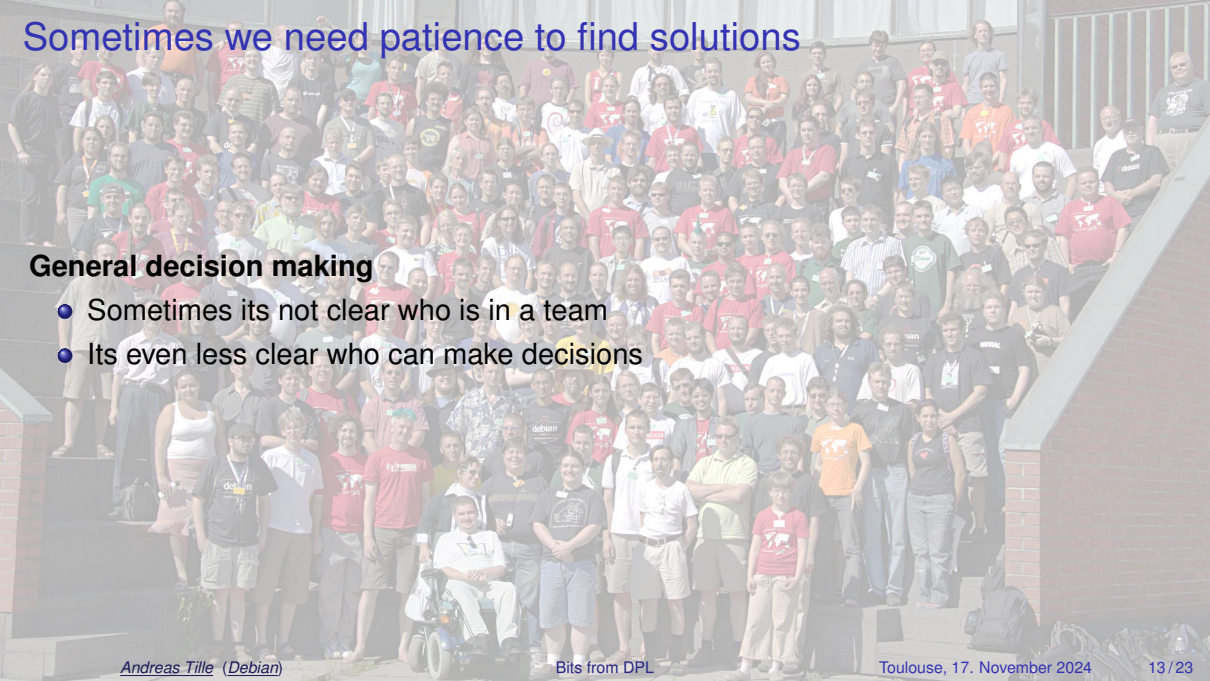
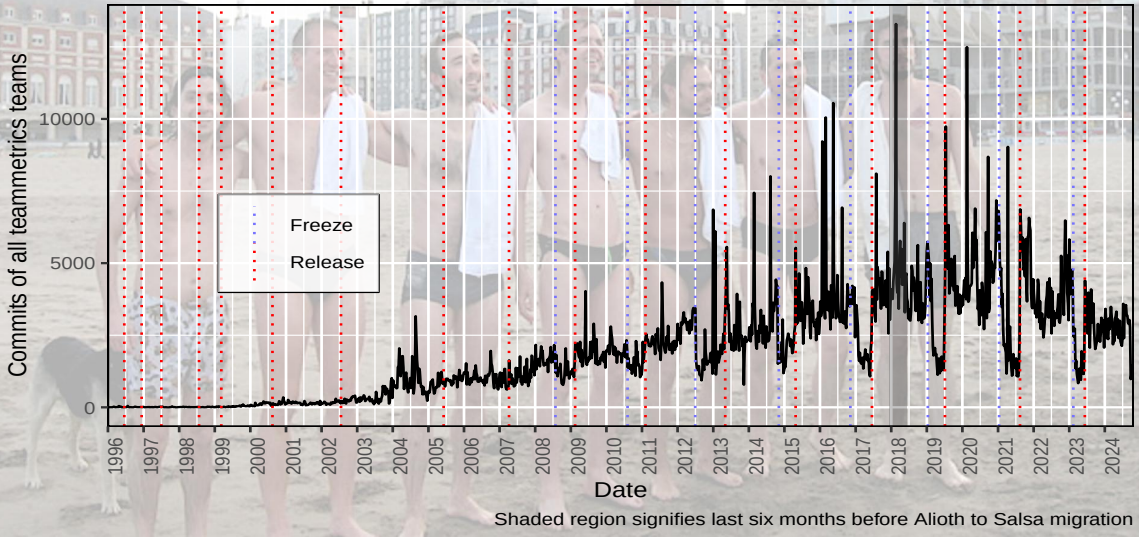


