Debian in the Enterprise

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What is Debian?

- 100% Free Operating System
- Multi-platform/Multi-kernel
- Free Software
- For the "hardcore" hobbist
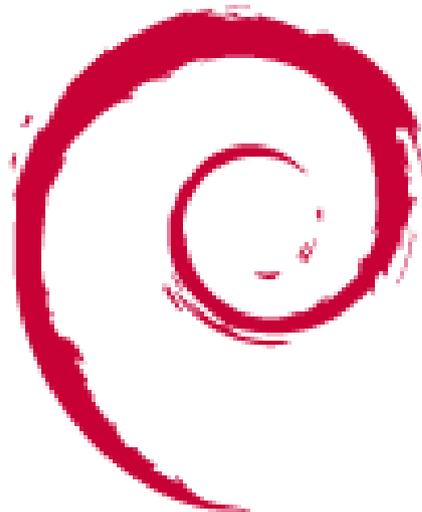
Debian in Big Business

- Why would Big Business use Debian?
- Major industry supporters
- Technical advantages
- Political advantages

Major Supporters

- Hewlett-Packard
- Sun Microsystems
- Progeny Linux Systems
- Compaq
- Brainfood
- VA Linux Systems
- Volunteers around the globe

Technical Advantages

- Trailing edge

  - Traditional territory for Free Software

  - Entry point

- Cutting edge

  - State-of-the-Art technology

- Stability

Trailing Edge

- Cheap, light workstations
  - Diskless workstations
  - FAI

- Low-end servers
  - Mail, HTTP, FTP, Printer, SMB
  - Firewalls, Routers, Bridges

- Clustering and High Availability

Cutting Edge

- APT
  - Remote installations
  - Roll forward / Roll backward
  - Not tied to a version
- Security
  - SE Linux
  - Snort, Nessus
- Policy Manual

Stability

- Stable is truly stable
- Bug Tracking System
  - Open process
  - Fix and clean upstream bugs
- security.debian.org
  - Backport fixes
  - Professional security team

Political Advantages

- Free to own
- Free forever
- Free to act
- Free to share
- Free to leave

Disadvantages

- TANSTAAFL
- No hand holding
- Fix it yourself in times of urgency
- Standards compliant
- Responsibility

Real World Example

- Big Financial Institution
- Considering GNU/Linux
- Debian fits in everywhere
    - Web and HTTP on UltraSPARC
    - Security appliances
    - Databases
    - Desktops
    - Interoperability

Summary

- Debian has a place across the enterprise
- Nooks and crannies
- Mission critical systems
- Server and desktop
- Less worrying, more productivity

Questions?