To Fork Or Not To Fork

Lessons From Ubuntu and Debian

Benjamin Mako Hill

mako@ubuntu.com

Ubuntu Project

Canonical Limited

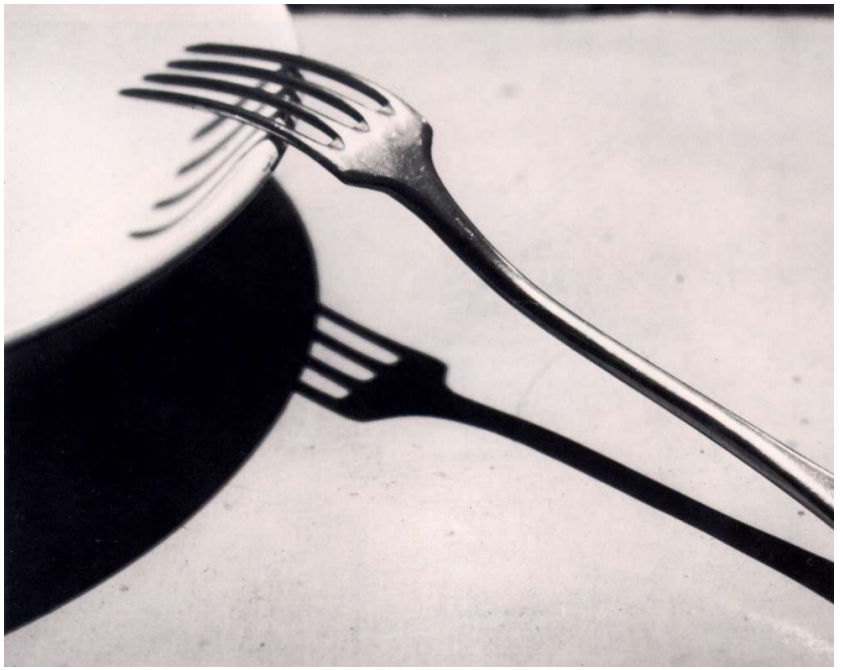
Debian Project

Overview I

- Big Questions and Context
  - Why derive?
  - What is forking?
  - Difficulties of forking and derivation
- Case Studies
  - Debian and Ubuntu
  - Applicability

Overview II

- Approaches
  - Derivation and Problem Analysis
  - Distributed Source Control
  - Problem Specific Tools
  - Social Solutions



The World of Debian Customizers

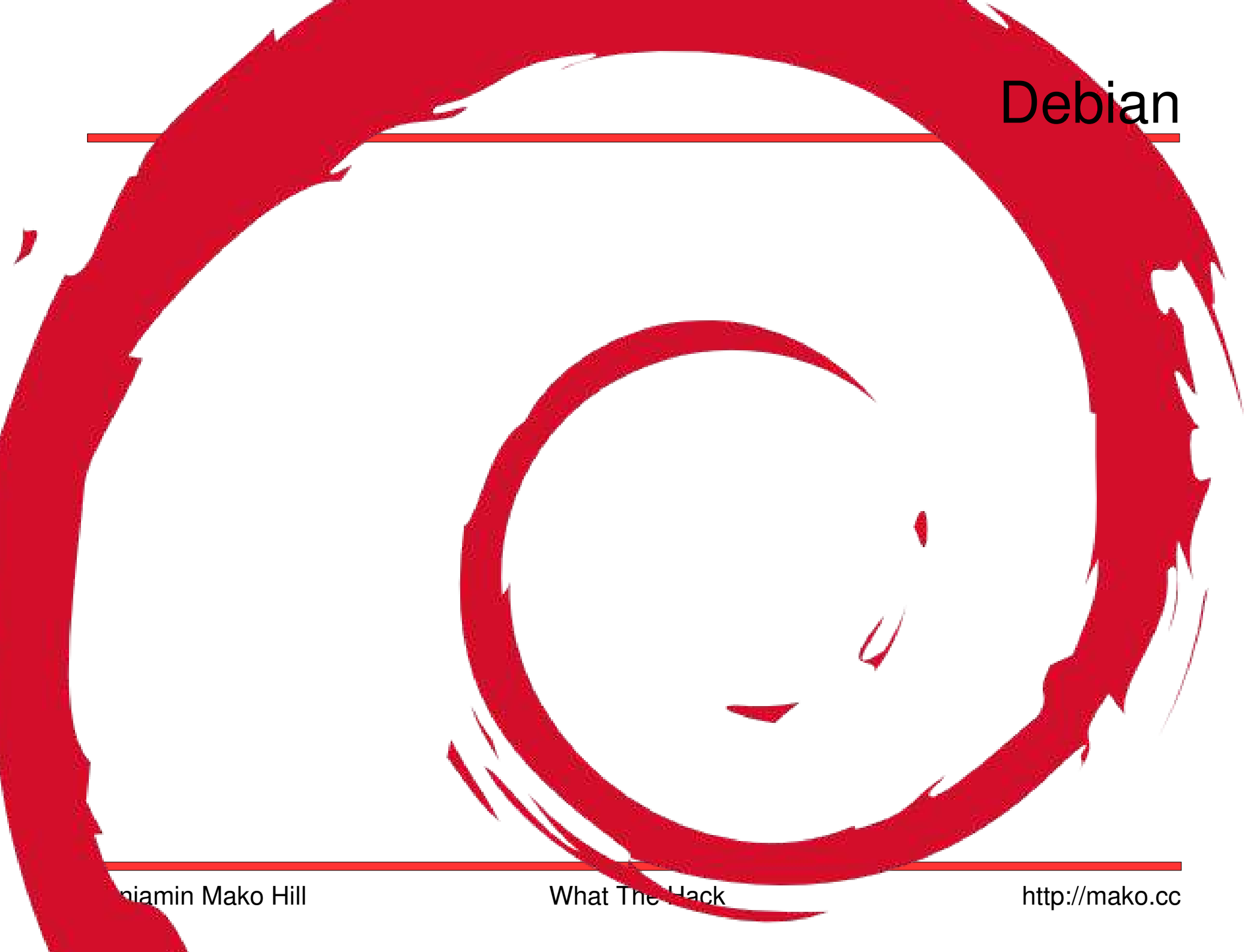
There are **129** distributions derived from Debian.