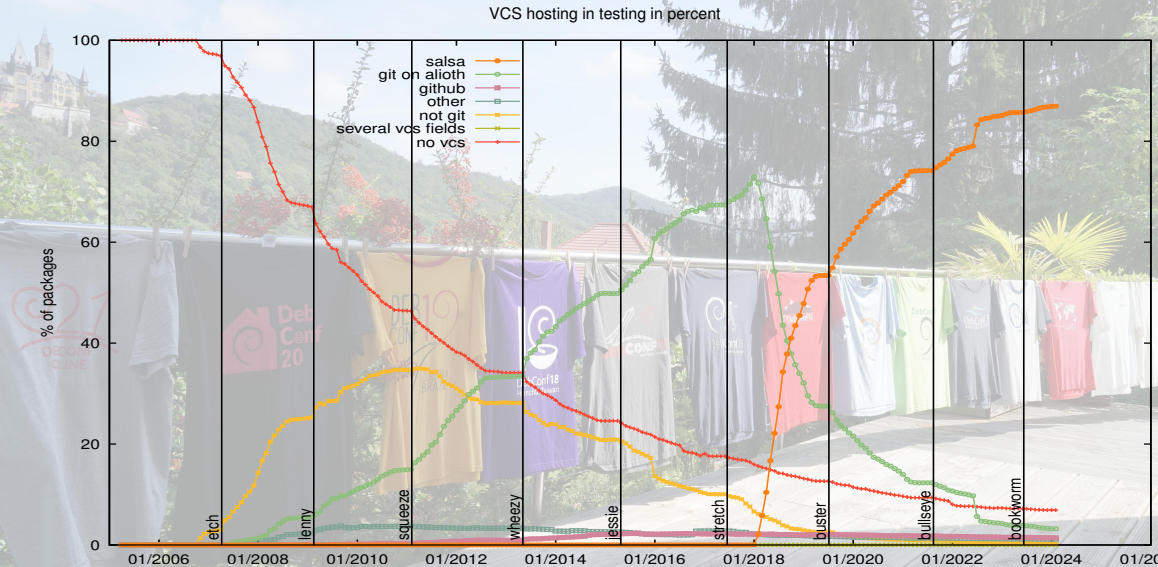
General decision making

- Sometimes its not clear who is in a team
- Its even less clear who can make decisions

Freeze depression



Trends


VCS hosting in testing in percent
% of packages
100
80
60
40
20
0
01/2006
01/2008
01/2010
01/2012
01/2014
01/2016
01/2018
01/2020
01/2022
01/2024
01/2026
salsa
git on alioth
github
other
not git
several vcs fields
no vcs
etch
lenny
squeeze
wheezy
jessie
stretch
buster
bullseye
bookworm

