



Proposal for CIP

Choosing Debian as the primary reference distribution

Proponent

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Description

The main goal of this project is to collaborate with Debian to help them maintain packages that belong to the CIP base layer.

CIP members have already agreed to focus on SLTS since the CIP project was launched. The most sustainable path to SLTS is to collaborate with an existing Linux distribution that has already experience on long-term support. Debian is a great candidate for such Linux distribution for several reasons.

- Debian already has an LTS project that can be used as the starting point for the CIP SLTS base layer.
- The Debian community is open to discuss the current time span of LTS.
- Debian binaries and source code are thoroughly reviewed and tested by the community.
 - Debian already has automated testing infrastructure.
 - Most Debian binary packages support reproducible builds.
- Debian has a good development infrastructure (e.g. Ftp servers, Bug and Security tracking).
- CVE compatible (<https://www.debian.org/security/cve-compatibility.en.html>).
- Debian has a big community of developers.
- CIP members already have connections with Debian developers.
- Debian is used by CIP Core.

The first to decide in this proposal is whether Debian will be our primary reference distribution or not. By “primary” reference distribution I mean that:

- CIP will use Debian binaries and/or source code for the CIP SLTS base-layer and the corresponding reference file system images.
- CIP will collaborate with Debian LTS to extend the support period.
- CIP will select a set of core packages from Debian for SLTS.

If Debian is chosen as the primary distribution, CIP members will be able to start contributing to the Debian project under the umbrella of the CIP project. Below are a few examples of such collaboration.

- Help the STLS effort by pointing which security issues should be fixed.
- Make Debian packages cross-compilable.
- DEP-5 conversion for Debian packages
 - OSS license cleaning.
 - Sharing review results (and process).

Related work

1. Debian Project: <https://www.debian.org/>
2. Debian LTS: <https://wiki.debian.org/LTS>
3. Debian partners program: <https://www.debian.org/partners/partners>

Required budget

TBD. **Each budget request need to be approved by CIP GB, separately.**

If we decide to sponsor the Debian LTS project (<https://www.freexian.com/services/debian-lts.html>), the cost will vary from \$1,200 to \$28,800 per year by depending on funding level.

If we hire Debian developers directly for package maintenance (e.g. busybox), we will need to ask first to the corresponding maintainer candidates for a cost estimate, and then obtain approval from the CIP governing board.

Possible contacts

- Raphaël Hertzog
- Guide Gunther
- Chris Lamb (Debian Project Leader)

Other contacts

- Nobuhiro Iwamatsu (Debian maintainer, Debian JP project leader)
- SZ Lin (Debian developer, MOXA)
- Ben Hutchings (Debian kernel maintainer, CIP kernel maintainer)