Bringing MediaWiki back into Debian
Kunal Mehta / User:Legoktm
DebConf ‘17
 Debian

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Debian** (/'debiən/[^4] or /ˈdɛbɪən/)[^5] is a Unix-like computer operating system that is composed entirely of free software, most of which is under the GNU General Public License and packaged by a group of individuals participating in the Debian Project.

The Debian Project was first announced in 1993 by Ian Murdock, Debian 0.01 was released on September 15, 1993,[^6] and the first stable release was made in 1996.[^7]

The Debian stable release branch is one of the most popular for personal computers and network servers, and has been used as a base for many other distributions.

The project's work is carried out over the Internet by a team of volunteers guided by the Debian Project Leader and three foundational documents: the Debian Social Contract, the Debian Constitution, and the Debian Free Software Guidelines. New distributions are updated continually, and the next candidate is released after a time-based freeze.

As one of the earliest operating systems based on the Linux kernel, it was decided that Debian was to be developed openly and freely distributed in the spirit of the GNU Project.
Main Page

Welcome to the DebConf Wiki
The Debian Conference is the annual gathering within the Debian community, preceded by DebCamp and Debian Day.

Help · Categories · Articles

The Debian Conference is the annual Debian developers meeting, an event filled with coding parties, discussions and workshops - all of them highly technical in nature. Please see our official DebConf website for all up-to-date information, as this wiki is primarily used for planning purposes.

Previous Debian Conferences have featured speakers from around the world. They have also been extremely beneficial for developing key Debian software components, including the new Debian Installer, and for improving Debian's internationalization.

DebConf 2017 in Montreal, Canada

- DebConf17 will be held in Montreal, Canada, on 6 - 12 august 2017
- DebConf17, central planning page

If you are interested in sponsoring (future) DebConf, please don't hesitate to contact us.
MediaWiki

- Wiki platform written primarily in PHP
- Scales from running wikis like Wikipedia to shared hosting or a personal server
- Supports MySQL/MariaDB, SQLite, PostgreSQL
- Strong security track record
- Hundreds of extensions to add functionality
- Localized in 350+ languages
- GPL v2 or later, most extensions licensed similarly
About Me

• Wikipedian since 2007
• MediaWiki developer since 2012
• Student, also employed by Wikimedia Foundation
• Concerned about health of MediaWiki ecosystem, and wikis left on significantly older versions
• Began working on Debian package at Wikimania 2015
MediaWiki in Debian

- "mediawiki" package provides MediaWiki Core and bundled extensions that receive upstream security support
  - 1.19 packaged for jessie: originally released in 2012, security support ended in 2015

- "mediawiki-extensions" package provides assortment of various extensions
  - Unclear security status or upstream support

- Included in jessie, but removed shortly afterwards due to lack of security support

- Upstream recommended against package
A little history...
A little history...
A little history...

After installing these packages, **download** the official tarball, and extract in your webdirectory (usually `/var/www/`)

**Warning:** MediaWiki can also be installed using aptitude. The Ubuntu MediaWiki package is unsupported and usually outdated. We do not recommend you use it.
A little history...

Extension:CreateBox

This extension has been archived.
This extension has not been maintained in some time, and no longer supports recent releases of MediaWiki.
The following other choices are available:

- InputBox

To see the page before archival, click here.

Extension:ExtensionFunctions.php

This extension has been archived.
This feature ("extension") was deprecated (or possibly removed completely) in version 1.17 rev:75805.