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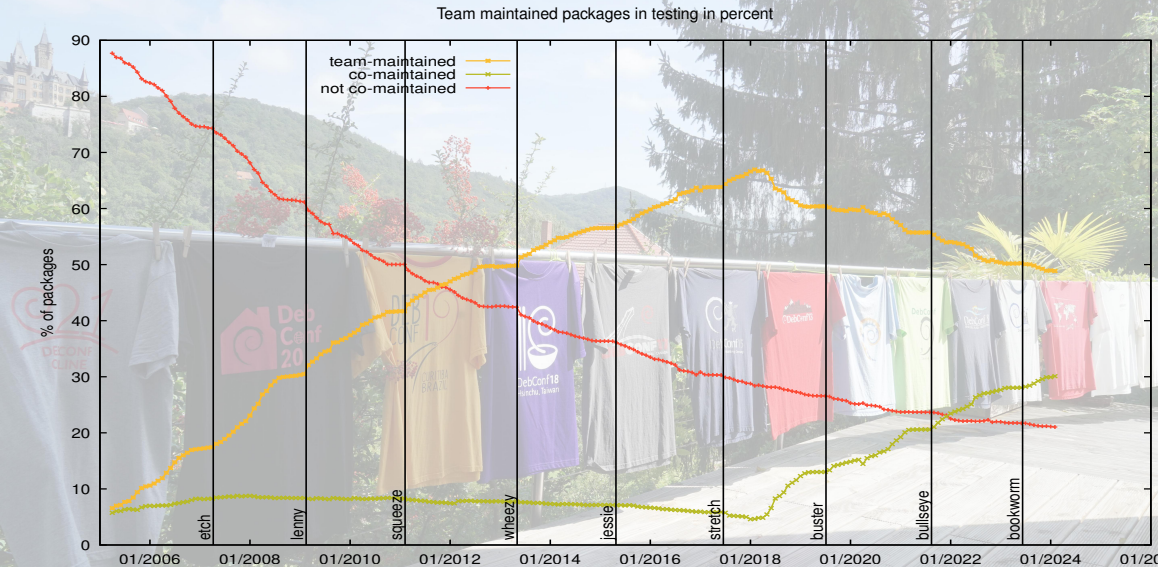
Team maintained packages in testing in percent
team-maintained
co-maintained
not co-maintained
% of packages
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
80
90
01/2006
01/2008
01/2010
01/2012
01/2014
01/2016
01/2018
01/2020
01/2022
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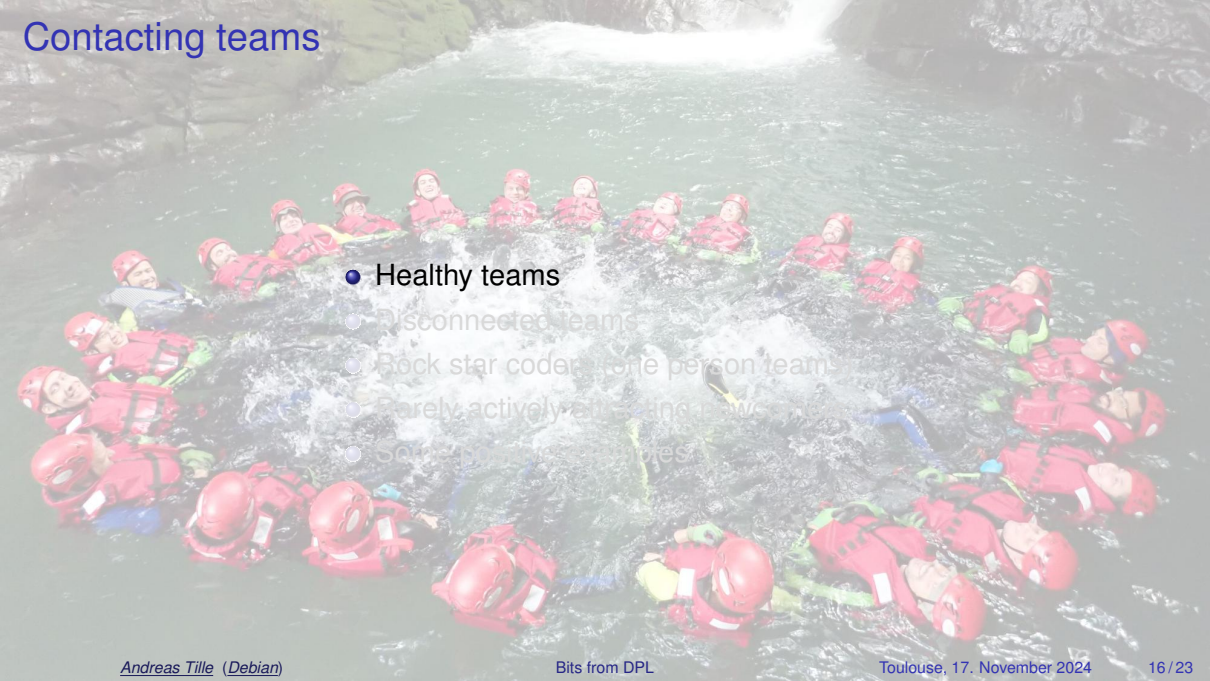
Contacting teams



- Healthy teams
- Disconnected teams
- Rock star coder (one person team)
- Barely actively attracting newcomers
- Some problem examples

