

Una breve historia de Debian

1999-2018 Debian Documentation Team debian-doc@lists.debian.org Equipo de Documentación de Debian Este documento puede ser distribuido libremente o modificado de cualquier forma, pero sus cambios deben estar claramente documentados.

Puede ser redistribuido libremente, y puede ser modificado (incluyendo la conversión a otro tipo de medio o formato de archivo a otro o la traducción de otros idiomas) siempre que todas las modificaciones del original estén claramente marcadas como tales.

Las siguientes personas contribuyeron a él de forma significativa:

- Javier Fernández-Sanguino jfs@debian.org
- Bdale Garbee bdale@debian.org
- Hartmut Koptein koptein@debian.org
- Nils Lohner lohner@debian.org
- Will Lowe lowe@debian.org
- Bill Mitchell Bill.Mitchell@pobox.com
- Ian Murdock
- Martin Schulze joey@debian.org
- Craig Small csmall@debian.org

This document is primarily maintained by Bdale Garbee bdale@debian.org.

Traducción:

- Antonio Ognio aognio@gmail.com
- Damian Cinich damiancinich@yahoo.com.ar

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Una breve historia de Debian		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY		September 23, 2018	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	Introducción -- ¿Qué es el proyecto Debian?	1
1.1	El comienzo	1
1.2	Pronunciación de Debian	1
2	Líderes	2
3	Publicaciones de Debian	3
4	La historia detallada	6
4.1	Las versiones 0.x	6
4.1.1	El Primer sistema de Empaquetamiento de Debian	7
4.2	Las versiones 1.x	7
4.3	Las versiones 2.x	8
4.4	Las versiones 3.x	8
4.5	The 4.x Releases	10
4.6	The 5.x Releases	10
4.7	The 6.x Releases	10
4.8	The 7.x Releases	11
4.9	The 8.x Releases	12
4.10	The 9.x Releases	13
4.11	Hechos Importantes	14
4.11.1	Julio de 2000: Muere Joel Klecker	14
4.11.2	Octubre de 2000: Implementación de los almacenes de paquetes	14
4.11.3	Marzo de 2001: Muere Christopher Rutter	14
4.11.4	Marzo de 2001: Muere Fabrizio Polacco	14
4.11.5	July 2002: Martin Butterweck died	15
4.11.6	Noviembre de 2002: El fuego destruye un servidor de Debian	15
4.11.7	May 2004: Manuel Estrada Sainz and Andrés García Solier died	15
4.11.8	July 2005: Jens Schmalzing died	15
4.11.9	December 2008: Thiemo Seufer died	15
4.11.10	August 2010: Frans Pop died	15

4.11.11 April 2011: Adrian von Bidder died	15
4.11.12 May 2013: Ray Dassen died	16
4.11.13 July 2014: Peter Miller died	16
4.11.14 February 2015: Clytie Siddall died	16
4.11.15 December 2015: Ian Murdock died	16
4.11.16 September 2016: Kristoffer H. Rose died	16
4.12 ¿Qué sigue?	16
A El manifiesto de Debian Linux	17
A.1 ¿Qué es Debian Linux?	17
A.2 ¿Por qué se está elaborando Debian?	17
A.3 ¿De qué manera intentará Debian poner fin a estos problemas?	18

Abstract

Este documento describe la historia y los objetivos del proyecto Debian.

Chapter 1

Introducción -- ¿Qué es el proyecto Debian?

[The Debian Project](#) is a worldwide group of volunteers who endeavor to produce an operating system distribution that is composed entirely of free software. The principle product of the project to date is the Debian GNU/Linux software distribution, which includes the Linux operating system kernel, and thousands of prepackaged applications. Various processor types are supported to one extent or another, including 32 and 64 bit x86, ARM, MIPS, PowerPC and IBM S/390.

Debian motivated the formation of [Software in the Public Interest, Inc.](#), a New York-based non-profit organization. SPI was founded to help Debian and other similar organizations develop and distribute open hardware and software. Among other things, SPI provides a mechanism by which The Debian Project may accept contributions that are tax deductible in the United States.

Para obtener más información acerca del Software libre, consulte el [Contrato social de debian](#) y las Directrices de software libre de Debian asociadas, o bien la página [¿Qué significa libre?](#).

1.1 El comienzo

The Debian Project was officially founded by Ian Murdock on [August 16th, 1993](#). (There is also a [scanned printout](#) of that announcement.) At that time, the whole concept of a "distribution" of Linux was new. Ian intended Debian to be a distribution which would be made openly, in the spirit of Linux and GNU (read his manifesto provided as an appendix to this document for more details). The creation of Debian was sponsored by the FSF's GNU project for one year (November 1994 to November 1995).

Debian estaba pensada para ser desarrollada cuidadosa y conscientemente y ser mantenida y soportada con un cuidado similar. Lo que comenzó con un pequeño y grupo muy unido de hackers de software libre, fue creciendo gradualmente hasta convertirse en una gran comunidad de desarrolladores y usuarios bien organizada.

When it began, Debian was the only distribution that was open for every developer and user to contribute their work. It remains the most significant distributor of Linux that is not a commercial entity. It is the only large project with a constitution, social contract, and policy documents to organize the project. Debian is also the only distribution which is "micro packaged" using detailed dependency information regarding inter-package relationships to ensure system consistency across upgrades.

Debian ha adoptado un gran conjunto de directrices y procedimientos para el empaquetamiento y la distribución de software para poder alcanzar y mantener altos estándares de calidad. Se producen herramientas, sistemas automáticos y documentación de cada uno de los aspectos claves de Debian de una forma abierta y visible para poder sostener estos estándares.

1.2 Pronunciación de Debian

The official pronunciation of Debian is 'deb ee n'. The name comes from the names of the creator of Debian, Ian Murdock, and his wife, Debra.

Chapter 2

Líderes

Debian ha tenido varios líderes desde sus comienzos en el año 1993.

Ian Murdock fundó Debian en agosto de 1993 y lo condujo hasta marzo de 1996.

Bruce Perens condujo Debian desde abril de 1996 hasta diciembre de 1997.

Ian Jackson condujo Debian desde enero de 1998 hasta diciembre de 1998.

Wichert Akkerman condujo Debian desde enero de 1999 hasta marzo del 2001.

Ben Collins condujo Debian desde abril del 2001 hasta abril del 2002.

Bdale Garbee condujo Debian desde abril del 2002 hasta abril del 2003.

Martin Michlmayr led Debian from March 2003 until March 2005.

Branden Robinson led Debian from April 2005 until April 2006.

Anthony Towns led Debian from April 2006 until April 2007.

Sam Hocevar led Debian from April 2007 until April 2008.

Steve McIntyre led Debian from April 2008 until April 2010.

Stefano Zacchiroli led Debian from April 2010 until April 2013.

Lucas Nussbaum led Debian from April 2013 until April 2015.

Neil McGovern led Debian from April 2015 until April 2016.

Mehdi Dogguy led Debian from April 2016 until April 2017.

Chris Lamb was elected in April 2017 and is our current leader.

