

# Debian release process: A retrospective of Sarge

## Debian-Day Debconf 5

Andreas Barth

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# Releasing Debian ...

- Users want a stable basis where they can deploy their work on and which doesn't change too often
- Debian publishes a stable release "‘when it's ready’"
- Stable releases are: Buzz (June 1996), Rex (December 1996), Bo (July 1997), Hamm (July 1998), Slink (March 1999), Potato (August 2000), Woody (July 2002) and Sarge (June 2005).
- Sarge consists of over 8000 source and over 15000 binary packages



# Distributions

- Debian consists of 4-5 distributions: (oldstable), stable, testing, unstable and experimental
- Currently, oldstable is woody, stable is sarge and testing is etch
- Packages are usually uploaded into unstable
- Packages go into testing if they are in unstable for 2, 5 or 10 days and have no release critical bugs
- Testing is released as stable "‘when it’s ready’"



# Release Standards

- Packages must not have critical or grave bugs (unusability of the package or system, or security bugs)
- Packages must be releaseable from the maintainers point of view
- Packages need to be free
- Packages need to be security supportable
- Packages need follow release policy - list at [http://release.debian.org/etch\\_rc\\_policy.txt](http://release.debian.org/etch_rc_policy.txt)
- Installer needs to be ready
- Release Goals needs to be meet



# Improvements in Sarge (user-related)

- New installer
- Lots of new and improved packages
- ...



# Improvements in Sarge (technical)

- Infrastructure (installer, kernel, ...) much improved
- Better release team tools
- Better bug management functionality
- Better security issue tracking



# Managing Releases

- Make sure *all* Release Critical issues are actually handled prior release
- Any change to the next stable release (aka testing) must not push us back
- Get wise of release blockers and tackle them
- Communicate with all the relevant other teams
- Hold care of lots of tiny issues daily



debian GNU/Linux

# Process Improvements in Etch

- Improving bug tracking tools
- Improving testing migration and installer interaction
- Improving the kernel packages regarding to the installer
- Time-based release: We will release in December 2006

