The Debian Release Team

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1 Debian release process

Open development
Freeze
Freeze

sid          unstable
            |    10 days min
            v
britney & manual approval

wheezy      testing

squeeze     stable

point release
prop. updates
Security

User
2 Team members
Team members

Release managers
adsb // Adam D. Barratt
neilm // Neil McGovern

Release assistants
jcrisau // Julien Cristau
kibi // Cyril Brulebois
mehdi // Mehdi Dogguy
nthykier // Niels Thykier
pkern // Philipp Kern

... plus former RMs as “wizards”.

Always looking for more volunteers
Roles

Release managers  get the final say  
               have to feel responsible

Release assistants  do the work ;-)

In reality:

- consensus-driven “whoever does it, gets to make the decision”
- we really feel as one team — you get empowered pretty soon to take the decisions you’re comfortable with
- we still expect potentially destructive actions to be discussed first
3 Tasks
Tasks

- Take care of the testing distribution
  - Outside of freezes, ensure migrations from unstable to testing happen as smoothly as possible
  - During a freeze, let bug fixes flow to the future stable

- Take care of the (old)stable distribution
  - Regular(ish) point releases

- Maintenance
  - debian-archive-keyring
  - britney
  - various other own tools
Testing

- Packages may move to testing if they are:
  - at least ten days old
  - with no new critical bug
  - installable within testing
  - building properly

- Delays come from:
  - severe regressions
  - ABI changes and other transitions
4 New stuff in wheezy
New stuff in wheezy

- KDE 4.8
- Gnome 3.4
- Python 2.7 / 3.2
- Linux kernel 3.2
- X11R7.7
- ...

...
5 Freeze
Freeze

Time-based:

- Freeze date announced a year in advance
- Allows maintainers to plan ahead

Freeze policy:

- RC bug fixes
- Release goals
- Important bug fixes
- Documentation and l10n updates
- Gradually reduced to only RC fixes
Freeze, 5 months in
Freeze, 5 months in

```
$ bts select user:release.debian.org@packages.debian.org \
  usertag:unblock package:release.debian.org archive:both | 
  awk '{ if ($0 + 0 > 670000) print }' | wc -l
```

1319 bugs still open as of this writing
Other tasks

A release isn’t just bug-free packages, it’s also:

- Installer
- Tested upgrade path
- Release notes
- Security support (buildd, etc)
- ...
6 Communication channels
Communication channels

- Mailing list: mailto:debian-release@lists.debian.org
- IRC: irc://irc.debian.org/debian-release
  (no back room channel)
- Internal discussion list: mailto:team@release.d.o
- TitanPads: as needed
- We try to keep internal discussion to a minimum, where possible.
  (Like crafting announcements and their phrasing, some tricky decision making.)
Communication channels

- If you want to get involved, lurking on the mailing list and especially the IRC channel helps.
- Likewise if you want to be sucked in.
7 Tools

For the next stable release...
For stable and oldstable…
Tools

- **britney**: testing migrations; excuses for packages that did not migrate just yet
  
  [http://git.debian.org/?p=mirror/britney2.git](http://git.debian.org/?p=mirror/britney2.git)

- the incredible transition tracker **ben**
  
For the next stable release...

- **d**: shorthand for “debdiff between testing and whatever we want to migrate”
- **hint**: generate the rightly versioned hints for britney (e.g. easy, hint, force, unblock, urgent, etc.); cleanup; grep
- **wb**: generate the right invocations for wanna-build
- **...those and more can be found in**
  http://git.debian.org/?p=mirror/release-tools.git
For stable and oldstable...

- **queue-viewer**: shows an annotated list of packages that are in (oldstable-)proposed-updates, with information like:
  - numbers (DSA, bug)
  - which architectures are still missing compared to stable proper
  - installability
  - versioning checks
  - rationales
  - ... and more

- **most important bits**: provides debdiffs for review and helps to generate the announcements