Chapter 3

Publicaciones de Debian

Debian 0.01 hasta 0.90 (agosto-diciembre de 1993)

Debian 0.91 (enero de 1994): Esta publicación disponía de un sencillo sistema de empaquetamiento que permitía instalar y desinstalar paquetes. Varias docenas de personas formaban parte del proyecto en ese momento.

Debian 0.93R5 (marzo de 1995): En este momento se asignaron responsabilidades de cada paquete a cada uno de los desarrolladores, y se empezó a utilizar el administrador de paquetes (**dpkg**) para instalar los paquetes después de la instalación del sistema base.

Debian 0.93R6 (noviembre de 1995): Aparece **dselect**. Esta fue la última publicación de Debian que utilizaba el formato binario a.out. En este momento había cerca de 60 desarrolladores. Bdale Garbee construyó el primer servidor master.debian.org y HP lo alojó en paralelo con la publicación de 0.93R6. La utilización de un servidor maestro específico en el cual los desarrolladores de Debian podían construir cada publicación llevó directamente a la formación de una red de servidores espejos, e indirectamente al desarrollo de la mayoría de las directrices y procedimientos utilizados para manejar actualmente el proyecto.

Debian 1.0 was never released: InfoMagic, a CD vendor, accidentally shipped a development release of Debian and entitled it 1.0. On December 11th 1995, Debian and InfoMagic jointly announced that this release was screwed. Bruce Perens explains that the data placed on the "InfoMagic Linux Developer's Resource 5-CD Set November 1995" as "Debian 1.0" is not the Debian 1.0 release, but an early development version which is only partially in the ELF format, will probably not boot or run correctly, and does not represent the quality of a released Debian system. To prevent confusion between the premature CD version and the actual Debian release, the Debian Project has renamed its next release to "Debian 1.1". The premature Debian 1.0 on CD is deprecated and should not be used.

The hosting of master.debian.org moved from HP to i-Connect.Net around the end of 1995. Michael Neuffer and Shimon Shapiro, founders of i-Connect.Net, hosted master on their own hardware for a little more than a year. During this time, they provided many services to Debian, including running what was essentially the New Maintainer process of the day, and significantly aiding the growth of the early Debian mirror network.

Debian 1.1 *Buzz* (June 17th, 1996): This was the first Debian release with a code name. It was taken, like all others so far, from a character in one of the *Toy Story* movies... in this case, Buzz Lightyear. By this time, Bruce Perens had taken over leadership of the Project from Ian Murdock, and Bruce was working at Pixar, the company that produced the movies. This release was fully ELF, used Linux kernel 2.0, and contained 474 packages.

Debian 1.2 *Rex* (December 12th, 1996): Named for the plastic dinosaur in the *Toy Story* movies. This release consisted of 848 packages maintained by 120 developers

Debian 1.3 *Bo* (5 de junio de 1997): El nombre viene de Bo Peep, la pastora. Esta versión consistió en 974 paquetes a cargo de 200 desarrolladores.

Debian 2.0 *Hamm* (July 24th, 1998): Named for the piggy-bank in the *Toy Story* movies. This was the first multi-architecture release of Debian, adding support for the Motorola 68000 series architectures. With Ian Jackson as Project Leader, this release made the transition to libc6, and consisted of over 1500 packages maintained by over 400 developers.

Debian 2.1 *Slink* (March 9th, 1999): Named for the slinky-dog in the movie. Two more architectures were added, [Alpha](#) and [SPARC](#). With Wichert Akkerman as Project Leader, this release consisted of about 2250 packages and required 2 CDs in the

official set. The key technical innovation was the introduction of apt, a new package management interface. Widely emulated, apt addressed issues resulting from Debian's continuing growth, and established a new paradigm for package acquisition and installation on Open Source operating systems.

Debian 2.2 *Potato* (15 August 2000): Named for "Mr Potato Head" in the *Toy Story* movies. This release added support for the [PowerPC](#) and [ARM](#) architectures. With Wichert still serving as Project Leader, this release consisted of more than 3900 binary packages derived from over 2600 source packages maintained by more than 450 Debian developers.

Debian 3.0 *Woody* (19 July 2002): Named for the main character the *Toy Story* movies: "Woody" the cowboy. Even more architectures were added in this release: [IA-64](#), [HP PA-RISC](#), [MIPS \(big endian\)](#), [MIPS \(little endian\)](#) and [S/390](#). This is also the first release to include cryptographic software due to the restrictions for exportation being *lightened* in the US, and also the first one to include KDE, now that the license issues with QT were resolved. With Bdale Garbee recently appointed Project Leader, and more than 900 Debian developers, this release contained around 8,500 binary packages and 7 binary CDs in the official set.

Debian 3.1 *Sarge* (6 June 2005): named for the sergeant of the Green Plastic Army Men. No new architectures were added to the release, although an unofficial AMD64 port was published at the same time and distributed through the new [Alioth project hosting site](#). This release features a new installer: *debian-installer*, a modular piece of software that feature automatic hardware detection, unattended installation features and was released fully translated to over thirty languages. It was also the first release to include a full office suite: OpenOffice.org. Branden Robinson had just been appointed as Project Leader. This release was made by more than nine hundred Debian developers, and contained around 15,400 binary packages and 14 binary CDs in the official set.

Debian 4.0 *Etch* (8 April 2007): named for the sketch toy in the movie. One architecture was added in this release: [AMD64](#), and official support for [m68k](#) was dropped. This release continued using the *debian-installer*, but featuring in this release a graphical installer, cryptographic verification of downloaded packages, more flexible partitioning (with support for encrypted partitions), simplified mail configuration, a more flexible desktop selection, simplified but improved localization and new modes, including a *rescue* mode. New installations would not need to reboot through the installation process as the previous two phases of installation were now integrated. This new installer provided support for scripts using composed characters and complex languages in its graphical version, increasing the number of available translations to over fifty. Sam Hocevar was appointed Project Leader the very same day, and the project included more than one thousand and thirty Debian developers. The release contained around 18,000 binary packages over 20 binary CDs (3 DVDs) in the official set. There were also two binary CDs available to install the system with alternate desktop environments different to the default one.

Debian 5.0 *Lenny* (February 2009): named for the wind up binoculars in the *Toy Story* movies. One architecture was added in this release: [ARM EABI](#) (or *armel*), providing support for newer ARM processors and deprecating the old ARM port (*arm*). The [m68k](#) port was not included in this release, although it was still provided in the *unstable* distribution. This release did not feature the [FreeBSD port](#), although much work on the port had been done to make it qualify it did not meet yet the [qualification requirements](#) for this release.

Support of small factor devices in this release was increased by the added support for Marvell's Orion platform which was used in many storage devices and also provided supported several Netbooks. Some new build tools were added which allowed Debian packages to be cross-built and shrunk for embedded ARM systems. Also, netbooks of varied vendors were now supported and the distribution provided software more suitable for computers with relatively low performance.

It was also the first release to provide free versions of Sun's Java technology, making it possible to provide Java applications in the *main* section.

