

Meet the Debian Technical Committee



Debian TC members

- Keith Packard
- Didier Raboud - [r](#)
- Tollef Fog Heen
- Sam Hartman
- Phil Hands
- Margarita Manterola
- David Bremner
- Niko Tyni

What is the Debian Technical Committee?



Debian Constitution §6.1

The Technical Committee may:



Debian Constitution §6.1.1

Decide on any matter of technical
policy



Debian Constitution §6.1.2 & §6.1.3

Decide any technical matter where
Developers' jurisdictions overlap

Make a decision when asked to do so

Tie-breaking



Debian Constitution §6.1.4

Overrule a Developer (requires a 3:1 majority).

Last-resort



Debian Constitution §6.1.5

Offer advice



Constraints



Debian Constitution §6.3.3

Public discussion and decision-making



Debian Constitution §6.3.5
No detailed design work



Debian Constitution §6.3.6

Technical Committee makes decisions
only as last resort



Picking options

Constitutionally, we're asked to *break ties* amongst available options, after all efforts to resolve it via consensus have been *tried and failed*.



Offer advice and make our views known

The TC can offer **you** advice.



The Debian Technical Committee

is a

- self-nominated & DPL-appointed
- last-resort
- conflict-resolution & advice-providing

body

Issues in front of the TC

Since DebConf16

<https://bugs.debian.org/tech-ctte>



Membership bugs

- #822803 - New CTTE member(s)
 - marga
- #829704 - Voting for TC Chair
- #836127 - New CTTE Members
 - bremner
- #860520 - Voting for TC Chair
- #836127 - New CTTE Members
 - ntyni
- #865485 - Voting for TC Chair



Decided

- #830344 - How should the TC help with a project roadmap?
 - Not directly
- #846002 - blends-tasks must not be priority:important
 - Recommendation
- #862051 - Rename nodejs back to node for buster, now that ax25-node has been removed?
 - Yes



Closed without a formal resolution

- [#830978](#) - Browserified javascript and DFSG 2
 - Clarified responsibilities
- [#839570](#) - Browserified javascript and DFSG 2 (reopening)
 - Clarified responsibilities
- [#835507](#) - Please clarify that sysvinit support decision is not going to expire
 - Declined
- [#841294](#) - Overrule maintainer of "global" to package a new upstream version
 - The maintainer orphaned "global"
- [#850887](#) - Decide proper solution for binutils' mips* bug
 - Solved without a formal resolution
- [#850967](#) - Clarify /usr/bin/foo should not be hardcoded even in upstream parts
 - Declined
- [#857257](#) - Supporting configuration file changes between versions in unstable/testing
 - Declined



Current

- [#865929](#) - Advice on dealing with GRUB upgrade failure caused by init-select

We're often looking
for new members



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.*

- keithp - Keith Packard → 2017
- odyx - Didier Raboud → 2018
- tfheen - Tollef Fog Heen → 2018
- hartmans - Sam Hartman → 2018
- philh - Philip Hands → 2019
- marga - Margarita Manterola → 2020
- bremner - David Bremner → 2020
- ntyni - Niko Tyni → 2020



Need fresh blood

We're roughly looking for **at least one new member per year.**



Not all issues are like #727708



TC work is

- often more **social** than technical
- about **disagreements** & conflicts
- at the broad **technical** level
- **listening** to what *people* have to say
- sometimes **taking hard decisions**
- essentially **political**



Required skillset

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



The TC needs more
diversity.



We need nominees!

- Nominate yourself
- Nominate someone else



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

We're just developers.



We're looking into ways to improve the
process

Our current discussions



How quick can the
TC be?



Time spent on recruitment

Q & A

Open discussion

Thanks

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<https://reveal.odyx.org/Debian/201708-Meet-the-Debian-TC.html>