

Four Crucial* Packages* You've Never* Heard About

by Joost van Baal-Ilić <joostvb@debian.org>

May 2026, MiniDebConf Hamburg

<https://mastodon.green/@joostvb>, irc: joostvb

About some of our code: we have been shipping since about 2000, volunteers are translating in their native languages: about 10 languages.

1/4

<http://mdcc.cx/fcp.txt>

I am talking about some of the documentation we ship: packages (and a non-package) shipping documentation:

	popcon	anno	l10n	source		
doc-debian	251,088	1996	14	Website	META	Lang
debian-faq	250,705	1996	14	DocBook	XML	
debian-history	164	1999	12*	DocBook	XML	
debian-flyers	-**	2002	9	LaTeX		

* with GNU gettext (.po and .pot)

** not (yet?) shipped as Debian package

2/4

<http://mdcc.cx/fcp.txt>

| what and who |

doc-debian: Social Contract, DFSG, Constitution,
BTS documentation
debian-faq: Introduction to Debian for newcomers
debian-history: Short History of Debian Project
debian-flyers: Debian Flyers in PDF, Leaflets,
Hexagonal Stickers

Currently maintained by (a.o.): Tobias Quathamer
<toddy>, Javier Fernández-Sanguino <jfs>, Helge
Kreutzmann, Holger Wansing <holgerw>, Carles Pina
i Estany <cpina> and yours truly.

3/4

<http://mdcc.cx/fcp.txt>

| what now? |

Get rid of them? Lower their Priority? Convert
to reStructuredText and setup .po infrastructure?
Make sure all foundational documents are in 1
place on salsa? Get rid of ftp.d.o/debian/doc/
(via BYHAND)? Keep updating e.g.
www.d.o/doc/manuals/debian-faq/ from git? What
about #998160?

[<https://people.debian.org/~joostvb/fcp.pdf>]

4/4

<http://mdcc.cx/fcp.txt>

doc-debian and debian-faq both Priority: standard dpkg
popcon is 284,041 . Debian Policy is in reStructuredText,
has .po files for i18n. CommonMark Markdown : nah .
#998160 2021 interactions with www.debian.org

TODO debian-history: drop constitution and drop
debian-manifesto

-- ♪ you could have it all, my empire of dirt ♪ --