



Meet the
Debian
Technical
Committee

What is
tech-ctte

Recent
activity
(FSVO)

Fresh blood
wanted

Q&A

Meet the Debian Technical Committee



Current tech-ctte members

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Q&A

- **David Bremner** (bremner)
- **Tollef Fog Heen** (tfheen)
- **Philip Hands** (philh)
- Margarita Manterola (marga, chair)
- Simon McVittie (smcv)
- Didier Raboud (odyx)
- Niko Tyni (ntyni)
- **Gunnar Wolf** (gwolf)

(Red ⇒ present at DC18)



Past tech-ctte members — Thanks!

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- Sam Hartman
(2015-03-08–2017-11-09)
- Keith Packard
(2013-11-29–2017-12-31)
- Don Armstrong
(2009-01-11–2016-12-31)
- Andreas Barth
(2006-01-05–2016-12-31)
- Steve Langasek
(2006-01-05–2015-12-31)
- Bdale Garbee (–2015-12-31)
- Colin Watson
(2011-08-24–2015-03-05)
- Ian Jackson (–2014-11-19)
- Russ Allbery
(2009-01-11–2014-11-16)
- Manoj Srivasta
(–2012-08-12)
- Anthony Towns
(2006-01-04–2009-01-05)
- Raul Miller (–2007-04-30)
- Wichert Akkerman
(–2006-01-05)
- Jason Gunthorpe
(–2006-01-05)
- Guy Maor (–2006-01-05)
- Dale Scheetz (–2002-09-02)
- Klee Dienes (–2001-05-21)

What is the Debian Technical Committee?

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Debian Constitution §6.1 The Technical Committee may:

- §6.1.1 Decide on any matter of technical policy
- §6.1.2 & 6.1.3 Decide any technical matter where Developers' jurisdictions overlap
- Make a decision when asked to do so
 - Tie-breaking
- §6.1.4 Overrule a Developer
 - Requires a 3:1 majority
 - Last-resort
- §6.1.5 Offer advice



Constraints

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- §6.3.3 Public discussion and decision-making
- §6.3.5 No detailed design work
- §6.3.6 TC makes decisions only as last resort



Picking options

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Constitutionally, we are asked to *break ties* amongst available options

After all efforts to solve it via consensus have been *tried and failed*



Offer advice and make our views known

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The TC can offer **you** advice.



The Debian Technical Committee is a...

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- Self-nominated
- DPL-appointed
- Last resort
- Conflict resolution and advice-providing body



Issues in front of the TC since DebConf17 (<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>)

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Membership bugs

- #865485 Voting for TC Chair
 - odyx
- #880014 2018 - New TC member
 - gwolf, smcv
- #886267 Voting for TC Chair
 - odyx
- #893200 TC Chair election
 - marga



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Decided

- #862051 Rename nodejs back to node for buster, now that ax25-node has been removed
 - Repeal #614907 (decision from 2012), as it's no longer needed
- #883573 Reevaluate libpam-systemd systemd-sysv dependency ordering (746578)
 - Repeal #746578 (decision from 2014), as it's no longer needed



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Closed without a formal resolution

- #865929 Advice on dealing with GRUB upgrade failure caused by init-select
 - Fixed by maintainer upload (was a consultive bug to begin with!)
- #877024 modemmanager should ask before messing with serial ports
 - Maintainer uploaded a new version not incurring in the controversial decision; TC decision not needed
- #881339 allow node-babel-preset-env to build depend on itself
 - Closed without resolution: TC cannot overrule delegates
- #889493 tech-ctte: Please review if systemd is reliable enough to be the default
 - Not within the TC's scope



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Current

- #904302 Whether vendor-specific patch series should be permitted in the archive
- #904558 What should happen when maintscripts fail to restart a service



Term expiry §6.2.7

On January 1st of each year the term of any Committee member who has served more than 42 months (3.5 years) *and* who is one of the two most senior members is set to expire on December 31st of that year.

- 2018
 - Tollef Fog Heen
 - Didier Raboud
- 2019
 - Phil Hands
- 2020
 - David Bremner
 - Margarita Manterola
 - Niko Tyni
- 2021
 - Simon McVittie
 - Gunnar Wolf



Need fresh blood

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We are roughly looking for 1-2 new members per year.

§6.2.1: The Technical Committee consists of up to 8 Developers, and should usually have at least 4 members.



Don't worry – Not so draining

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Our regular issues are *not at all* like #727708



TC work is

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Q&A

- Often more *social* than technical
- About *disagreements* and conflicts
- At the *broad* technical level
- *Listening* to what people have to say
- Sometimes taking hard decisions
- Essentially political



Required skillset

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- Empathy
- Technical agility
- Mentorship
- Responsiveness
- Social sensitivity
- Cool-headed



The TC needs more diversity.

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We need nominees!

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- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else



Talk to us

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Come talk to us if you have worries, questions or
else!

We are just developers.



Improving the process

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We are looking into ways to improve the process



Time for Q & A!

Thanks!

debian-ctte@lists.debian.org

<https://people.debian.org/~gwolf/talks/2018/tech-ctte.pdf>