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Debian 2.1, a.k.a. slink  
*(or small is beautiful)*

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# Agenda

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- Why debian ?
- Debian release information
- How big is debian
- About the distributions
- About slink 2.1

# Why debian ?

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- Is one of the early 'Linux' project.
- Did not become of reasonable 'quality' before it's 2.0 release
- Is a complete 'Open Source' / GNU distribution
- Is targetting at the support for a large number of platforms (intel, alpha, ppc, mips, sparc, 68k)

# Release information

## bo, ham, slink, potato

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- Who invents these names?
- What is in a name?
  - bo = 1.3 (very old)
  - ham = 2.0 (most commonly used, used libc6)
  - slink = 2.1 (latest stable release)
  - potato = see next linux sig
- Debian does not follow the odd/even model of linux

# How big is debian

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- Bigger than Oracle !!! :-)
- How big alpha+intel = 1759 MB
- This means 2 CD per architecture
- Debian comes in multiple 'sub distributions'
  - main: the principle distribution
  - contrib: non part of a release but added by others
  - non-free: or is it non GNU
  - non-us: what you can't get out of the US: crypto

# About the distributions

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- The distributions comes in various form
  - Source code
  - Binaries:
    - intel
    - alpha
    - ppc
    - mips
    - sparc
    - m68k

# About slink, 2.1

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- Currently is only stabilized 4 platforms:
  - binary-i386
  - binary-alpha
  - binary-m68k
  - binary-sparc
- Sometime files consist of data common to all distributions.
- Such data is stored as binary-all

# Some slink vs. ham statistics (for the main part)

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- Packages removed since ham
  - 48 packages
- Packages unchanged between the two releases
  - 480 packages
- Changed packages
  - 995 packages
- New packages
  - 758 packages

# Overview of the Packages

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Package #1  
**a2ps**

# How about installing debian

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- Bootable floppy + CD-ROM
- Bootable floppy + File server (my favorite)
- Bootable CD-ROM (new, haven't tested... robert?)

# Advantages of debian 2.1

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- It's all there (except things like kde)
- It has an automated update capability
- It is linux 2.2 ready, but is not built for it
  - wait for 'patato'
- Does a good effort at checking dependencies
  - easier to upgrade releases in case of problems ?

# Disadvantage of debian 2.1

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- Packages selection:
  - ‘please choose one of the 2200 below....’
- Good for the ‘hacker’ but little graphical administration tools
- Suffers from the ‘y.a.p.f.’ syndrome
  - loving the ‘alien’

# Installing on alpha

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- Once it's installed it runs like any other system...
- Alpha is different from other systems that the boot-loader is configurable
  - Hence linux bootstraps differently than NT or Unix
- In fact the alpha doesn't know anything about booting...

# First step - Trying to get the boot-loader working

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- Make the system start into the SRM mode = 'Unix BIOS'
- Put the rescue disk in the drive and issue:
  - boot dva
- This will load a loader for linux called MILO
- From this prompt issue
  - boot FD0:linux root=/dev/fd0 load\_ramdisk=1
- Linux will now boot

# Next steps

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- Install the system following the debian dialogs.
- The installation is quite obvious, apart from the dselect package selector (get used to emacs style of navigation)

# Booting an installed system

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- Use a floppy (doooh!)
- Get the Milo to load
  - boot dva
- Issue:
  - boot sda2:vmlinux

# Booting an installed system

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- Booting from harddisk (yeah!!!)
- Install a small MS-DOS partition on the harddisk, with the image of the MILO on it.
- Use the standard NT (ARC) like bootloader, and give it the arguments for the MILO loader
  - partition name
  - executable
  - arguments
  - options

# OTA - Debian Activities

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- Who wants one ?
  - Need volunteer to copy the CD's
- Install fest
  - Using is file-server
  - Installing a debian 2.1 on alpha
  - Installing a debian 2.1 on i386 ?

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# Questions (& answers)