Skolinux
aka Debian Edu

100% in main
it's a long and winding road –
but worth it
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
Outline

• Some bits about me
• Project goals, design & features
• Debian Edu Etch
• Debian and Debian Edu
• Debian Edu Lenny
• Current and future challenges
Outline

- Some bits about me
- Project goals, design & features
- Debian Edu Etch
- Debian and Debian Edu
- Debian Edu Lenny
- Current and future challenges
- again: not the best prepared talk ever...
Some Debian 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
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Debian Edu project goals

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

• 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
Project goals continued

- 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 in (all) native languages
Debian Edu in use worldwide

- all schools in Extremadura (real soon now)
- many many schools in Norway and Germany
- many schools throughout the world (France, Spain, Japan, Brasil, Argentina, Danmark, lots of others)
- also used in Universities and Offices
School specific needs

- low maintainance, out-of-the-box setup
- little resources
- 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, flash & multimedia support
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-> not so very school specific at all! :-}
Debian Edu “terra 3.0” features

- Simplified debian-installer for i386, amd64 and powerpc
  - architecture specific installation CDs
  - multiarch DVD
- KDE based desktop with Java & flash and OpenOffice.org
  - KDE kiosk mode preconfigured
- live-CDs built with debian-live (see http://live.debian.net)
Works as designed

- LTSP server for thin-clients and diskless workstations with local device support
- Installed services: ldap (for users and machines), web, mail, remote syslog, munin, cups, ntp, dhcp, dns, home dirs via nfs
- Webbrowser based admintool lwat
Works as designed

- LTSP server for thin-clients and diskless workstations with local device support – **with a predefined network setup**
- Installed services: ldap (for users and machines), web, mail, remote syslog, munin, cups, ntp, dhcp, dns, home dirs via nfs – **all working out of the box**!
- Webbrowser based admintool lwat
Some more fancy details

- usplash
- dash
- etc-in-svk
- lvmautoresize
- debian-edu-doc
Write the fine manual!

- Complete end-user documentation
  - developed in a wiki
  - review of commit mails, sometimes editorial changes
  - translated with .po files
  - translated to Bokmål, Italian, German, Spanish and French
  - generates html and pdf versions
  - available through the debian-edu-doc package
  - uploaded monthly (since October 2007)
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Debian Edu 3.0r1 pointrelease

- 3.0r0 in July 2007, 3.0r1 in December 2007
- ~40 bugs fixed (wishlist – critical)
- ~18 packages updated after manual review from ftpmaster
- new CD/DVD images
- lots of testing
ToDo for Etch

- Etch now in bugfix mode:
  - branched packages
  - manual review
- regular debian-edu-doc updates
- Development of a manual for etch and lenny, branch at some point just like the other packages
# Packages not in debian-etch main

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>package</th>
<th>debian-edu/etch local</th>
<th>debian-edu/etch-test local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu-config</td>
<td>1.416+svn39964</td>
<td>1.416+svn39964</td>
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<td>debian-edu-doc</td>
<td>0.9.20071204</td>
<td>1.0~20080215</td>
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<td>debian-edu-install</td>
<td>0.667.1+svn39522</td>
<td>0.667.1+svn39522</td>
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<td>flashplugin-nonfree</td>
<td>9.0.48.0.0.edu.etch1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flashplugin-nonfree-extrasound</td>
<td>0.0.svn2431-2.0.edu.etch.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>live-helper</td>
<td>1.0a19-1.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>1.0a36-1.0.edu.etch.1</td>
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<td>live-initramfs</td>
<td>1.91.5-1.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>1.110.6-1</td>
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<td>localization-config</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>1.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>ltspfs</td>
<td>0.4.3+debian2+0.edu.0.etch.1</td>
<td>0.4.3+debian2+0.edu.0.etch.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>lwat</td>
<td>0.16-1</td>
<td>0.17-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>slbackup-php</td>
<td>0.3-1.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>0.3-1.edu.etch.1</td>
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</table>
# 99.867% Etch

Packages newer in debian-edu/etch than in debian/etch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>package</th>
<th>debian-edu/etch local</th>
<th>debian/etch main</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>915resolution</td>
<td>0.5.3-0.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>0.5.2-9</td>
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<tr>
<td>console-tools</td>
<td>1:0.2.3dbs-65.0.0.edu.etch.3</td>
<td>1:0.2.3dbs-65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cpufrequtils</td>
<td>002-4.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>002-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dbus</td>
<td>1.0.2-1.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>1.0.2-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu</td>
<td>0.822.0.edu.etch.3</td>
<td>0.813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu-archive-keyring</td>
<td>2007.09.15</td>
<td>2006.09.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu-artwork</td>
<td>0.0.23.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>0.0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discover</td>
<td>2.1.2-1.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>2.1.1-2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discover-data</td>
<td>2.2007.08.07-0.1.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>2.2007.02.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hal</td>
<td>0.5.8.1-9.0.edu.etch.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>kde-i18n</td>
<td>4.3.5.5-1.0.edu.etch.3</td>
<td>4.3.5.5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>libpam-foreground</td>
<td>0.4-0.0.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ltsp</td>
<td>0.99debian12+0.0.edu.etch.8</td>
<td>0.99debian11</td>
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<tr>
<td>munin</td>
<td>1.2.5-2.0.edu.etch.4</td>
<td>1.2.5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sitessummary</td>
<td>0.0.35</td>
<td>0.0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>xdebconfigurator</td>
<td>1.30.edu.etch.1</td>
<td>1.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why be 100% part of Debian?

