Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

DebConf governance
brainstorming session

Holger Levsen

August 17th 2013

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Share the love

- This document is available at
  gobby.debian.org/debconf13/bof/debconf-governance

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Time is (not) on our side

- **strong** feedback:
  - do not want to discuss now.
  - maybe define $time for discussion now.

  - other people are fine to discuss.
  - "the view is fantastic" (meaning: it has been a good DebConf)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Time is (not) on our side

- **strong** feedback:
    - do not want to discuss now.
    - maybe define $time for discussion now.
        - I'd propose in 2-3 months, when the dc13 final report is done
    - other people are fine to discuss.
    - "the view is fantastic" (meaning: it has been a good DebConf)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Different DebConfs

- Phil Hands brought up the idea of a DebConf in Frankfurt/Hahn (small airport next to the big Frankfurt/Main one), the airport has conference facilities and is easy to reach.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Different DebConfs

- Phil Hands brought up the idea of a DebConf in Frankfurt/Hahn (small airport next to the big Frankfurt/Main one), the airport has conference facilities and is easy to reach.
- My spontaenous reaction: "stop smoking crack"

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Different DebConfs

- Phil Hands brought up the idea of a DebConf in Frankfurt/Hahn (small airport next to the big Frankfurt/Main one), the airport has conference facilities and is easy to reach.
- My spontaenous reaction: "stop smoking crack"
- Phils thoughful reply: "you or me?"

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Quick poll

- ▶ Who has been to a DebConf which wasn't good?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Quick poll

- Who has been to a DebConf which wasn't good?
- Who was sceptical about dc13 before coming here?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Quick poll

- Who has been to a DebConf which wasn't good?
- Who was sceptical about dc13 before coming here?
- Who stayed unconvinced and thinks this wasn't a good DebConf?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

About this session

- This is **not** about DebConf13. Or at least, it shouldn't, Please don't make it one.
- My slides originally started after this one.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Decision making

- **painful for all** is probably quite correct
- no clear owners (decisions, responsibilities)
- no clear process
- no(t enough) written documentation

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

result: chairs as perceived by me

- some month ago: "chairs, please decide on this tiny foo"
- these days the chairs were rather ignored (and thus lost interest as many other global team members too)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

DebConf governance?

- ▶ Debian has foundation documents (constitution, DFSG) and more written and important documents: policy, new maintainers guide, etc
- ▶ DebConf has some wiki pages in a "Manual" category
- ▶ IOW: our governance model is not clearly defined currently, thus different people have different interpretations
- ▶ maybe s#governance#decision structure# but you get the idea

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

DebConf governance?

- ▶ Debian has foundation documents (constitution, DFSG) and more written and important documents: policy, new maintainers guide, etc
- ▶ DebConf has some wiki pages in a "Manual" category
- ▶ IOW: our governance model is not clearly defined currently, thus different people have different interpretations
- ▶ maybe s#governance#decision structure# but you get the idea
- ▶ gwolf: *I prefer your "decision structure" wording to "governance". DebConf is Debian. We are not a separate body, thus, we don't need a separate government.*

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

current delegation

Date: 2011-03-09 10:15
Subject: chairs delegation
From: Stefano Zacchiroli <leader@debian.org>

- I hereby delegate the following people as "DebConf chairs":
  - Holger Levsen <holger>
  - Moray Allan <moray>
  - Gunnar Wolf <gwolf>

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

current delegation, continued

- The main responsibility of the DebConf chairs is to act as a liaison between the Debian Project and the DebConf organization. In that capacity, the chairs will be responsible to the Project for the organization of DebConf and how Debian resources (e.g. money, but also the "Debian" name) are used to that end.

- DebConf organization itself does not need to change in response to this new delegation and the informal DebConf team is free, as it has always been, to establish its own structures and decision mechanisms. The chairs are expected to help the team in establishing those things and to break decision ties if and when they occur.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what zack intended

- zack, "back when I wrote this...":
  - spell out that DebConf is Debian
  - clarifying who's responsible for Debian ressource usage in the context of DebConf

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what zack intended

- zack, "back when I wrote this...":
  - spell out that DebConf is Debian
  - clarifying who's responsible for Debian ressource usage in the context of DebConf
- At that time, this was very much needed and today there is no more doubt, that DebConf is Debian.
- Thank you, zack!

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Of course, DebConf is also not Debian

- There are differences between Debian + DebConf (time component, real world interaction)....

- we are all different...

- d-i is run differently then debian-release then debconf then... we are all different and we are all Debian.

- DebConf is very special indeed. Like we all are :-)

DebConf team, (re)defined

- No redefinition, rather formalisation needed, IMNSHO.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

who is in the team?

- idea 1:
  - anybody on the list / the IRC channel?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

who is in the team?

- idea 2:
  - formal process to join and leave:
    - join by public mail to debconf-team, auto-acceptence as default, delegates can put join on hold or deny.
    - yearly cleanup by team||chairs
    - (list maintainted in a public git repo)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

who is in the team?