Contacting teams

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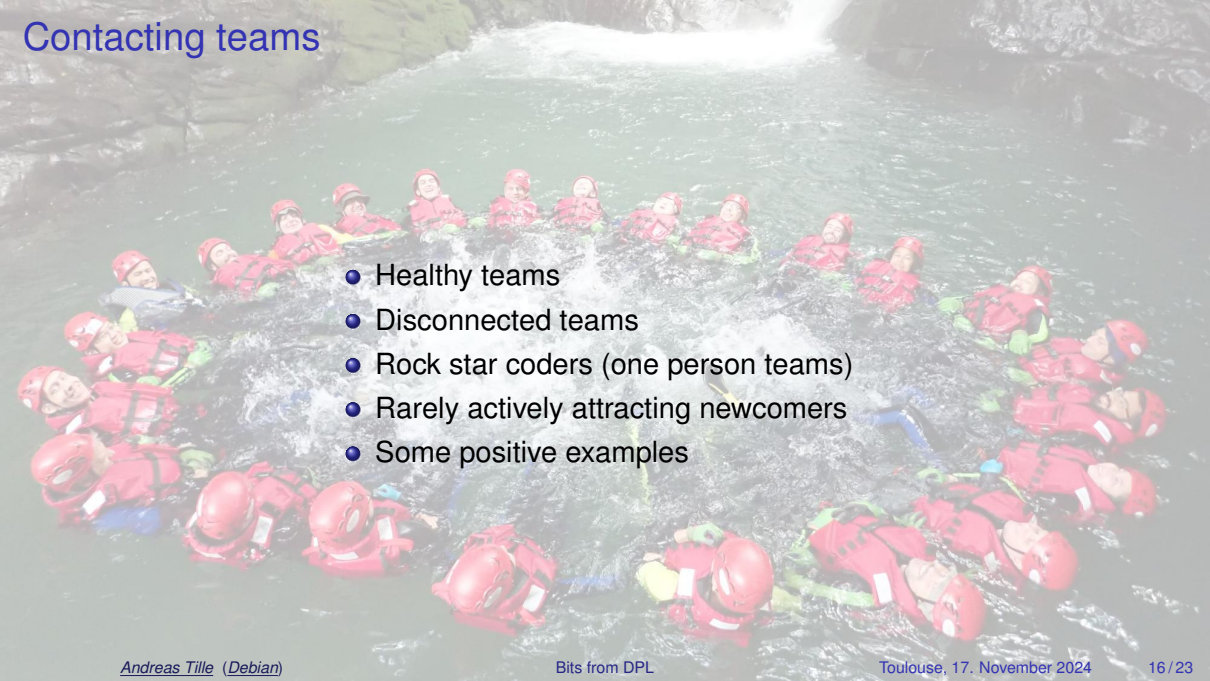
Contacting teams



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How to meet future?

- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (
- Others use Git bu
- Some

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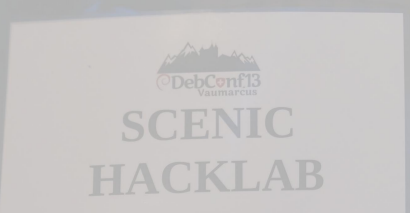
How to meet future?

- Few long standing DDs are (extremely) conservative in their workflow
- Some do not use VCS (Debian archive *is* "VCS" ?!)
- Others use Git but not Salsa
- Some DDs seem to think team maintenance is the end of Debian

FTP master

- *Meet the ftpteam* at DebConf24 *(transcript)*
- Clarify legal situation of >20 years old restriction
- Seeking for volunteers writing DAK features
- Seeking for volunteers to become FTP Trainee