- less work
- better results
- make one part of the many that form an universal operating system
- personally, I also see Debian Edu as a testbed for changes in Debian, e.g. for making the default desktop “sexier”
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 :-)
- in Etch: 9 packages which are currently not in Debian, 16 packages which are modified in Edu
- goal for Lenny: 0 packages differ from debian
Contributions to Debian

- skilled and active developers :) 
- participation in the CDD effort 
- funded kickoff of debian-installer 
- preseeding for d-i 
- funded kickoff of testing-security 
- LTSP 
- support the free java and gnash efforts
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
  - many more lists for support, read the manual
- wiki.debian.org/DebianEdu
- #debian-edu, monthly meetings
- frequent RL gatherings
- svn.debian.org/debian-edu on Alioth
Our own archive and cd-builds

• ftp.skolelinux.no
  – sarge, etch, etch-test, lenny, lenny-test
  – etch-test and lenny-test are autobuild
  – manual move from -test to etch/lenny
  – etch and sarge are untouchable now
• we give upload rights to non-DDs – within our policies
• svn-commit triggered builds of etch, etch-test, lenny and lenny-test CDs and DVDs
Challenges related to the Lenny release

• Integration of the LinEx customisations: LinEx plans to deploy a new version based on Debian Edu in spring/summer 2008

• release with Debian Lenny (end of 2008)

• after that *maybe* do pointreleases out of sync with Debian – needs to be discussed/seen

• our Etch was 3.0, Debians was 4.0 …
Technical challenges

• LDAPify services
• configuration in a policy compliant way (#311188)
• make it easier to change the IP addresses
• properly support laptops as workstations
• the same desktop “experience” with gnome as with KDE, better menu system
• uploads to sid
Technical challenges cont.

- rsyslog
- readahead
- free flash and free Java
new Features in Lenny

- Gnome desktop, Sugar desktop
- dhcp3 config in LDAP, automated PXE setup, somewhat less hardcoded IP setup
- some work on #311188
- Free flash (?) & free Java
- killer feature
- everything else which is new in Lenny
current diff to Lenny

Packages in our archive compared to the Debian archive

Packages newer in debian-edu/lenny-test than in debian/lenny

<table>
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<tr>
<td>debian-edu</td>
<td>0.838~svn44901</td>
<td>0.837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu-config</td>
<td>1.424~svn45881</td>
<td>1.423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>debian-edu-install</td>
<td>0.673~svn44941</td>
<td>0.672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sitesummary</td>
<td>0.0.47</td>
<td>0.0.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Packages not in debian-lenny main

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<tr>
<td>host-policygroups</td>
<td>0.0.1~svn45004</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
#311188

- was RC for 2 years, recently downgraded
- we don't violate policy by the word
- but in effect, upgrades are/were partly painful
#311188 blockers

- 370324: Make /etc/courier/authdaemonrc automatically configurable
- 370332: keep server list separate from other ntp.conf settings
- 370337: Please remove bogus change of /etc/default/slapd
- 370343: Make /etc/ldap/ldap.conf automatically configurable
- 370339: sysklogd: Make some conffiles automatically configurable
#311188 blockers

- 370342: Make /etc/kde3/kdm/Xaccess automatically configurable
- 370346: Make /etc/security/group.conf automatically configurable
- 370348: Make /etc/skel/.bash_profile automatically configurable
- 370351: Make /etc/sysctl.conf automatically configurable
#311188 conclusions

- maintainers, please use something like /etc/apache2/conf.d/ or use hidden debconf questions (when sensible)
the day that made me happy and unhappy at once

• ca. three weeks ago Lenny was frozen....

• Yay!

• not so yay where the commit logs I read after that: changes which clearly don't meet the release teams guidelines
the day that made me happy and unhappy at once

- ca. three weeks ago Lenny was frozen....
- Yay!
- not so yay where the commit logs I read after that: changes which clearly don't meet the release teams guidelines
- Since then I have almost done nothing on Debian Edu – for which of course this conference is also to blame :-(
Reasons for my loss of motivation

• “If you fight, you can loose. If you don't fight, you already have lost.” (Berthold Brecht)

• If we give up on our goals when it get's difficult, we will never reach them.

• I thought we agreed on the goals and trying to reach them. Important bug fixes were/are still possible, and I think most of our issues are important for others as well. (And the rest is not important.)
A hack as a solution?

- debian-edu-install in unstable will add our repository to sources.list
- if we get that into Lenny, we can install from main and get our changes in through the backdoor
- Not really different from what there was before... we use our own repo and modifications, with all the costs that has.
IMHO we should change policy

• Some packages in Debian are (somewhat) excluded from the strict freeze guidelines:
  – debian-installer packages
  – debian-cd

• I believe there are others, who would benefit greatly from getting exceptions, eg: debian-edu-*, fai, certain meta-packages, artwork packages
Pointreleases and minor bugs

• two different issues, but similar

• we (Debian Edu) tend to fix more bugs in our pointreleases. I see this as the next issue coming up, once we released in main.

• I don't think a freeze should mean a complete stop on fixing less than important bugs

  – sure, every bugfix can bring regressions
  – but still, I think we should find a way to polish Debian better
Thank you for your attention!

• Questions ? Suggestions ? Anything else ?

• Want to contribute? We're always in need of developers, testers, translators, documentation writers, artists, multiplicators