Skolinux
aka Debian-Edu

Linux in der Schule

Holger Levensen, 8. September 2007, Kieler Linuxtage
Vorwort

• These slides are written in English, even though the talk will be held in German. Unless the audience wants it in English ;-)  

• Reasons:
  – easy “recycling” of these slides for me and others.
  – Debian-EDU is developed in English. There are local (user) communities too, but our common language is English.

• Zwischenfragen sind gern gesehen, insbesondere wenn ich zuviel Denglisch rede :-)
Outline

- some bits about me
- debian, debian edu
- project goals
- architecture & features
- status of world domination ;)
- development model & tools
- german community
- contributions to Debian
- current and future challenges
Some bits about me

- running Debian stable as primary OS since 1996
- contributing since 2003
- Debian Developer, holger@debian.org since 2007
  - Debian-edu member, powerpc porter, ftpmaster
  - FAI (fully automatic installation) developer
  - Debian-QA / piuparts contributor
  - founded debian-community.org
- DebConf organizer
  - founded the DebConf video-team in 2005
About the two names...

- nowadays Debian Edu and Skolelinux are used as synonyms – it's the same project
- Skolelinux was started in 2001 in norway, Debian Edu at around the same time in france
  - skole is norwegian and means school
  - edu is short for education
- I tend to say that
  - Debian Edu is name of the project
  - Skolelinux is the name of the distribution
Debian

- **Debian Free Software Guidelines** (free distribution, open source, derived works, no discrimination against usage or users, ...)

- **Social Contract** (will remain 100% free, we will gave back, we wont hide problems, our priority are our users and free software, therefore contrib and non-free)

- > 1000 developers, > 18000 software packages, 12 architectures officially supported

- prominent users: LiMux, LinEx, BSI, HP, LindenLabs (2nd life), Pixar, Jim Henson, Ubuntu..
Debian Edu and Debian

• official Debian sub-project (and another CDD (Custom Debian Distribution))
• more than 25 developer gatherings in norway, germany, spain, brazil, france – good to improve cooperation and to avoid flamewars
• approx. 30 debian-edu developers, more than 150 translators and documentation writers
• >1000 debian developers :-)
• 9 packages which are currently not in debian, 11 packages which are modified in debian edu

goal for lenny: 0 packages differ from debian
Project goals

- The original idea: provide a software distribution with a complete IT platform for primary schools.

- ethical goals:
  - teach kids that sharing software can be legal and good
  - teach kids how to tinker and improve the software they use
  - demonstrate the quality of free software
  - provide programs on all the native languages (plattdüütsch)
Project goals continued

- practical goals:
  - reduce the computer-related expenses in schools
  - give schools a well-tested collection of services which reduce system administration needs
  - increase computer availability
School specific needs

• low maintainance, out-of-the-box setup
• little ressources
• localisation – very important in schools
• learning to express, share & learn
• tools for making music, drawings & learning
• source code availability – to be able to understand what's going on and change it
• different tools for different kind of pupils
• office, java and flash :-(

-> not so very school specific at all! :-(
Network architecture

Router
10.0.2.1

Main Server
10.0.2.2

Internet

WorkStation
192.168.0.254

Thin client server

WorkStation
192.168.0.254

Thin client server

Thin client
192.168.0.0/24

Thin client
192.168.0.0/24

Thin client
192.168.0.0/24
Debian Edu “terra 3.0” features

- simplified debian-installer for i386, amd64 and powerpc
  - architecture specific installation CDs
  - multiarch DVD
- LTSP server for thin- & half-thick clients
- installed services: ldap, web, mail, remote syslog, cups, ntp, dhcp, dns
- LDAP out the box
  - user database, home dirs on every machine (via NFS)
  - web based admintool lwat
More features

- KDE based desktop with java & flash and OpenOffice.org
  - KDE kiosk mode preconfigured
- complete end-user documentation
  - developed in a wiki
  - translated with .po files
  - generates html and pdf versions
- live-CDs built with debian-live (see http://live.debian.net)
debian-edu in schools worldwide and beyond

- used in more than 450 schools worldwide - mostly Europe (300 in .no, 70 in .de) but also more than 60 in Africa, distributed via http://fairinternational.org/
- between 200 and 30000 users per school
- this will at least double in 2008 (LinEx)
- cooperation agreements with Edubuntu, LinEx (Extremadura Spain), KDE-edu, PSL-Brasil, mEDUXa and the UN/MIT project One Laptop per Child
Schools using debian-edu
Development model

- All code, translations and documentation have to be committed to our source code management system(s)
- Bugs have to be committed to the bug-tracking system(s)
- Commit everything upstream.
- Follow the licence-terms, encourage GPL
- Help people to help themselves
- The person who does something decides
Development “tools”

- debian-edu@lists.debian.org
- wiki.debian.org/DebianEdu
- #debian-edu, monthly meetings
- svn.debian.org/debian-edu on Alioth
- ftp.skolelinux.no (we give upload rights to non-DDs – within our policies)
- svn-commit triggered builds of etch and etch-test CDs

frequent RL gatherings
german community

- Mailingliste: user@skolelinux.de
- #skolelinux.de auf irc.debian.org
- wiki.skolelinux.de
- Testzentrum in Gütersloh
- sometimes/partly disconnected from international efforts
  - share your needs, work & experience in english
- LinEx merges too!!
Contributions to Debian

- participation in the CDD effort
- funded kickoff of debian-installer
- preseeding for d-i
- funded kickoff of testing-security
- LTSP
- skilled developers :)
- support the free java and gnash efforts
Current and future challenges

- release “terra 3.0 r1” with improved documentation and lwat
- customisations of the german and french skolelinux teams are only very slowly integrated into debian-edu
- integration of the LinEx customisations, LinEx plans to deploy a new version based on Debian Edu in spring 2008
- release with Debian Lenny (end of 2008)
Wanna join?

- we need:
  - developers
  - testers (general & amd64 & powerpc)
  - translators
  - documentation writers
  - artists
  - multiplicators
  - users (teacher, pupils)
Dankeschön :) 

- Questions ?