Using (Debian) Money to Fund Debian Projects

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Known Problems

- Jealousy between unpaid and paid contributors
- Volunteers stepping down from work that paid contributors are doing
- Paid contributors locking themselves in their position (sometimes unconsciously)
- Paid contributors only considering the needs of their sponsors and not of the wider community
Generic Recommendations to Limit the Problems

- Fund work that volunteers do not do
  - Administrative, boring, etc.
- Fund limited projects, in scope and duration
- Fund widely-desired features that have been stuck in someone's TODO list for a long time
- Use a fair and transparent funding process
- Fund work through external organizations
What Others Are Doing

- Django Foundation pays a Django Fellow
  - Administrative & community management tasks
  - Weekly report
  - Very positive results
- Reproducible Build contributors are funded through a Core Infrastructure Initiative grant.
  - ...
- Tails public's accounts shows “Subcontracting”
  - For administrative and boring tasks
    - fundraising included
  - For development projects related to their roadmap
Questions to Answer

- Are there tasks that should be done and that are not done because they interest nobody?
- Do you know widely desired features that we have been waiting for a long time?
- If Debian had its own “grant program” open to all contributors
  - What should the selection process look like?
  - Would you submit a project that you want to implement? Which one?