Debian 6.0 *Squeeze* (February 2011): named for the green three-eyed aliens.

The release was frozen on August 6, 2010, with many of the Debian developers gathered at the 10th DebConf at New York City.

While two architectures (alpha and hppa) were dropped, two architectures of the new [FreeBSD port](#) (kfreebsd-i386 and kfreebsd-amd64) were made available as *technology preview*, including the kernel and userland tools as well as common server software (though not advanced desktop features yet). This was the first time a Linux distribution has been extended to also allow use of a non-Linux kernel.

The new release introduced a dependency based boot sequence, which allowed for parallel init script processing, speeding system startup.

Debian 7.0 *Wheezy* (May 2013): named for the rubber toy penguin with a red bow tie.

The release was frozen on June 30, 2012, very close to the Debian developers gathering in the 12th DebConf at Managua, Nicaragua.

One architecture was included in this release (armhf) and this release introduced multi-arch support, which allowed users to install packages from multiple architectures on the same machine. Improvements in the installation process allowed visually impaired people to install the system using software speech for the first time.

This was also the first release that supported the installation and booting in devices using UEFI firmware.

Debian 8 *Jessie* (April 2015): named for the cow girl doll who first appeared in Toy Story 2.

This release introduced for the first time the systemd init system as default. Two new architectures were introduced: arm64 and ppc64el and three architectures were dropped: s390 (replaced by s390x), ia64 and sparc. The Sparc architecture had been present in Debian for 16 years, but lacked developer support to make it maintainable in the distribution.

The release included many security improvements such as a new kernel that nullified a whole set of security vulnerabilities (symlink attacks), a new way to detect packages which were under security support, more packages built with hardened compiler flags and a new mechanism (needrestart) to detect sub-systems which had to be restarted in order to propagate security updates after an upgrade.

Debian 9 *Stretch* (June 2017): named for the toy rubber octopus with suckers on her eight long arms that appeared in Toy Story 3.

The release was frozen on February 7th, 2017.

Support for the powerpc architecture was dropped in this release, whileas the mips64el architecture was introduced. This release introduced debug packages with a new repository in the archive, packages from this repository provided debug symbols automatically for packages.

Debian 10 *Buster* (no release date yet): named for Andy's pet dog, received as Christmas present in the end of Toy Story.

Debian 11 *Bullseye* (no release date yet): named for Woody's wooden toyhorse that appeared in Toy Story 2.

Chapter 4

La historia detallada

4.1 Las versiones 0.x

Debian la empezó Ian Murdock en agosto de 1993, en ese entonces un estudiante de la Universidad de Purdue. Por un año (desde noviembre de 1994 a noviembre de 1995), Debian fue patrocinada por el proyecto GNU de la [Free Software Foundation](#), la organización fundada por Richard Stallman y asociada con la Licencia Pública General (GPL).

Debian 0.01 hasta Debian 0.90 fue publicada entre agosto y diciembre de 1993. Ian Murdock escribió:

«Debian 0.91 fue publicada en enero de 1994. Tenía un primitivo sistema de empaquetamiento que permitía a los usuarios manipular paquetes pero que no hacía mucho más (ciertamente no tenía dependencias ni nada por el estilo). Hasta ese momento, habían unas pocas docenas de personas trabajando en Debian, aunque todavía estaba prácticamente ensamblando las distribuciones yo mismo. 0.91 fue la última versión terminada de esta manera.»

«La mayor parte de 1994 se pasó organizando el proyecto Debian mientras que otros podían contribuir mas efectivamente, por ejemplo trabajando en **dpkg** (Ian Jackson fue por mucho tiempo el responsable de este). No hubieron versiones publicadas en 1994 que yo recuerde, aunque hubieron varias versiones internas en las que trabajamos para hacer el proceso correcto.»

«Debian 0.93 Release 5 tuvo lugar en marzo de 1995 y fue la primera versión «moderna» de Debian: Esta tuvo muchos mas desarrolladores (aunque no recuerdo cuantos exactamente), cada uno a cargo de sus propios paquetes, y **dpkg** se usaba para instalar y mantener todos estos paquetes después de que el sistema base esté instalado.»

”Debian 0.93 Release 6 happened in November 1995 and was the last a.out release. There were about sixty developers maintaining packages in 0.93R6. If I remember correctly, **dselect** first appeared in 0.93R6.”

Ian Murdock also notes that Debian 0.93R6 "... has always been my favorite release of Debian", although he admits to the possibility of some personal bias, as he stopped actively working on the project in March 1996 during the pre-production of Debian 1.0, which was actually released as Debian 1.1 to avoid confusion after a CD-ROM manufacturer mistakenly labelled an unreleased version as Debian 1.0. That incident led to the concept of "official" CD-ROM images, as a way for the project to help vendors avoid this kind of mistake.

Durante agosto de 1995 (entre Debian 0.93 Release 5 y Debian 0.93 Release 6), Hartmut Koptein inició la primera migración de Debian, para la familia Motorola m68k. El informa que «Muchos, muchos paquetes eran i386-centric (little endian, -m486, -O6 y todos para libc4) y ha sido muy duro conseguir en mi máquina una base de paquetes sobre los que comenzar(una Atari Medusa 68040, 32 MHz). Después de tres meses (en noviembre de 1995), descargué 200 paquetes de 250 paquetes disponibles, todos para libc5!» Luego comenzó otra migración junto con Vincent Renardias y Martin Schulze, para la familia PowerPC.

Since this time, the Debian Project has grown to include several [ports](#) to other architectures, a port to a new (non-Linux) kernel, the GNU Hurd microkernel, and at least one flavor of BSD kernel.

Un miembro del proyecto desde sus comienzos, Bill Mitchell, recuerda que el kernel Linux

”... being between 0.99r8 and 0.99r15 when we got started. For a long time, I could build the kernel in less than 30 minutes on a 20 MHz 386-based machine, and could also do a Debian install in that same amount of time in under 10Mb of disk space.

« ... recuerdo al grupo inicial incluyendo a Ian Murdock, yo mismo, Ian Jackson, otro Ian que no recuerdo su apellido, Dan Quinlan, y alguna otra gente que no recuerdo sus nombres. Matt Welsh fue también parte del grupo inicial o se unió tempranamente (ha dejado el proyecto). Alguien instaló una lista de correo, y desde entonces empezamos a funcionar.»

« Según lo recuerdo, no comenzamos con un plan, tampoco comenzamos con cualquier plan. Comenzamos recogiendo fuentes para una colección de paquetes al azar. Con el tiempo, nos enfocamos en una colección de items que podrían ser requeridos en la distribución: el kernel, un shell, update, getty, varios programas más y ficheros de soporte necesarios para inicializar el sistema, y un conjunto de utilidades.»