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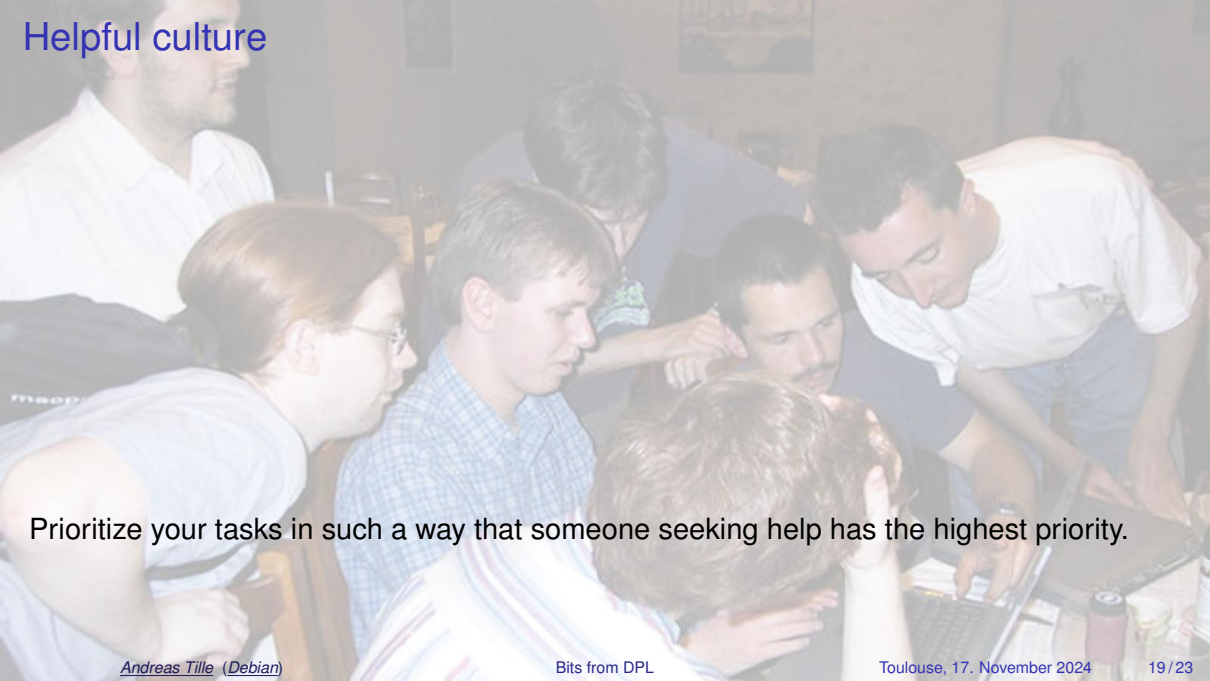
Helpful culture



Prioritize your tasks in such a way that someone seeking help has the highest priority.

Make emails more productive

- Delay mails if you feel you are in heated temper.
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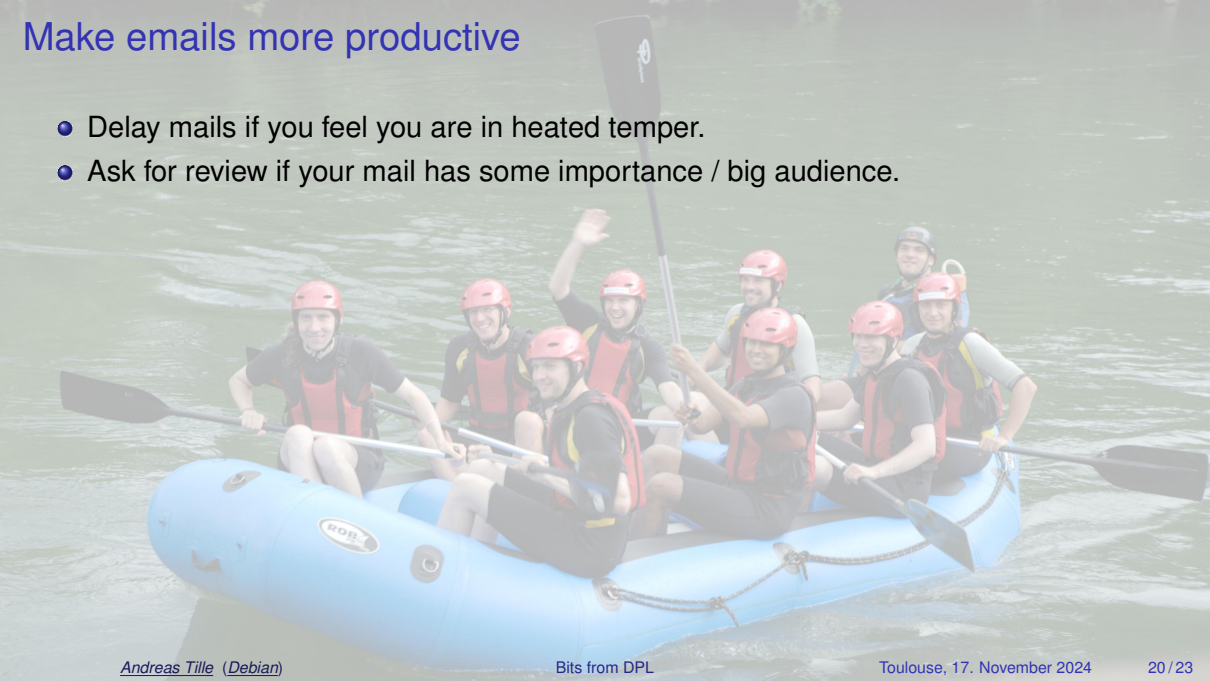

Publicity

Volunteer coders are not good in advertising their work

Thank you

Andreas Tille <tille@debian.org>
https://people.debian.org/~ tille/talks/

Maybe