

Onwards to Stretch

Niels Thykier

Debian Developer
Release Manager

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Outline

- 1 The Jessie release
- 2 Important dates
- 3 Improvements and changes
- 4 The GCC-5/libstdc++ transition

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The good parts of the freeze

- Automatic removals from testing
- Many of you provided sensible patches and helped improve Jessie
- The freeze was vastly better and shorter than Wheezy

Things that can be improved

- Pre-approvals
- Still many uploads with unrelated changes
- The freeze was still too long

On pre-approvals - a double edged sword

We are happy that people are more careful, but:

- Pre-approvals are extra work for us
- We received way too many of them

Improvements:

- We are still looking for methods to improve this (any ideas?)
- We will try to reword the freeze policy for Stretch
 - ▶ Sadly, no exhaustive list of “ok” or “not ok” changes.

Uploads with unrelated changes

What people tell us (paraphrased):

It is a leaf package, it cannot break (other) things

But cherry-picking (or reverting) will be a lot of work for me (for “no reason”)

Those changes are irrelevant/harmless, you can just ignore them

Uploads with unrelated changes

- Unrelated “harmless” changes are still problematic.
 - ▶ In particular new upstream releases
 - ▶ Sometimes they cause unexpected issues
 - ▶ This is why we insist on reviewing them
- Request to revert changes are often contested
- Please do **not** upload new upstream releases without pre-approval
- We do not like to say no. But when we do:
 - ▶ No means no! (“Fuzzy purple unicorn!”)

Uploads with unrelated changes

Improving the situation:

- **Cherry-pick changes**
- Use filterdiff, but only for:
 - ▶ “autoreconf” ed files
 - ▶ translations
- If you use filterdiff, please provide the command line.

Please consider

When you push more work on us to save your own time, it hurts the entire project.

- The release team is a shared resource with very limited capacity.
- The most efficient way to help is by reducing the work for the release team.
 - ▶ Again, cherry-pick over full upstream releases.

Freeze was too long

We all want shorter freezes.

- RT is looking into options for doing RC releases
- Changes to the freeze (more later)

What happens if **2%** of all packages are “not quite ready” at the freeze?

- The project will file at least 500 unblock requests
- Will this burn out the release team? **YES**
- Will this make the freeze longer? **YES**

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Freeze was too long - help please

We all want shorter freezes.

- RT is looking into options for doing RC releases
- Changes to the freeze (more later)
- All parts of the project need to help with this!
 - ▶ Have all the packages you care about ready **before** the freeze.
 - ▶ Even if you are **not** the maintainer of it!

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The Stretch freeze

The important dates are:

- Now: Do cool stuff for Stretch
- Summer 2016: Please finish up things for Stretch
- 5th of September 2016: Transition freeze
- 5th of November 2016: “Softfreeze”
- 5th of December 2016: The freeze

Yes, it says **2016**, which is over a year from now!

The transition freeze (5th of September 2016):

- We will not accept any new transitions
- Focus on FTBFS in testing to ensure we can (still) build Stretch

The softfreeze (5th of November 2016):

- Packages **not** (or no longer) in testing will **not** be accepted into Stretch
- Packages removed will *not* re-enter testing automatically. Requires manual unblock
- Packages *already* in testing can be updated (or removed) as usual

The freeze (5th of December 2016):

- **all** updates to testing require manual review
- There will be some changes to the freeze policy
 - ▶ Some are still on the drawing board
 - ▶ The Stretch freeze policy will be announced later.

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Problems in unstable vs. testing

When packages are unable to migrate from unstable to testing (for a long time), updating testing gets harder.

- Packages get out of sync
- Fixes do not reach testing
- Development of packages has no relation to what will be in the release
 - ▶ Developers will work on the new version in unstable
 - ▶ The version in testing will receive less attention and fewer fixes
- These packages will block migration of other packages (reverse dependencies)

Our view on unstable

Our view:

- The primary focus for testing is to create stable
- The primary focus for unstable is to create testing

New idea: More removals from testing

Remove packages from testing with a newer version in unstable that has been unable to migrate to testing for 3 months.

- This will remove packages before there is a blocking issue with them
- The removal will happen **even if there are no issues** in the version of the package in testing.
 - ▶ Fix the issue: Make sure the version in unstable can migrate to testing
 - ▶ If there is no other option, revert to the version in testing
- Time-frame: 3 months of being out of sync. Exceptions:
 - ▶ Key packages are **not** automatically removed.
 - ▶ Will be disabled during freezes or long running transitions.

New idea: More removals from testing - part 2

- Removed packages can come back into testing
- As soon as the version in unstable can migrate to testing, it will
- Remember to keep the freeze in mind
 - ▶ After the 5th of November they cannot get back

Other improvements and changes

Ideas/planned changes:

- Make autopkgtests blockers for testing (Thanks to Antonio and Martin)
- Make the actual release media before the release date
- Do RC releases during the freeze
- Make Britney allow migrations of packages with “out-of-date” binaries in some cases
 - ▶ Helps transitions as some libraries will be able to migrate earlier

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GCC-5/libstdc++ transition

- It is a huge transition and will take a while
- Please help doing your part (or failing that, be patient)
- Please do not cause interference as it make the transition longer
- Many thanks to Matthias “doko” Klose for his hard work, coordination assistance and follow ups.

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Go forth and do stuff!

Go forth and:

- fix bugs in Jessie
 - ▶ we accept targeted fixes for important and RC bugs
 - ▶ Read the procedure in the Developer Reference 5.5.1
- make more QA tools. Remember to consider automatic enforcement
 - ▶ Either at upload time (such as Lintian auto-rejects),
 - ▶ or at testing migration time
- reproduce make reproducible builds happen
- make Stretch a very legendary release

You only have 1 year left¹!

¹until the freeze

Go forth and **make new QA tools** (and kids?), **fix RC bugs** and **mind the transition**.

Thanks!

Questions?

Niels Thykier
niels@thykier.net

about the slides:

available at

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Niels Thykier

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