To see the page before archival, click here.
Changes to Debian package

- MySQL/MariaDB as recommended database engine
- Apache2 configuration works out of the box
- Abandon “mediawiki-extensions” mega package
- Develop and review packaging changes in Wikimedia’s Gerrit instance
- Bug tracking in Wikimedia’s bug tracker and bugs.debian.org
Challenges with Debian

- A bug tracker solely based around email is hard.
  - Even for users familiar with command-line, reportbug can be hard to use
  - Solution: Users can use Wikimedia’s Phabricator bug tracker to report bugs

- Lack of pre-commit review system
  - I prefer having my sponsor review patches before they are committed
  - Solution: Git repository is hosted at gerrit.wikimedia.org, which facilitates pre-commit review

- Benefits: More drive-by contributions by MediaWiki regulars
Add NEWS for major version upgrade

Closes: #838965
Change-Id: ia2362f0e80ce18848bfa9b71c46367aa0cf7f9d7

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<th>Kunal Mehta <a href="mailto:legoktm@member.fsf.org">legoktm@member.fsf.org</a></th>
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| Code-Review | +2 Hashar |
| Verified    | +2 jenkins-bot |
**Hashar**

Patch Set 1:

The online doc points at `dh_installchangelogs` and its man page list the files:

```
  debian/changelog
  debian/NEWS
  debian/package.changelog
  debian/package.NEWS
```

So you should rename `debian/NEWS.debian` to `debian/NEWS`. `dh_installchangelogs` would detect it, rename it as `NEWS.debian` and gzip it.

Note it will be included in both binary packages:

```
$ dpkg-deb --contents mediawiki 1.27.1-3 all.deb|grep NEWS
./usr/share/doc/mediawiki/NEWS.Debian.gz

$ dpkg-deb --contents mediawiki-classes 1.27.1-3 all.deb|grep NEWS
./usr/share/doc/mediawiki-classes/NEWS.Debian.gz
```

Not sure how each relates, having the `NEWS` in both package would probably cause the file to be shown twice when both packages are upgraded. If you want it for a specific package, use one of:

```
  debian/mediawiki.NEWS
  debian/mediawiki-classes.NEWS
```

:)

---

**Legoktm**

Uploaded patch set 2.

---

**Legoktm**

Patch Set 1:

Thanks hashar :) I went with mediawiki.NEWS, as I don't think it makes sense to also include it for mediawiki-classes.

---

**jenkins-bot**


**Hashar**

Patch Set 2: Code-Review+2
Somewhere in `/etc/mediawiki-extensions/extensions.php`, you are loading "ExtensionFunctions.php", you should remove that as modern versions of MediaWiki should no longer need it (see [https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:ExtensionFunctions.php](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Extension:ExtensionFunctions.php)).

Can you make sure that you also upgraded the `mediawiki-classes` package to the same version as `mediawiki`?

Upgrading the `mediawiki-classes` disabled the fatal error, so I could run `update.php`. THANKS!

Did I miss some step in the backports? I feel like my change is or would be common, given that others like me were stuck on 1.19 for a long time. Where should we add such comment?

Same goes with `extensions.php`.. I never touched it, so other may find themselves in the same spot. Is there another class I need to update or remove?
Challenges with Debian

- NEW queue is discouraging and disheartening
  - After waiting 3 months...
  - REJECTs are an all or nothing system, even for something that could be trivially fixed in a follow-up upload.
  - Recommendation: Have a “-1” status for small issues that need fixing, but don’t necessitate the bluntness of a rejection.

- Lack of standardized/recommended tooling for newbies
  - sbuild, debuild, pbuilder, which do I use?
  - Recommendation: Pick one, and recommend it along with git-buildpackage for new Debian maintainers.
Changes to MediaWiki

- Introduction of a “Long Term Support” release, designed around Debian release cycles

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<td>June 2019</td>
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Ubuntu PPA

- Not in xenial due to removal from jessie, no response on backport request ticket
- Ubuntu PPA provides latest LTS for Trusty & Xenial

<table>
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<th>Package</th>
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Next steps

- Begin packaging popular extensions: VisualEditor (WYSIWYG editor), Scribunto (Lua templates)
- Provide systemctl unit for background job processing
- HHVM support out of the box
- Provide stable versions of MediaWiki via a PPA
Questions / Contact

- Email: legoktm at member.fsf.org
- IRC: legoktm on irc.{freenode,oftc}.net
- Wiki: mediawiki.org/wiki/User_talk:Legoktm/Packages