Bringing MediaWiki back into Debian

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DebConf '17

Debian

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Debian (/ˈdɛbiən/[4] or /ˈdeɪbiən/)[5]) is a Unix-like computer operating system that is composed entirely of free software, most of which is under the GNU General Public License and packaged by a group of individuals participating in the Debian Project.

The Debian Project was first announced in 1993 by Ian Murdock, Debian 0.01 was released on September 15, 1993,[6] and the first *stable* release was made in 1996.[7]

The Debian *stable* release branch is one of the most popular for personal computers and network servers, and has been used as a base for many other distributions.

The project's work is carried out over the Internet by a team of volunteers guided by the Debian Project Leader and three foundational documents: the Debian Social Contract, the Debian Constitution, and the Debian Free Software Guidelines. New distributions are updated continually, and the next candidate is released after a time-based freeze.

As one of the earliest operating systems based on the Linux kernel, it was decided that Debian was to be developed openly and freely distributed in the spirit of the GNU Project.

Debian
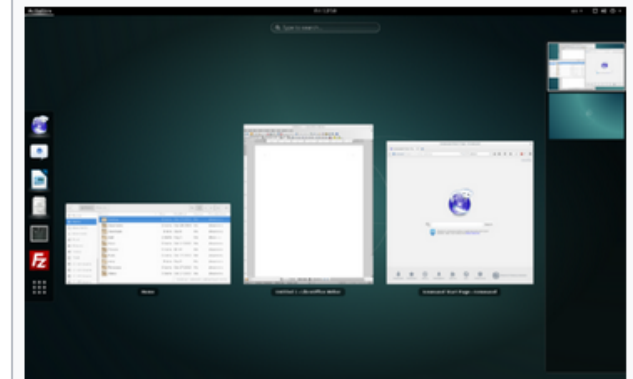
Debian GNU/Linux 8.2 with GNOME and some free software applications

Developer	Debian Project (Software in the Public Interest)
OS family	Unix-like
Working state	Current

Main Page

Welcome to the DebConf Wiki

The Debian Conference 🔗 is the annual gathering within the Debian 🔗 community, preceeded by DebCamp and Debian Day.

Help · Categories · Articles

The Debian Conference is the annual Debian developers meeting, an event filled with coding parties, discussions and workshops – all of them highly technical in nature. Please see our **official DebConf website** 🔗 for all up-to-date information, as this wiki is primarily used for planning purposes.

Previous Debian Conferences have featured speakers from around the world. They have also been extremely beneficial for developing key Debian software components, including the new Debian Installer, and for improving Debian's internationalization.

DebConf 2017 in Montreal, Canada

- DebConf17 will be held in Montreal, Canada, on 6 - 12 august 2017
- **DebConf17**, central planning page

If you are interested in sponsoring (future) DebConfs, please don't hesitate to contact us 📧.

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MediaWiki

- Wiki platform written primarily in PHP
- Scales from running wikis like Wikipedia to shared hosting or a personal server
- Supports MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite, PostgreSQL
- Strong security track record
- Hundreds of extensions to add functionality
- Localized in 350+ languages
- GPL v2 or later, most extensions licensed similarly

About Me

- Wikipedian since 2007
- MediaWiki developer since 2012
- Student, also employed by Wikimedia Foundation
- Concerned about health of MediaWiki ecosystem, and wikis left on significantly older versions
- Began working on Debian package at Wikimania 2015

MediaWiki in Debian

- "`mediawiki`" package provides MediaWiki Core and bundled extensions that receive upstream security support

  - 1.19 packaged for jessie: originally released in 2012, security support ended in 2015

- "`mediawiki-extensions`" package provides assortment of various extensions

  - Unclear security status or upstream support

- Included in jessie, but removed shortly afterwards due to lack of security support

- Upstream recommended against package

A little history...

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After installing these packages, **download** the official tarball, and extract in your webdirectory (usually /var/www/)

⚠️ **Warning:** MediaWiki can also be installed using aptitude. The Ubuntu MediaWiki package is unsupported and usually outdated. We do not recommend you use it.

A little history...

Extension:CreateBox

This extension has been archived.

This extension has not been maintained in some time, and no longer supports recent releases of MediaWiki.
The following other choices are available:

- InputBox

To see the page before archival, click here.

Extension:ExtensionFunctions.php

This extension has been archived.

This feature ("extension") was deprecated (or possibly removed completely) in version 1.17 rev:75805.

To see the page before archival, click here.

Changes to Debian package

- MySQL/MariaDB as recommended database engine

- Apache2 configuration works out of the box

- Abandon "`mediawiki-extensions`" mega package

- Develop and review packaging changes in Wikimedia's Gerrit instance

- Bug tracking in Wikimedia's bug tracker and bugs.debian.org

Challenges with Debian

- A bug tracker solely based around email is hard.
  - Even for users familiar with command-line, reportbug can be hard to use
  - Solution: Users can use Wikimedia's Phabricator bug tracker to report bugs
- Lack of pre-commit review system
  - I prefer having my sponsor review patches before they are committed
  - Solution: Git repository is hosted at gerrit.wikimedia.org, which facilitates pre-commit review
- Benefits: More drive-by contributions by MediaWiki regulars

Change 313233 - **Merged**

Reply...