4.1.1 El Primer sistema de Empaquetamiento de Debian

En las primeras fases del proyecto, los miembros consideraron la distribución de paquetes fuente solamente. Cada paquete consistiría en el código fuente principal más un parche «Debianizado», y los usuarios podrían descomprimir los fuentes, aplicar los parches, y compilar los binarios ellos mismos. Pronto comprendieron que algún esquema de distribución de binarios sería necesario. La primera herramienta de empaquetamiento, escrita por Ian Murdock y llamada **dpkg**, creaba un paquete binario en un formato específico de Debian, y podría ser usado luego para desempaquetar e instalar los ficheros del paquete.

Ian Jackson soon took over the development of the packaging tool, renaming the tool itself **dpkg-deb** and writing a front-end program he named **dpkg** to facilitate the use of **dpkg-deb** and provide the *Dependencies* and *Conflicts* of today's Debian system. The packages produced by these tools had a header listing the version of the tool used to create the package and an offset within the file to a **tar**-produced archive, which was separated from the header by some control information.

En ese momento se levantó cierto debate entre los miembros del proyecto -- Algunos pensaron que el formato específico de Debian creado por **dpkg-deb** debía ser quitado a favor del formato producido por el programa **ar**. Después de varios formatos de archivo revisados y herramientas de empaquetamiento revisadas, el formato **ar** fue adoptado. La clave de este cambio es que este hace posible que un paquete Debian pueda ser desempaquetado en cualquier sistema Unix sin la necesidad de ejecutar un programa que no sea confiable. En otras palabras, solo herramientas estándares presentes en cada sistema Unix como 'ar' y 'tar' son requeridas para desempaquetar un paquete binario de Debian y examinar su contenido.

4.2 Las versiones 1.x

When Ian Murdock left Debian, he appointed Bruce Perens as the next leader of the project. Bruce first became interested in Debian while he was attempting to create a Linux distribution CD to be called "Linux for Hams", which would include all of the Linux software useful to ham radio operators. Finding that the Debian core system would require much further work to support his project, Bruce ended up working heavily on the base Linux system and related installation tools, postponing his ham radio distribution, including organizing (with Ian Murdock) the first set of Debian install scripts, eventually resulting in the Debian Rescue Floppy that was a core component of the Debian installation toolset for several releases.

Ian Murdock afirma:

«Bruce era la elección natural para relevarme, pues yo había mantenido el sistema base por casi un año, había estado llevando al máximo la capacidad del proyecto conforme mi disponibilidad de tiempo para dedicar a Debian decrecía rápidamente».

He initiated several important facets of the project, including coordinating the effort to produce the Debian Free Software Guidelines and the Debian Social Contract, and initiating an Open Hardware Project. During his time as Project Leader, Debian gained market share and a reputation as a platform for serious, technically-capable Linux users.

Bruce Perens también encabezó los esfuerzos para crear [Software in the Public Interest, Inc.](#). Originalmente con el objetivo de proveer al proyecto Debian una entidad legal capaz de aceptar donaciones, sus finalidades se expandieron rápidamente para incluir soporte para proyectos de software libre fuera del proyecto Debian.

Durante ese tiempo se publicaron las siguientes versiones de Debian:

- 1.1 *Buzz* publicada en junio de 1996 (474 paquetes, kernel 2.0, completamente ELF, **dpkg**)
- 1.2 *Rex* publicada en diciembre de 1996 (848 paquetes, 120 desarrolladores)
- 1.3 *Bo* publicada en julio de 1997 (974 paquetes, 200 desarrolladores)

Hubieron varias versiones intermedias «puntuales» hechas a la 1.3, siendo la última la 1.3.1R6.

Bruce Perens fue relevado por Ian Jackson como Líder del proyecto Debian en los comienzos de enero de 1998, después de llevar el proyecto durante buena parte de la preparación de la publicación de la 2.0.

4.3 Las versiones 2.x

Ian Jackson se convirtió en el líder del proyecto Debian a comienzos de 1998, y poco después se le añadió al organigrama de Software in the Public Interest en calidad de Vicepresidente. Después de la dimisión del tesorero (Tim Sailer), Presidente (Bruce Perens), y Secretario (Ian Murdock), se convirtió en el Presidente del Consejo y se eligieron los tres nuevos miembros: Martin Schulze (Vicepresidente), Dale Scheetz (Secretario), y Nils Lohner (Tesorero).

Debian 2.0 (*Hamm*) se publicó en julio de 1998 para las arquitecturas Intel i386 y la serie Motorola 68000. Esta versión marcó el traslado hacia una nueva versión de las bibliotecas de C del sistema (libc6, basadas en glibc2). En el momento de la publicación, había más de 1500 paquetes mantenidos por más de 400 desarrolladores de Debian.

Wichert Akkerman relevó a Ian Jackson como líder del proyecto Debian en enero de 1999. [Debian 2.1](#) fue [publicada](#) el 9 de marzo de 1999, después un retraso de una semana al surgir complicaciones de última hora.

Debian 2.1 (*Slink*) presentaba soporte oficial para dos nuevas arquitecturas: [Alpha](#) y [Sparc](#). Los paquetes de las X-Windows incluidos con Debian 2.1 se reorganizaron en gran medida con respecto a versiones anteriores, y 2.1 incluía **apt**, la nueva generación de la interfase para el gestor de paquetes de Debian. Además, esta versión de Debian fue la primera en requerir 2 CD-ROMs para el «Official Debian CD set»; la distribución incluía aproximadamente 2250 paquetes.

On 21 April 1999, [Corel Corporation](#) and the [K Desktop Project](#) effectively formed an alliance with Debian when Corel announced its intentions to release a Linux distribution based on Debian and the desktop environment produced by the KDE group. During the following spring and summer months, another Debian-based distribution, Storm Linux, appeared, and the Debian Project chose a new [logo](#), featuring both an Official version for use on Debian-sanctioned materials such as CD-ROMs and official Project web sites, and an Unofficial logo for use on material mentioning or derived from Debian.

Una nueva y única adaptación comenzó también en ese momento para el núcleo [Hurd](#). Esta es la primera adaptación que usa un núcleo distinto a Linux, y en su lugar usa [GNU Hurd](#), una versión basada en el microkernel GNU Mach.

Debian 2.2 (*Potato*) was released August 15th, 2000 for the Intel i386, Motorola 68000 series, alpha, SUN Sparc, PowerPC and ARM architectures. This was the first release including PowerPC and ARM ports. At the time of release, there were 3900+ binary and 2600+ source packages maintained by more than 450 Debian developers.

An interesting fact about Debian 2.2 is that it showed how an free software effort could lead to a modern operating system despite all the issues around it. This was studied¹ thoroughly by a group of interested people in an article called [Counting potatoes](#) quoting from this article:

"[...] usamos el sistema sloccount de David A. Wheeler para determinar el número de líneas de código fuente (SLOC) físicas de Debian 2.2 (aka potato). Mostramos que Debian 2.2 incluye mas de 55,000,000 SLOC físico (casi dos veces más que Red Hat 7.1, publicado aproximadamente 8 meses después), mostrando que el modelo de desarrollo de Debian (basado en el trabajo de un gran grupo de voluntarios desarrolladores al rededor del mundo) es tan capaz como otros métodos de desarrollo [...] esto también muestra que si Debian se hubiese desarrollado usando métodos tradicionales propietarios, el modelo COCOMO estima que su costo podría cerrarse en \$1.9 billones de dólares para desarrollar Debian 2.2. Además, ofrecemos un análisis de lenguajes de programación usados en la distribución (C tiene cerca del 70%, C++ cerca del 10%, LISP y Shell están cerca del 5%, con muchos otros que siguen), y los paquetes más grandes (Mozilla, el kernel Linux, PM3, XFree86, etc.)"

