

**“Why can't we just use /usr/bin/node?!”**  
**An introduction to Javascript in Debian**

Elana Hashman (ehashman@debian.org)

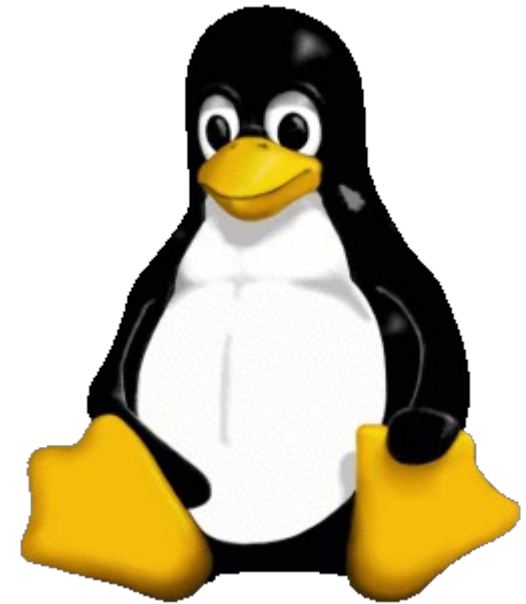
Brooklyn.js – November 2017

 @ehashdn

# What is Debian?












debian



# What does Debian do?

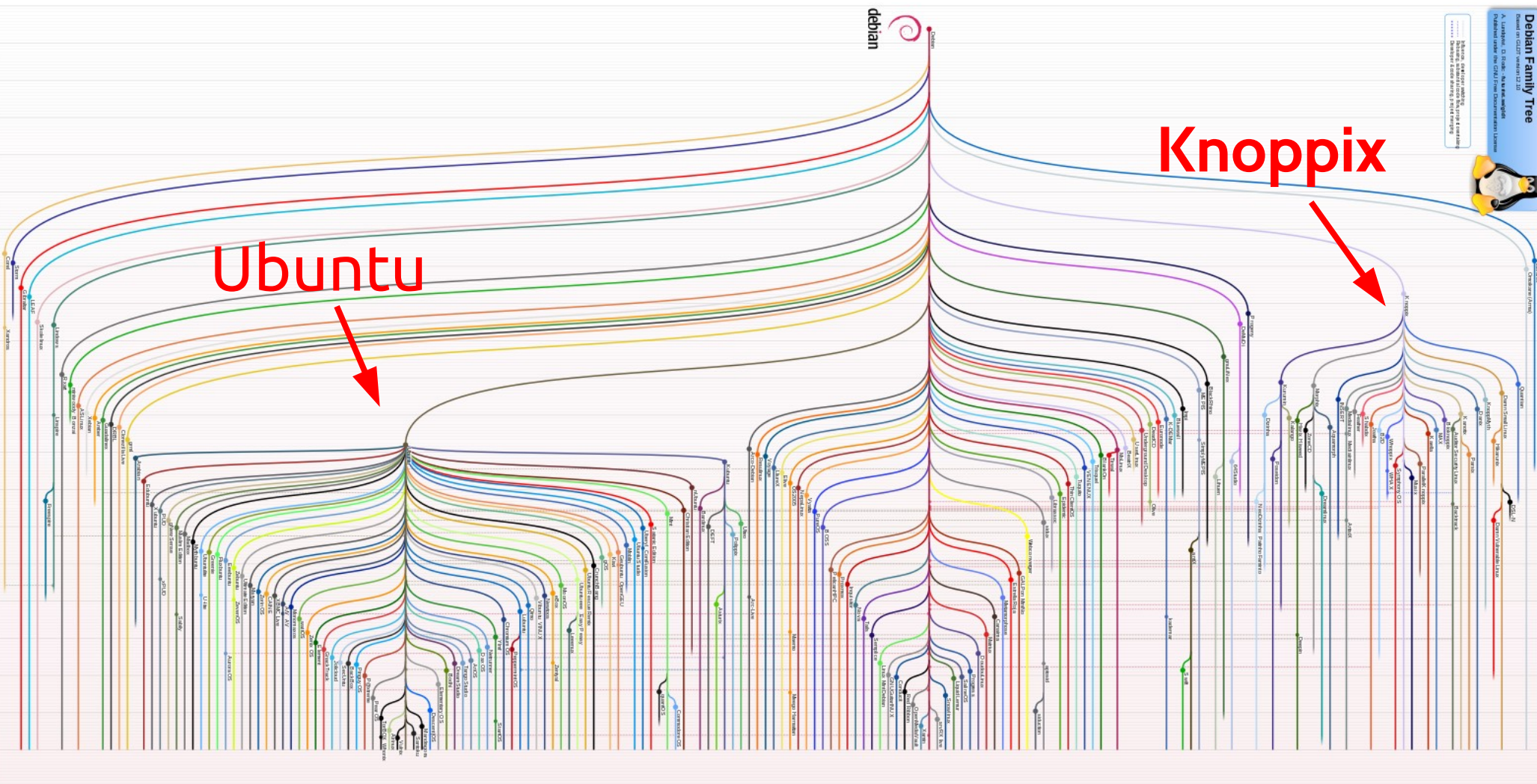
- Package and build free software for use in the OS
- Distribute free software in compiled and source code forms
- Monitor for security vulnerabilities and deliver patches and bulletins
- Localize and internationalize documentation
- Work with upstream developers to fix bugs

# Where can we find it? On Docker Hub

 <b>mysql</b> official 	5.2K STARS	10M+ PULLS	<a href="#">&gt;</a> DETAILS
 <b>registry</b> official	1.7K STARS	10M+ PULLS	<a href="#">&gt;</a> DETAILS
 <b>mongo</b> official 	3.8K STARS	10M+ PULLS	<a href="#">&gt;</a> DETAILS
 <b>postgres</b> official 	4.2K STARS	10M+ PULLS	<a href="#">&gt;</a> DETAILS
 <b>node</b> official 	4.7K STARS	10M+ PULLS	<a href="#">&gt;</a> DETAILS

base for 7 out of 11 top images... including node!

# Debian is a very popular base OS...



**100% Volunteer-built**

**100% Free Software**

# So what about node in Debian?

- node in Debian **development**: **6.12.0**
- node in Debian **stable**: **4.8.2** (no security support)
- npm not distributed with latest stable release :(
- npm in Debian **development**: **1.4.21** (current: **5.4.2**)
- But why??? :( :( :(

# Why is the node executable in Debian called “nodejs”?

```
commit cf3d538f5fe2d2f8a6ee487c9445a3ffda8afd15  
Author: J r my Lal <kapouer@melix.org>  
Date: Tue Aug 1 11:22:12 2017 +0200
```

```
Restore /usr/bin/node following CTTE #862051
```



# Why is are the versions of node in Debian so old?

```
commit f616bfb6e751b8ac58e3499e8b405e11b9f1bb92  
Author: J r my Lal <kapouer@melix.org>  
Date:   Wed Sep 9 02:37:31 2015 +0200
```

Not depending on libv8 for now

# We are very understaffed

- A single developer, J r my Lal, has done almost 100% of node packaging
- Security support is not offered because no one answered the security team's emails, and the alternative was to remove nodejs from Debian
- No developers are working on npm

**It's not easy, but we need your help!**

**Debian isn't complete without the world's  
most popular programming language.**