- idea 3:
  - formal process to join and leave:
    - join by public mail to debconf-team, one existing team member needs to advocate, delegates can put join on hold or deny.
    - yearly cleanup by team||chairs
    - (list maintainted in a public git repo)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

who is in the team?

- idea 4:
  - instead of chair delegation: team delegation?
    - team can add members to it (this also needs a formal process)
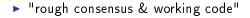   - DPL can deny those

who is in the team?

- idea 5:
  - other suggestions?

the good old times

- "rough consensus & working code"

what's consensus anyway

- ▶ idea1: consensus means we all agree.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what's consensus anyway

- ▶ idea1: consensus means we all agree.
- ▶ idea2: consensus means decision by a clear majority

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what's consensus anyway

- idea1: consensus means we all agree.
- idea2: consensus means decision by a clear majority
- idea3: consensus means an absence of significant dissent

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what's consensus anyway

- ▶ idea1: consensus means we all agree.
- ▶ idea2: consensus means decision by a clear majority
- ▶ idea3: consensus means an absence of significant dissent
- ▶ idea4: other suggestions?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

what's consensus anyway

- idea1: consensus means we all agree.
- idea2: consensus means decision by a clear majority
- idea3: consensus means an absence of significant dissent
- idea4: other suggestions?
- (this also finally needs to be formally documented)

We must not assume

- To some, 8 people agreeing, 1 vocally disagreeing and 2 a bit unsure, is a consenus.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

We must not assume

- To some, 8 people agreeing, 1 vocally disagreeing and 2 a bit unsure, is a consensus.
- But Debian is a diverse community, so this is not true for all, so we need to document this.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

We must not assume

- To some, 8 people agreeing, 1 vocally disagreeing and 2 a bit unsure, is a consensus.
- But Debian is a diverse community, so this is not true for all, so we need to document this.
- Really, really, really.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

We must not assume

- To some, 8 people agreeing, 1 vocally disagreeing and 2 a bit unsure, is a consensus.
- But Debian is a diverse community, so this is not true for all, so we need to document this.
- Really, really, really.
- Even if we were mostly white males ;-P

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

We must not assume

- To some, 8 people agreeing, 1 vocally disagreeing and 2 a bit unsure, is a consensus.
- But Debian is a diverse community, so this is not true for all, so we need to document this.
- Really, really, really.
- Even if we were mostly white males ;-P
- (Hint: we are not - and Debian and us change too.)

"Final decisions"

- ▶ DebConf is a Debian project where Debian (via delegates / GR) has the final decision power.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

"Final decisions"

- DebConf is a Debian project where Debian (via delegates / GR) has the final decision power.
  - This is required by the constitution. (8.3 + 4.1.4)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

"Final decisions"

- DebConf is a Debian project where Debian (via delegates / GR) has the final decision power.
  - This is required by the constitution. (8.3 + 4.1.4)
  - Yes, this means that "**nothing is final**"

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

"Final decisions"

- DebConf is a Debian project where Debian (via delegates / GR) has the final decision power.
  - This is required by the constitution. (8.3 + 4.1.4)
  - Yes, this means that "**nothing is final**"
  - in the sense, that if you fuck up, delegates or GR might override you.

Final decisions

- DebConf is a Debian project where Debian (via delegates / GR) has the final decision power.
    - This is required by the constitution. (8.3 + 4.1.4)
    - Yes, this means that "**nothing is final**"
    - in the sense, that if you fuck up, delegates or GR might override you.
- There **are** many many final and good decisions! The view on the lake really is fantastic.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Random ideas

- ▶ Just some more random ideas now...

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

advisory board instead of chairs?

- ▶ the term **advisory board** might make things clearer....

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

advisory board instead of chairs?

- ▶ the term **advisory board** might make things clearer....
- ▶ or maybe it redefines things: an **advisor** is something else than a **chair**
- ▶ and no matter what name we choose: just a name ain't enough, we need defined procedures.

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

advisory board instead of chairs?

- ▶ the term **advisory board** might make things clearer....
- ▶ or maybe it redefines things: an **advisor** is something else than a **chair**
- ▶ and no matter what name we choose: just a name ain't enough, we need defined procedures.
- ▶ or maybe a **steering board**? (that's something different again)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

DebConf Committee

- ▶ delegate the DebConf Committee?
- ▶ (and keep that name)

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

real life handover?

- idea: have a real life handover 1-3 days after DebConf?
- LCA has "ghosts", previous organizers who are happy to help

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Conclusion

- No matter what model we choose, the really important part is that everybody understands it the same and can live with it. And, that future generations will do the same.
- Sounds easy, but it's not.
- Let's do this together!

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Brainstorming session

- ▶ Please use gobby!
- ▶ What do **you** think?

Motivation
delegation
DebConf team, (re)defined
decisions
Random ideas
Brainstorming session

Social experiment

- Please sit in the circle if you think you are part of DebConf team
- Please sit in the audience otherwise