4.4 Las versiones 3.x

Antes de que woody pudiera comenzar a ser preparada para ser publicada, hubo que hacer un cambio en el sistema del archivo en ftp-master. Los almacenes de paquetes, que permitieron que distribuciones de propósito especial como la nueva distribución «pruebas» pudieran ser usadas por primera vez para conseguir que woody estuviera lista para su publicación, fueron [activadas en ftp-master](#) a mediados de Diciembre del 2000. Un almacén de paquetes es simplemente una colección de diferentes versiones de

¹ The [raw statistics data](#) for Potato are also available at [Debian counting site](#), as well as papers analyzing later releases.

un paquete determinado, desde la cuál multiples distribuciones (actualmente experimental, «inestable», «pruebas», y «estable») pueden tomar paquetes, que luego son incluidos en el archivo Packages de dicha distribución.

Al mismo tiempo una nueva distribución fué «pruebas» incluida. Principalmente, paquetes de «inestable» considerados estables trasladados a «pruebas» (después de un periodo de algunas semanas). Esto fué introducido para reducir el tiempo de estabilización y darle al proyecto la habilidad de preparar una nueva publicación en cualquier momento.

En ese período, algunas de las compañías que estaban entregando versiones modificadas de Debian cerraron. Corel vendió su división de Linux en el primer cuarteto de 2001, Stormix se declaró en bancarota el 17 de enero de 2001, y Progeny detuvo el desarrollo de su distribución el 01 de octubre de 2001.

The freeze for the next release started on July 1st 2001. However, it took the project a little more than a year to get to the next release, due to [problems in boot-floppies](#), because of the introduction of cryptographic software in the main archive and due to the changes in the underlying architecture (the incoming archive and the security architecture). In that time, however, the stable release (Debian 2.2) was revised up to seven times, and two Project Leaders were elected: Ben Collins (in 2001) and Bdale Garbee. Also, work in many areas of Debian besides packaging kept growing, including internationalization, Debian's web site (over a thousand web pages) was translated into over 20 different languages, and installation for the next release was ready in 23 languages. Two internal projects: Debian Junior (for children) and Debian Med (for medical practice and research) started during the woody release time frame providing the project with different focuses to make Debian suitable for those tasks.

The work around Debian didn't stop the developers from organizing an annual meeting called [DebConf](#). The first meeting was held from the 2nd to the 5th of July together with the Libre Software Meeting (LSM) at Bordeaux (France) gathered around forty Debian developers. The second conference took place in Toronto (Canada) July 5th 2002 with over eighty participants.

Debian 3.0 (*woody*) was released July 19th, 2002 for the Intel i386, Motorola 68000 series, alpha, SUN Sparc, PowerPC, ARM, HP PA-RISC, IA-64, MIPS, MIPS (DEC) and IBM s/390 architectures. This is the first release including HP PA-RISC, IA-64, MIPS, MIPS (DEC) and IBM s/390 ports. At the time of release, there were around 8500 binary packages maintained by over nine hundred Debian developers, becoming the first release to be available on DVD media as well as CD-ROMs.

Before the next release the *DebConf* annual meeting continued with the fourth conference taking place in Oslo from July 18th to July 20th 2003 with over one hundred and twenty participants, with a *DebCamp* preceding it, from July 12th to July 17th. The fifth conference took place from May 26th to June 2nd 2004 in Porto Alegre, Brazil with over one hundred and sixty participants from twenty six different countries.

Debian 3.1 (*sarge*) was released June 6th, 2005 for the same architectures as *woody*, although an unofficial AMD64 port was released at the same time using the project hosting infrastructure provided for the distribution and available at <https://alioth.debian.org>. There were around 15,000 binary packages maintained by more than one thousand and five hundred Debian developers.

There were many major changes in the *sarge* release, mostly due to the large time it took to freeze and release the distribution. Not only did this release update over 73% of the software shipped in the previous version, but it also included much more software than previous releases almost doubling in size with 9,000 new packages including the OpenOffice suite, the Firefox web browser and the Thunderbird e-mail client.

This release shipped with the 2.4 and 2.6 Linux kernel series, XFree86 4.3, GNOME 2.8 and KDE 3.3 and with a brand new installer. This new installer replaced the aging boot-floppies installer with a modular design with provided for more advanced installations (with RAID, XFS and LVM support) including hardware detections and making installations easier for novice users of all the architectures. It also switched to **aptitude** as the selected tool for package management. But the installation system also boasted full internationalization support as the software was translated into almost forty languages. The supporting documentation: installation manual and release notes, were made available with the release in ten and fifteen different languages respectively.

This release included the efforts of the Debian-Edu/Skolelinux, Debian-Med and Debian-Accessibility sub-projects which boosted the number of educational packages and those with a medical affiliation as well as packages designed especially for people with disabilities.

The sixth *DebConf* was held in Espoo, Finland, from July 10th to July 17th, 2005 with over three hundred participants. [Videos](#) from this conference are available online.

The seventh *DebConf* was held in Oaxtepec, Mexico, from May 14th to May 22nd, 2006 with around [two hundred](#) participants. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) from this conference are available online.

4.5 The 4.x Releases

Debian 4.0 (*etch*) was [released](#) April 8th, 2007 for the same number of architectures as in *sarge*. This included the AMD64 port but dropped support for m68k. The m68k port was, however, still available in the *unstable* distribution. There were around 18,200 binary packages maintained by more than one thousand and thirty Debian developers.

4.6 The 5.x Releases

Debian 5.0 (*lenny*) was [released](#) February 14th, 2009 for one more architecture than its predecessor, *etch*. This included the port for newer ARM processors. As with the previous release, support for the m68k architecture was still available in *unstable*. There were around 23,000 binary packages (built from over 12,000 source packages) maintained by more than one thousand and ten Debian developers.

The eighth *DebConf* was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, from June 17th to 23th, 2007 with over four hundred participants. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) from this conference are available online.

The ninth *DebConf* was held in Mar de Plata, Argentina, from August 10th to 16th, 2008 with over [two hundred](#) participants. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) from this conference are available online.

The tenth *DebConf* was held in Caceres, Spain, from July 23th to 30th, 2009 with over [two hundred](#) participants. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) from this conference are available online.

The eleventh *DebConf* was held in New York City, United States of America, from August 1st to 7th, 2010 with DebCamp preceding it from July 25th to 31st. Over [200 people](#) including Debian developers, maintainers, users gathered at the Columbia Campus to participate in the conference. [Videos](#) and [pictures](#) from this conference are available online.