Add NEWS for major version upgrade

Closes: #838965
Change-Id: Ia2362f0e80ce18848bfa9b71c46367aa0cf7f9d7

Owner	Legoktm
Reviewers	Hashar Reedy jenkins-bot
Project	mediawiki/debian
Branch	master
Topic	
Updated	10 months ago

Cherry Pick   Revert

Code-Review +2 Hashar

Verified   +2 jenkins-bot

Author	Kunal Mehta <legoktm@member.fsf.org>	Sep 27, 2016 3:53 PM
Committer	Kunal Mehta <legoktm@member.fsf.org>	Sep 28, 2016 3:49 PM
Commit	e963ad685b5f2889d7f3b42cfdb8f9dfab41a369	(diffusion)
Parent(s)	6a4a101a0091a8684784156635058a6f532cbfe7	(diffusion)
Change-Id	Ia2362f0e80ce18848bfa9b71c46367aa0cf7f9d7	

Files   Open All   Diff against: **Base**

	File Path	Comments Size	
▷ ☐	Commit Message		
☐	debian/changelog	3	▮
☐ A	debian/mediawiki-classes.docs	1	▮
☐ A	debian/mediawiki.NEWS	13	▬▬
☐	debian/mediawiki.docs	1	▮
		+18, -0	▬▬▬

Hashar   Sep 28, 2016 ↵

Patch Set 1:

The online doc points at dh_installchangelogs and its man page list the files:

```
debian/changelog
debian/NEWS
debian/package.changelog
debian/package.NEWS
```

So you should ename debian/NEWS.debian to debian/NEWS. dh_installchangelogs would detect it, rename it as NEWS.debian and gzip it.

Note it will be included in both binary packages:

```
$ dpkg-deb --contents mediawiki_1.27.1-3_all.deb|grep NEWS
./usr/share/doc/mediawiki/NEWS.Debian.gz

$ dpkg-deb --contents mediawiki-classes_1.27.1-3_all.deb|grep NEWS
./usr/share/doc/mediawiki-classes/NEWS.Debian.gz
```

Not sure how each relates, having the NEWS in both package would probably cause the file to be shown twice when both packages are upgraded. If you want it for a specific package, use one of:

```
debian/mediawiki.NEWS
debian/mediawiki-classes.NEWS
```

:]

| Legoktm | Uploaded patch set 2. | Sep 28, 2016 |

Legoktm   Sep 28, 2016 ↵

Patch Set 1:

Thanks hashar :) I went with mediawiki.NEWS, as I don't think it makes sense to also include it for mediawiki-classes.

| jenkins-bot | Patch Set 2: Verified+2 Main test build succeeded. - debian-glue-non-voting https://integration.wikimedia.org/ci/job/debian-glue-no... | Sep 28, 2016 |
| Hashar | Patch Set 2: Code-Review+2 | Sep 30, 2016 |

Legoktm added a comment. Nov 28 2016, 4:17 PM

> PHP Warning: include(/usr/share/mediawiki-extensions/base/ExtensionFunctions.php): failed to open stream: No such file or directory in /etc/mediawiki-extensions/extensions.php on line 4

Somewhere in `/etc/mediawiki-extensions/extensions.php`, you are loading "ExtensionFunctions.php", you should remove that as modern versions of MediaWiki should no longer need it (see https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:ExtensionFunctions.php).

> PHP Fatal error: require(): Failed opening required '/usr/share/mediawiki/includes/libs/ObjectFactory.php'

Can you make sure that you also upgraded the `mediawiki-classes` package to the same version as `mediawiki`?

emoshikon added a comment. Edited · Nov 29 2016, 1:54 AM

Upgrading the `mediawiki-classes` disabled the fatal error, so I could run `update.php`. THANKS!
Did I miss some step in the backports? I feel like my change is or would be common, given that others like me were stuck on 1.19 for a long time. Where should we add such comment?

Same goes with `extensions.php` .. I never touched it, so other may find themselves in the same spot. Is there another class I need to update or remove?

Nemo_bis added a subscriber: **Nemo_bis**. Nov 29 2016, 2:20 AM

Challenges with Debian

- NEW queue is discouraging and disheartening
  - After waiting 3 months...
  - REJECTs are an all or nothing system, even for something that could be trivially fixed in a follow-up upload.
  - Recommendation: Have a "-1" status for small issues that need fixing, but don't necessitate the bluntness of a rejection.
- Lack of standardized/recommended tooling for newbies
  - sbuild, debuild, pbuilder, which do I use?
  - Recommendation: Pick one, and recommend it along with git-buildpackage for new Debian maintainers.

Changes to MediaWiki

- Introduction of a "Long Term Support" release, designed around Debian release cycles

Version	Status	Release	End-of-life
1.31.x (LTS)	future version	June 2018	June 2021
1.30.x	future version	November 2017	November 2018
1.29.x	current version	2017-07-13	July 2018
1.28.x	legacy version	2016-11-28	November 2017
1.27.x (LTS)	legacy version	2016-06-28	June 2019
1.26.x	obsolete version	2015-11-25	November 2016

Ubuntu PPA

- Not in xenial due to removal from jessie, no response on backport request ticket

- Ubuntu PPA provides latest LTS for Trusty & Xenial

Package	Version	Uploaded by
mediawiki	1:1.27.3-1ppa1~xenial1	Kunal Mehta (2017-05-08)
mediawiki	1:1.27.3-1ppa1~trusty1	Kunal Mehta (2017-05-16)
mediawiki-math	2:3.0.0+git20160613-1ppa1~xenial1	Kunal Mehta (2017-01-06)
wikidiff2	1.4.1-1ppa1~xenial1	Kunal Mehta (2017-02-27)
wikidiff2	1.4.1-1ppa1~trusty1	Kunal Mehta (2017-02-27)

Next steps

- Begin packaging popular extensions: VisualEditor (WYSIWG editor), Scribunto (Lua templates)

- Provide systemd unit for background job processing

- HHVM support out of the box

- Provide stable versions of MediaWiki via a PPA

Questions / Contact

- Email: legoktm at member.fsf.org
- IRC: legoktm on irc.{freenode,oftc}.net
- Wiki: mediawiki.org/wiki/User_talk:Legoktm/Packages