

New Maintainers: New Helpers or new Problems?

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Debian

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Outline

- 1 The New Maintainer Process
 - General idea
 - Current procedure
 - Analysis
- 2 An alternative to the current NM process
 - Possible changes
 - Possible tasks for NMs
 - Analysis
 - Consequences for the QA team
- 3 Other QA aspects of the NM process

How to avoid holding talks

- Ignore people who have to fill a schedule
- Work out, so you can run faster
- Fight, don't give up after 5 minutes
- Don't give the impression that you know something

The NM Process - Introduction

- New people want to help Debian
- Debian needs new people to help out
- Giving accounts creates security and QA problems
- Keeping the number of DDs small helps to create social bonds

The NM Process - How it works

- People already in Debian need to advocate new helpers
- Applicants have to prove understanding of Debian's philosophical basis
- Applicants need to show their technical abilities
- Applicant Manager, Front Desk and Account Manager need to approve
- An account is created

The NM Process - How are P&P / T&S actually checked

- Mostly questions from templates
- A few tasks ("write a man page", "fix a rc bug")
- Looking at work done by the Applicant independently

The NM Process - Advantages

- It filters people with a short attention span
- Policies and Procedures are hammered into the applicants' brains
- It's long enough to educate people before they get upload permissions

The NM Process - Problems

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- ⇒ Change checks to be based on actual tasks.

Task-based New Maintainer Checks

- Bug triage for an existing package
- WNPP bugs always need to be checked and fixed
- QA uploads and NMUs for RC bugs
- Transition support and/or management

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 - Create and use cool new user-tags
- Reproduce bugs
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 - Adds to the load of the DAM

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- *Helps Debian*

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- Provide list of tasks that can be done by Applicants

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