4.7 The 6.x Releases

Debian 6.0 (*squeeze*) was released February 6th, 2011.

After the project decided, the 29th of July 2009, to [adopt time-based freezes](#) so that new releases would be published the first half of every even year. Squeeze was a one-time exception to the two-year policy in order to get into the new time schedule.

This policy was adopted in order to provide better predictability of releases for users of the Debian distribution, and also allow Debian developers to do better long-term planning. A two-year release cycle provided more time for disruptive changes, reducing inconveniences caused for users. Having predictable freezes was expected also to reduce overall freeze time.

However, even though the freeze was expected in December 2009, the [announcement that squeeze had frozen](#) came in August 2010, coinciding with the celebration of the 10th annual DebConf meeting in New York.

New features include:

- Linux Kernel 2.6.32, now completely free and without problematic firmware files.
 - libc: eglibc 2.11
 - GNOME 2.30.0 with some pieces of 2.32
 - KDE 4.4.5
 - X.org 7.5
 - Xfce 4.6
 - OpenOffice.org 3.2.1
 - Apache 2.2.16
 - PHP 5.3.3
-

- MySQL 5.1.49
- PostgreSQL 8.4.6
- Samba 3.5.6
- GCC 4.4
- Perl 5.10
- Python 2.6 and 3.1
- 10,000 new packages, for more than 29,000 binary packages built from nearly 15,000 source packages.
- DKMS, a framework to generate Linux kernel modules whose sources do not reside in the Linux kernel source tree.
- Dependency-based ordering of init scripts using inserv, allowing parallel execution to shorten the time needed to boot the system.
- Two new ports, kfreebsd-i386 and kfreebsd-amd64.

Many packages started using a new source package format based on quilt. This [new format](#), called "3.0 (quilt)" for non-native packages, separates Debian patches from the distributed source code. A new format, "3.0 (native)", was also introduced for native packages. New features in these formats include support for multiple upstream tarballs, support for bzip2 and lzma compressed tarballs and the inclusion of binary files.

The twelfth *DebConf* was held in Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 24 to 30 July 2011, with DebCamp preceding it from 17 to 23 July.

The thirteenth *DebConf* was held in Managua, Nicaragua, from 8 to 14 July 2012, with DebCamp preceding it from 1 to 6 July, and a Debian Day on 7 July.

4.8 The 7.x Releases

Debian 7.0 (*wheezy*) was released May 4th, 2013. This new version of Debian included various interesting features such as [multiarch support](#), several [specific tools to deploy private clouds](#), an improved installer, and a complete set of multimedia codecs and front-ends which removed the need for third-party repositories.

During the Debian Conference DebConf11, in July 2011, the "multiarch support" was introduced. This feature was a release goal for this release. Multiarch is a radical rethinking of the filesystem hierarchy with respect to library and header paths, to make programs and libraries of different hardware architectures easily installable in parallel on the very same system. This allows users to install packages from multiple architectures on the same machine. This is useful in various ways, but the most common is installing both 64 and 32-bit software on the same machine and having dependencies correctly resolved automatically. This feature is described extensively in the [Multiarch manual](#).

The installation process was greatly improved. The system could be installed using software speech, above all by visually impaired people who do not use a Braille device. Thanks to the combined efforts of a huge number of translators, the installation system was available in 73 languages, and more than a dozen of them were available for speech synthesis too. In addition, for the first time, Debian supported installation and booting using UEFI for new 64-bit PCs, although there was no support for *Secure Boot* yet.

Other new features and updated software packages included:

- Linux Kernel 3.2
- kFreeBSD kernel 8.3 and 9.0
- libc: eglibc 2.13
- the GNOME 3.4 desktop environment
- KDE Plasma Workspaces and KDE Applications 4.8.4

- the Xfce 4.8 desktop environment
- X.org 7.7
- LibreOffice 3.5.4 (replacing OpenOffice)
- Xen Hypervisor 4.1.4
- Apache 2.2.22
- Tomcat 6.0.35 and 7.0.28
- PHP 5.4
- MySQL 5.5.30
- PostgreSQL 9.1
- Samba 3.6.6
- GCC 4.7 on PCs (4.6 elsewhere)
- Perl 5.14
- Python 2.7
- 12,800 new packages, for more than 37,400 binary packages built from nearly 17,500 source packages.

For more information on the new features introduced in this release, see the *What's new in Debian 7.0* chapter of *Wheezy Release Notes*.

The fourteenth *DebConf* was held in Vaumarcus, Switzerland, from 11 to 18 August 2013, with DebCamp preceding it from 6 to 10 August, and a Debian Day on 11 August.

4.9 The 8.x Releases

Debian 8.0 (*Jessie*) was released April 25th, 2015.

A major change in this release was the replacement of the init system: `systemd` replaced `sysvinit`. This new init system featured many improvements and faster boot times. Its inclusion, however, sparked a lot of debate in the different mailing lists and even led to a General Resolution titled [init system coupling](#), which was voted by close to half of the developers².

Other new features and updated software packages included:

- Apache 2.4.10
- Asterisk 11.13.1
- GIMP 2.8.14
- an updated version of the GNOME desktop environment 3.14
- GNU Compiler Collection 4.9.2
- Icedove 31.6.0 (an unbranded version of Mozilla Thunderbird)
- Iceweasel 31.6.0esr (an unbranded version of Mozilla Firefox)
- KDE Plasma Workspaces and KDE Applications 4.11.13
- LibreOffice 4.3.3

² In the Debian Project Leader Elections of the previous four years the number of voters had been usually around 40% of the existing Debian Developers

- Linux 3.16.7-ckt9
- MariaDB 10.0.16 and MySQL 5.5.42
- Nagios 3.5.1
- OpenJDK 7u75
- Perl 5.20.2
- PHP 5.6.7
- PostgreSQL 9.4.1
- Python 2.7.9 and 3.4.2
- Samba 4.1.17
- Tomcat 7.0.56 and 8.0.14
- Xen Hypervisor 4.4.1
- the Xfce 4.10 desktop environment
- more than 43,000 other ready-to-use software packages, built from nearly 20,100 source packages.

For more information on the new features introduced in this release, see the *What's new in Debian 8.0* chapter of [Jessie Release Notes](#).

4.10 The 9.x Releases

Debian 9.0 (*Stretch*) was released June 17th, 2017.

New features and updated software packages included:

- Apache 2.4.23
 - Bind 9.10
 - Calligra 2.9
 - Emacs 4.88
 - Firefox 50.0
 - GNOME desktop environment 3.22
 - GNU Compiler Collection 6.3
 - GnuPG 2.1
 - KDE Plasma Workspaces and KDE Applications 5.8
 - LibreOffice 5.2.7
 - Linux 4.9
 - MariaDB 10.1
 - OpenJDK 8
 - OpenSSH 7.4p1
 - Perl 5.24
-

- PHP 7.0
- Postfix 3.1
- PostgreSQL 9.6
- Python 3.5
- Samba 4.5.8
- Xen Hypervisor 4.8.1
- the Xfce 4.12 desktop environment
- more than 51,000 other ready-to-use software packages, built from nearly 25,000 source packages.