AbulÉdu • Adamantix • AGNULA GNU/Linux Audio Distribution • ANTEMIUM Linux • Arabbix • ARMA aka Omoikane GNU/Linux • ASLinux • Auditor Security Linux • Augustux • B2D Linux • BEERnix • Biadix • BIG LINUX • Bioknoppix • BlackRhino • Bluewall GNU/Linux • Bonzai Linux • BrlSpeak • Càtix • CensorNet • Clusterix • ClusterKNOPPIX • Condorux • Damn Small Linux • Danix • DebXPde • eduKnoppix • ERPOSS • ESware • Euronode • FAMELIX • Feather Linux • Flonix • Vital Data Forensic or Rescue Kit (FoRK) • Freeduc-cd • GEOLivre Linux • Gibraltar Firewall • GNIX-Vivo • Gnoppix Linux • gnuLinEx • GNU/Linux Kinneret • GNUstep Live CD • grml • Guadalinex • Helix • Hiweed Linux • Impi Linux • Julex • K-DEMar • Kaella • Knoppix Linux Azur • Kalango Linux • KANOTIX • KlusTriX • knopILS • Knoppel • Knoppix • Knoppix 64 • Knoppix STD • KnoppiXMAME • KnoppMyth • Kurumin Linux • LAMPPIX • Libranet GNU/Linux • LIIS Linux • LinEspa • Linspire • Linux Live Game Project • Linux Loco • LinuxDefender Live! CD • Linuxin • LiVux • Local Area Security Linux (L.A.S.) • Luinux • Luit Linux • MAX: Madrid_Linux • Mediainlinux • MEPIS Linux • Metadistro-Pequelin • MIKO GNYO/Linux • Morphix • Munjoy Linux • Nature's Linux • NordisKnoppix • OGo Knoppix • Oralux • Overclockix • Quantian • Penguin Sleuth • PHLAK • PilotLinux • Progeny Debian • Rays Linux • ROSLIMS Live CD • Salvare • Santa Fe Linux • Shabdix GNU/Linux • Skolelinux • Slavix • Slix • Slo-Tech Linux • Soyombo Mongolian Linux • SULIX • Tablix on Morphix • Tilix Linux • TupiServer Linux • Ubuntu Linux • UserLinux • WHoppiX • X-evian • Xfld • Xandros Desktop OS • Xarnoppix • ZoneCD • Zopix

