Meet the Debian Technical Committee
Debian TC members

- aba - Andreas Barth
- don - Don Armstrong
- keithp - Keith Packard
- odyx - Didier Raboud
- tfheen - Tollef Fog Heen
- hartmans - Sam Hartman
- philh - Philip Hands
What is the Debian Technical Committee?
Debian Constitution §6.1

The Technical Committee may:
Debian Constitution §6.1.1

Decide on any matter of technical policy
Debian Constitution §6.1.2 & §6.1.3

Decide any technical matter where Developers' jurisdictions overlap

Make a decision when asked to do so

*Tie-breaking*
Debian Constitution §6.1.4

Overrule a Developer (requires a 3:1 majority).

Last-resort
Debian Constitution §6.1.5

Offer advice
Constraints
Debian Constitution §6.3.3

Public discussion and decision-making
Debian Constitution §6.3.5

No detailed design work
Debian Constitution §6.3.6

Technical Committee makes decisions only as last resort
Picking options

Constitutionally, we're asked to *break ties* amongst available options, after all efforts to resolve it via consensus have been *tried and failed*.
Offer advice and make our views known

The TC can offer you advice.
The Debian Technical Committee
is a
- self-nominated & DPL-appointed
- last-resort
- conflict-resolution & advice-providing

body
Issues in front of the TC
Since DebConf15
https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte
Decided

- #636783 - GR: fix for super-majority within the TC → Accepted by the project
- #741573 - On menu systems → TC resolution
- #795854 - GR: Fix duplicate section numbering → Accepted by the project
- #795857 - GR: TC chair appointment → TC made it an internal procedure
- #797533 - New CTTE members → philh
- #821361 - Voting for CTTE Chair → OdyX
Dropped or retracted

- #766708 - Coordinate plan and requirements for cross toolchain packages in Debian → TC dropped
- #795855 - Introduction of a formal cloture vote procedure for the TC → TC dropped
- #795859 - GR: Permit TC to hold informal private conversations → TC dropped
- #802159 - New OpenSSL upstream version → TC retracted
Current

- #822803 - New CTTE member(s)
We're looking for new members
Term Expiry (§6.2.7)

On January 1st of each year the term of any Committee member who has served more than 42 months (3.5 years) and who is one of the two most senior members is set to expire on December 31st of that year.

- aba - Andreas Barth → 2009
- don - Don Armstrong → 2012
- keithp - Keith Packard → 2017
- odyx - Didier Raboud → 2018
- tfheen - Tollef Fog Heen → 2018
- hartmans - Sam Hartman → 2018
- philh - Philip Hands → 2019
Need fresh blood

We're roughly looking for at least one new member per year.
Not all issues are like #727708
The TC's mission is not BTS load-testing.

😊
TC work is

- about disagreements & **conflicts**
- at the broad **technical** level
- **listening** to what *people* have to say
- sometimes **taking** **hard decisions**
- essentially **political**
Required skillset

- Empathy
- Technical agility
- Mentor
- Reactiveness
- Social sensitivity
- Cool-headed
It is crucial for the TC to be representative of the developers.
We need nominees!

- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else
Come talk to us if you have worries, questions, or else!

We're just developers.
We're looking into ways to improve the process

- Announce a schedule
- Stick to it
Our current discussions
TC responsiveness
TC ability to pick options in a timely manner
Amount of issues

We currently have few; is this in any way an indicator upon the health of the project?
Time spent on recruitment
Q & A

Open discussion
Thanks

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