For more information on the new features introduced in this release, see the *What's new in Debian 9.0* chapter of [Stretch Release Notes](#).

4.11 Hechos Importantes

4.11.1 Julio de 2000: Muere Joel Klecker

El 11 de julio de 2000, Joel Klecker, quien era también conocido como Espy, falleció a la edad de 21 años. Ninguno de los que vieron el apodo 'Espy' en #mklinux ó en las listas y canales de Debian llegó a pensar jamás que detrás de ese apodo existía un joven sufriendo la [Distrofia muscular de Duchenne](#). Mucha gente solo lo conoció como 'el tipo de la biblioteca glib y la powerpc en Debian' y nunca tuvo idea de las cosas terribles contra las que Joel luchó. A pesar de su discapacidad física, él compartió su brillante mente con otros.

Joel Klecker (conocido también como Espy) no será olvidado.

4.11.2 Octubre de 2000: Implementación de los almacenes de paquetes

James Troup [reported](#) that he has been working on re-implementing the archive maintenance tools and switching to package pools. From this date, files are stored in a directory named after the corresponding source package inside of the `poools` directory. The distribution directories will only contain Packages files that contain references to the pool. This simplifies overlapping distributions such as testing and unstable. The archive is also database-driven using PostgreSQL which also speeds up lookups.

This concept of managing Debian's archives sort of like a package cache was first introduced by Bdale Garbee in [this email](#) to the debian-devel list in May of 1998.

4.11.3 Marzo de 2001: Muere Christopher Rutter

On March 1st, 2001, Christopher Matthew Rutter (also known as cmr) was killed after he was struck by a car at the age of 19. Christopher was a young and well known member of the Debian project helping the ARM port. The [buildd.debian.org](#) site is dedicated to his memory.

Chris Rutter no será olvidado.

4.11.4 Marzo de 2001: Muere Fabrizio Polacco

El 28 de Marzo de 2001, Fabrizio Polacco falleció después de una larga enfermedad. El proyecto Debian hace mención a su buen trabajo y gran dedicación a Debian y al software libre. Las contribuciones de Fabrizio no serán olvidadas, y otros desarrolladores continuarán con su trabajo.

Fabrizio Polacco no será olvidado.

4.11.5 July 2002: Martin Butterweck died

El 21 de Julio de 2002, Martin Butterweck (también conocido como blendi) falleció luego de luchar contra la leuzemia. Martin era un joven miembro del proyecto quien recientemente se había unido a Debian.

Martin Butterweck no será olvidado.

4.11.6 Noviembre de 2002: El fuego destruye un servidor de Debian

Around 08:00 CET on November 20th, 2002, the University of Twente Network Operations Center (NOC) caught fire. The building burnt to the ground. The fire department gave up hope on protecting the server area. Among other things the NOC hosted satie.debian.org which contained both the security and non-US archive as well as the new-maintainer (nm) and quality assurance (qa) databases. Debian rebuilt these services on the host klecker, which was recently moved from the U.S.A. to the Netherlands.

4.11.7 May 2004: Manuel Estrada Sainz and Andrés García Solier died

On May 9th Manuel Estrada Sainz (ranty) and Andrés García Solier (ErConde) were killed in a tragic car accident while returning from the Free Software conference held at Valencia, Spain.

Manuel Estrada Sainz and Andrés García Solier will be missed.

4.11.8 July 2005: Jens Schmalzing died

On July 30th Jens Schmalzing (jensen) died in a tragic accident at his workplace in Munich, Germany. He was involved in Debian as a maintainer of several packages, as supporter of the PowerPC port, as a member of the kernel team, and was instrumental in taking the PowerPC kernel package to version 2.6. He also maintained the Mac-on-Linux emulator and its kernel modules, helped with the installer and with local Munich activities.

Jens Schmalzing will be missed.

4.11.9 December 2008: Thiemo Seufer died

On December 26th Thiemo Seufer (ths) died in a car accident. He was the lead maintainer of the MIPS and MIPSEL port and he had also contributed at length in the debian-installer long before [he became a Debian developer](#) in 2004. As a member of the QEMU team he wrote most of the MIPS emulation layer.

Thiemo Seufer will be missed.

4.11.10 August 2010: Frans Pop died

Frans Pop (fjp) died on August 20th. Frans was involved in Debian as a maintainer of several packages, a supporter of the S/390 port, and one of the most involved members of the Debian Installer team. He was a Debian listmaster, editor and release manager of the Installation Guide and the release notes, as well as a Dutch translator.

Frans Pop will be missed.

4.11.11 April 2011: Adrian von Bidder died

Adrian von Bidder (cmot) died on April 17th. Adrian was one of the founding members and secretary of debian.ch, he sparked many ideas that made Debian Switzerland be what it is today. Adrian also actively maintained software in the Debian package archive, and represented the project at numerous events.

Adrian von Bidder will be missed.

4.11.12 May 2013: Ray Dassen died

Ray Dassen (jdassen) died on May 18th. Ray was a Debian Developer for incredible 19 years. He joined the project in 1994, and continued to be an active contributor until his passing. Ray was one of the founding members of the Debian GNOME team, his friendliness and willingness to help fostered a spirit of collaboration within the GNOME team. He continued his involvement within Debian as the maintainer of several packages, most notably the Gnumeric spreadsheet.

Ray Dassen will be missed.

4.11.13 July 2014: Peter Miller died

Peter Miller died on July 27th. Peter was a relative newcomer to the Debian project, but his contributions to Free and Open Source Software go back to the late 1980s. Peter was significant contributor to GNU gettext as well as being the main upstream author and maintainer of other projects that ship as part of Debian, including, but not limited to srecord, aegis and cook. Peter was also the author of the paper *Recursive Make Considered Harmful*.

Peter Miller will be missed.

4.11.14 February 2015: Clytie Siddall died

Clytie Siddall died in February 2015. Clytie was a contributor of Vietnamese translations to Debian and other projects for many years. Within Debian she worked on translations for the installer, dpkg, apt and various documentation. She also contributed translations within the GNOME community and many other projects. Clytie was also a GNOME foundation member between 2005 and 2007.

Clytie Siddall will be missed.

4.11.15 December 2015: Ian Murdock died

Ian Murdock, the founder of the Debian Project and its community, died in December 2015. Ian was introduced to computers early in his life, he started actively programming at nine years of age. With the idea and the opportunity to make something better, he started the Debian Project in August of 1993. At that time, the whole concept of a "distribution" of Linux was new. Inspired as he said by Linus Torvalds' own sharing of Linux, he released Debian with the intention that this distribution should be made openly, in the spirit of Linux and GNU. Ian's dream lives on: Debian is made up of a strong community that has fostered development, growth, and wonder. It remains incredibly active with thousands of developers working untold hours to bring the world a reliable and secure operating system. Debian has sparked the interest, curiosity, and passion of those who want to make something better. Then, now, and far into the future.