One Size Does *Not* Fit All

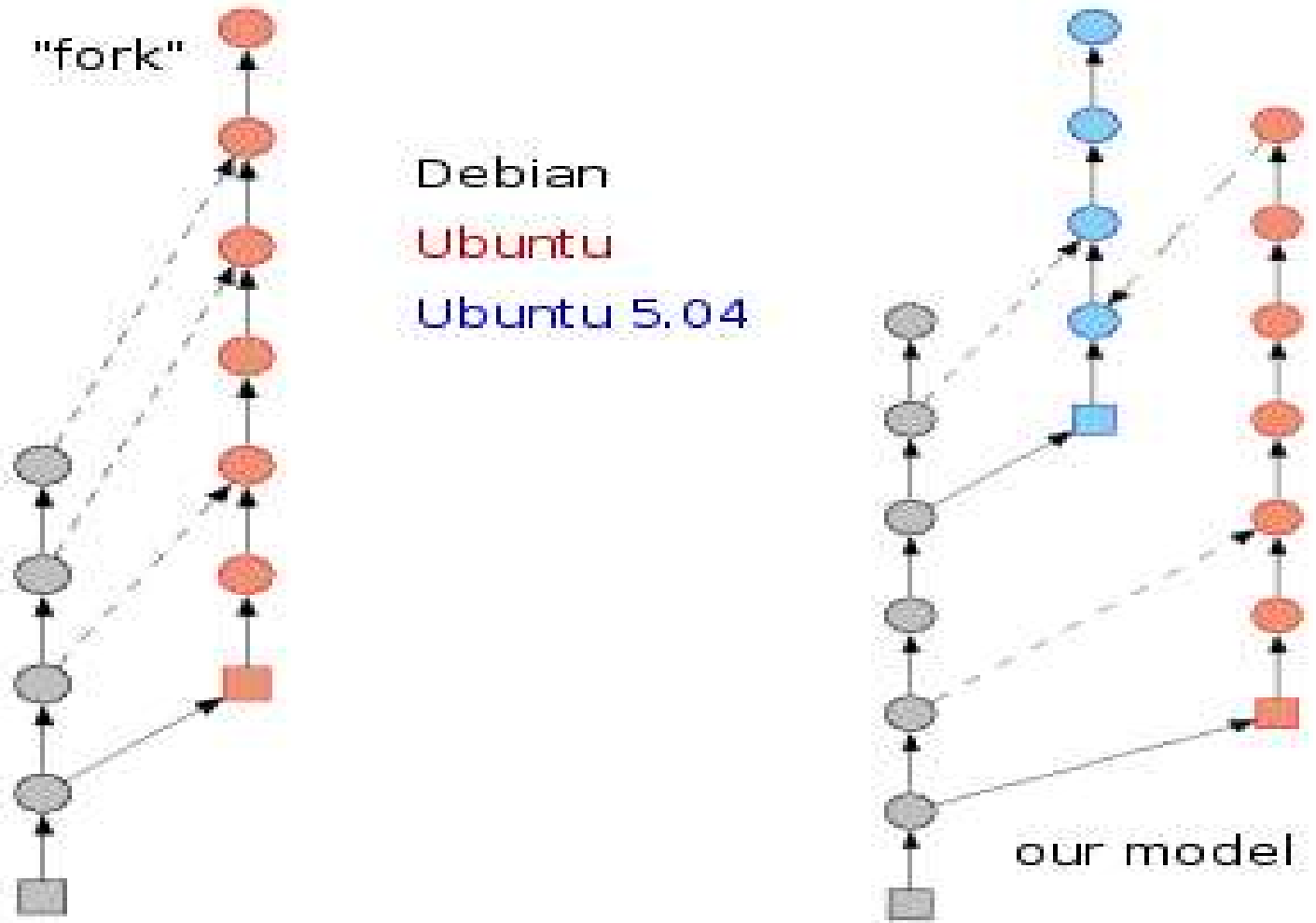
Fork Is a Four Letter Word

Debian

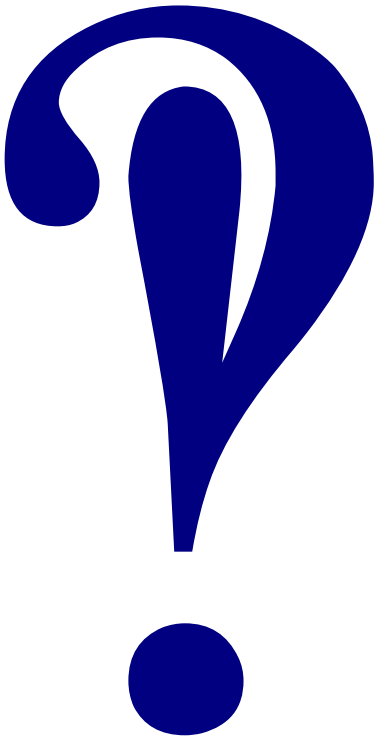


Ubuntu

Ubuntu Derivation Model



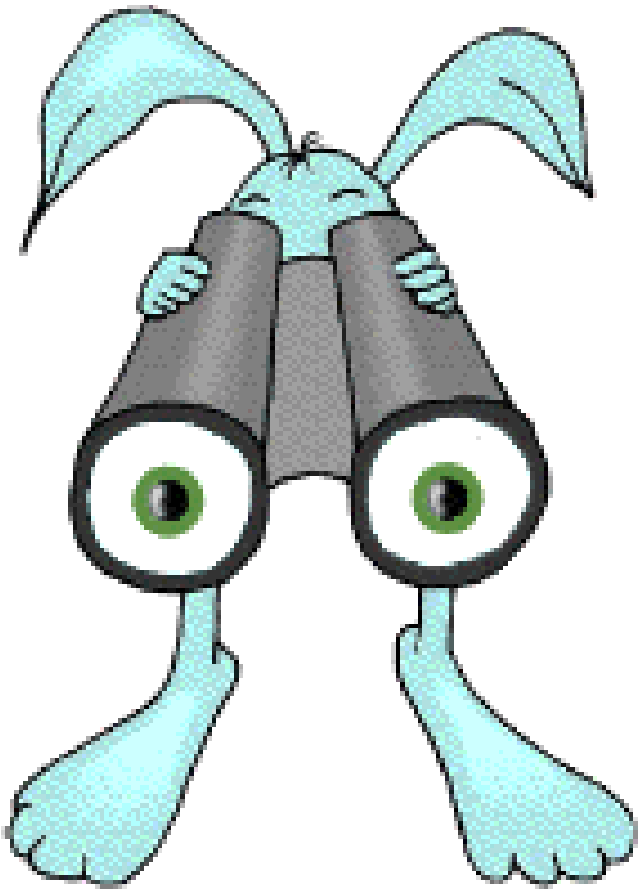
What About *My* Project



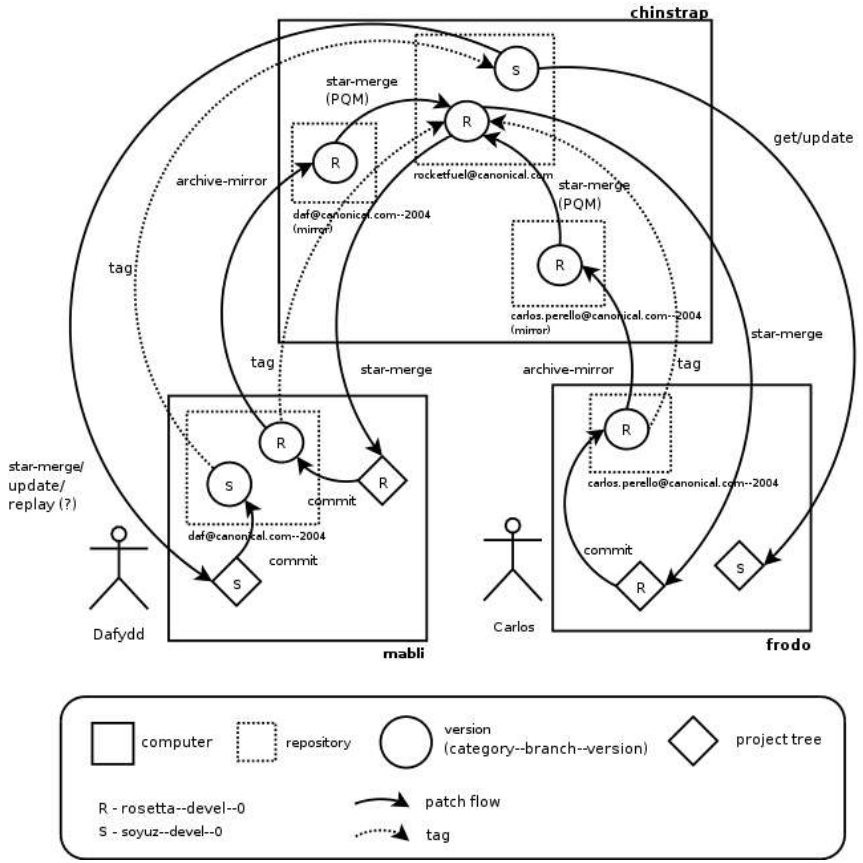
What do distributions have to do with *me*?

Look at the Types of Changes

- Software selection
- Presentation/Installation
- Configuration
- Code-Level



Distributed Version Control



That's going on the cover of my new book “'Arch is Easy' and other lies the developers may have told you."

-- Scott James Remnant

Problem Specific Tools

HCT

Social Solutions for Social Problems

Conclusions

- Ubuntu is an experiment with both successes and failures
- Patience and creativity on all sides is important
- Together we can all achieve more