The Debian 9 *Stretch* release was dedicated in his memory.

Ian Murdock will be missed.

4.11.16 September 2016: Kristoffer H. Rose died

Kristoffer H. Rose died on September 17th 2016 after a long battle with myelofibrosis. Kristoffer was a Debian contributor from the very early days of the project, and the upstream author of several packages, such as the LaTeX package Xy-pic and FlexML. On his return to the project after several years' absence, many of us had the pleasure of meeting Kristoffer during DebConf15 in Heidelberg.

Kristoffer H. Rose will be missed.

4.12 ¿Qué sigue?

The Debian Project continues to work on the *unstable* distribution (codenamed *sid*, after the evil and "unstable" kid next door from the *Toy Story 1* who should never be let out into the world). Sid is the permanent name for the unstable distribution and is always 'Still In Development'. Most new or updated packages are uploaded into this distribution.

The *testing* release is intended to become the next stable release and is currently codenamed *buster*.

Appendix A

El manifiesto de Debian Linux

Escrito por Ian A. Murdock, Revisado 01/06/94

A.1 ¿Qué es Debian Linux?

Debian Linux es una distribución de Linux completamente nueva. En vez de estar desarrollada por un individuo aislado o un grupo, como se han desarrollado otras distribuciones de Linux en el pasado, Debian se desarrolla abiertamente en el espíritu de Linux y GNU. El propósito principal del proyecto Debian es acabar creando una distribución que esté a la altura del nombre de Linux. Debian se están ensamblando con cuidado y a conciencia, y se le dará apoyo y mantenimiento con una atención similar.

Es también un intento por crear una distribución no comercial que será capaz de competir efectivamente en el mercado comercial. Será distribuida, llegado el caso, por la Free Software Foundation en CD-ROM, y la Debian Linux Association ofrecerá la distribución en disquetes y cinta junto con los manuales impresos, el soporte técnico y otras cuestiones igualmente importantes para el usuario final. Todo lo anterior estará disponible por poco más que el coste original, y esa pequeña diferencia se destinará al más amplio desarrollo de software libre para todos los usuarios. Tal distribución es esencial para el éxito del sistema operativo Linux en el mercado comercial, y debe hacerse por parte de organizaciones en situación de avanzar con éxito y abogar por el software libre sin la presión de los beneficios o los ingresos.

A.2 ¿Por qué se está elaborando Debian?

Las distribuciones son esenciales para el futuro de Linux. En esencia, le eliminan al usuario la necesidad de buscar, obtener, compilar, instalar e integrar correctamente gran número de herramientas esenciales para conseguir un sistema Linux en funcionamiento. En su lugar, la carga de construir el sistema recae sobre el creador de la distribución, y muchos usuarios continuarán usando una distribución por pura conveniencia incluso después de haberse familiarizado con el sistema operativo. De esta manera, las distribuciones juegan un papel realmente importante.

A pesar de su obvia importancia, las distribuciones han atraído poco la atención de los desarrolladores. Existe una sencilla razón para ello: no son ni fáciles ni fascinantes de construir, y requieren gran cantidad de esfuerzo continuado por parte de su creador con el fin de mantener la distribución libre de errores y además actualizada. Una cosa es ensamblar un sistema empezando desde cero, y otra muy distinta asegurarse de que otros lo instalen fácilmente, se pueda instalar y utilizar en gran variedad de configuraciones de hardware, contenga programas que otros vayan a considerar útiles, y se actualice cuando los componentes mismos experimenten mejoras.

Muchas distribuciones han empezado como sistemas bastante buenos, pero conforme va pasando el tiempo el mantenimiento de la distribución se convierte en una prioridad secundaria. Un caso que viene a cuento es el de Softlanding Linux System (más conocida como SLS). Es bastante posible que sea la distribución de Linux más plagada de errores y peor mantenida; por desgracia, también es la más generalizada. Sin lugar a dudas, es la distribución que atrae la mayor parte de la atención de los muchos «distribuidores» comerciales de Linux que han surgido para capitalizar la creciente popularidad del sistema operativo.

This is a bad combination indeed, as most people who obtain Linux from these "distributors" receive a bug-ridden and badly maintained Linux distribution. As if this wasn't bad enough, these "distributors" have a disturbing tendency to misleadingly advertise non-functional or extremely unstable "features" of their product. Combine this with the fact that the buyers will, of course, expect the product to live up to its advertisement and the fact that many may believe it to be a commercial operating system (there is also a tendency not to mention that Linux is free nor that it is distributed under the GNU General Public License). To top it all off, these "distributors" are actually making enough money from their effort to justify buying larger advertisements in more magazines; it is the classic example of unacceptable behavior being rewarded by those who simply do not know any better. Clearly something needs to be done to remedy the situation.

A.3 ¿De qué manera intentará Debian poner fin a estos problemas?

El diseño de Debian es lo bastante abierto para asegurar que el sistema tiene la más alta calidad y que refleja las necesidades de la comunidad de usuarios. Al implicar a otras personas de diversas capacidades y bagajes, Debian puede desarrollarse de forma modular. Sus componentes son de alta calidad porque a los que tienen experiencia en cierta área se les da la oportunidad de construir o mantener los componentes individuales de Debian que implica dicha área. Implicar a otros asegura además que a la distribución pueden incorporarse valiosas contribuciones durante su desarrollo; de esta manera, se crea una distribución basada en las necesidades y deseos de los usuarios, en vez de las necesidades y deseos del constructor. Es muy difícil para un pequeño grupo anticiparse a estas necesidades y deseos por anticipado sin las aportaciones directas de otros.

Debian Linux también será distribuida en un soporte físico por la Free Software Foundation y la Debian Linux Association. Esto proporcionará Debian a los usuarios sin acceso a Internet o FTP, y además hace que productos y servicios tales como manuales impresos y soporte técnico estén a disposición de todos los usuarios del sistema. De esta manera, Debian puede usarse por parte de muchos más individuos y organizaciones que lo que sería posible en otro caso; la prioridad estará en proporcionar un producto de primera fila y no en los beneficios o los ingresos, y el margen de los productos o los servicios puede usarse para mejorar el software en sí para todos los usuarios, hayan pagado por su Debian o no.

La Free Software Foundation juega un papel extremadamente importante en el futuro de Debian. Por el simple hecho de distribuirla, se envía al mundo el mensaje de que Linux no es un producto comercial y que nunca lo será, pero ello no quiere decir que Linux no sea nunca capaz de competir comercialmente. Para aquellos que disientan, les reto a que expliquen racionalmente el éxito de GNU Emacs y de GCC, que no son software comercial pero que han tenido bastante impacto sobre el mercado comercial con independencia de ese hecho.

Ha llegado el tiempo de concentrarse en el futuro de Linux más que en el destructivo objetivo de enriquecerse a expensas de la entera comunidad de Linux y de su futuro. El desarrollo y distribución de Debian puede no ser la respuesta a los problemas que he apuntado en este Manifiesto, pero espero que al menos atraiga suficiente atención sobre estos problemas para permitir resolverlos.