



The Debian Women Project Past and Present

Meike Reichle

meike@debian.org



Who is talking?

- Meike Reichle
- Began using Debian in 2004
- Joined Debian Women in 2005
- Became Debian Developer in 2008





What has happened so far ...





The Debian Women Project

- **Main task #1: Get more women into Debian**
- We believe that a universal operating system should have a diverse developer community
- We believe that the measure that further diversity also benefit the project as a whole
- IRC Channel, Mailing List, Wiki (now integrated in wiki.debian.org), Mentoring Program



The Debian Women Project

- **Main Task #2: Address misconceptions**
- Debian Women is **not** the PC-Police
- Debian Women does **not** want to create a Debian fork for women
- The Debian Women project's **first priority** is Debian, there will be no affirmative actions of any kind



The Debian Women Project

- Women are **not** meant to work as diplomats between semi autistic super gurus and rude package maintainers
- Debian-Women is **not** a refuge for all these maltreated and outcast by the evil and elitist Debian community.
- Debian Women is **not** women-only

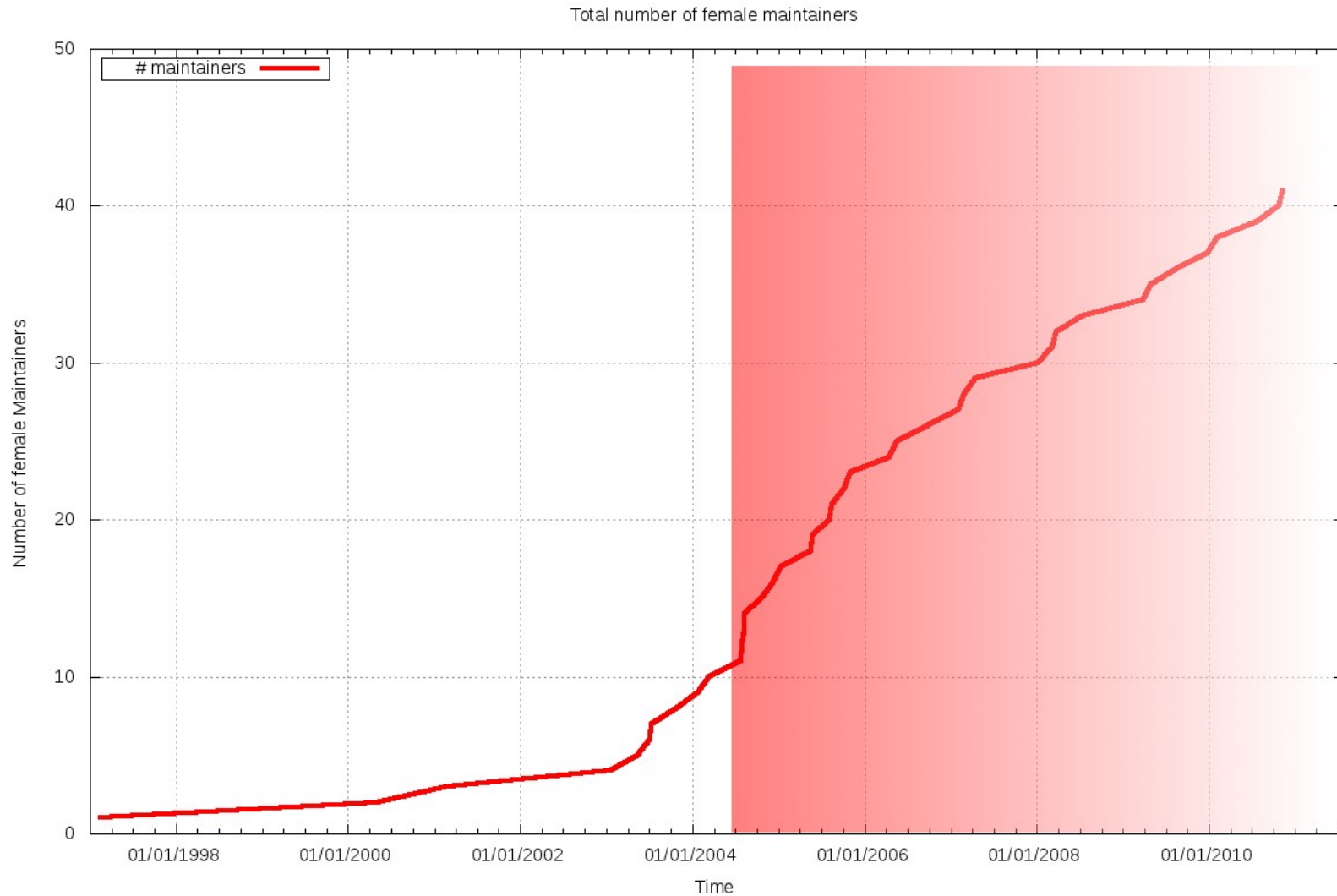


Has D-W outlived its purpose?

- The Mailing lists are much more friendly
- Big big scandals have long blown over
- We are even discussing a code of conduct
- There are women everywhere in Debian, people are happy to bring their daughters



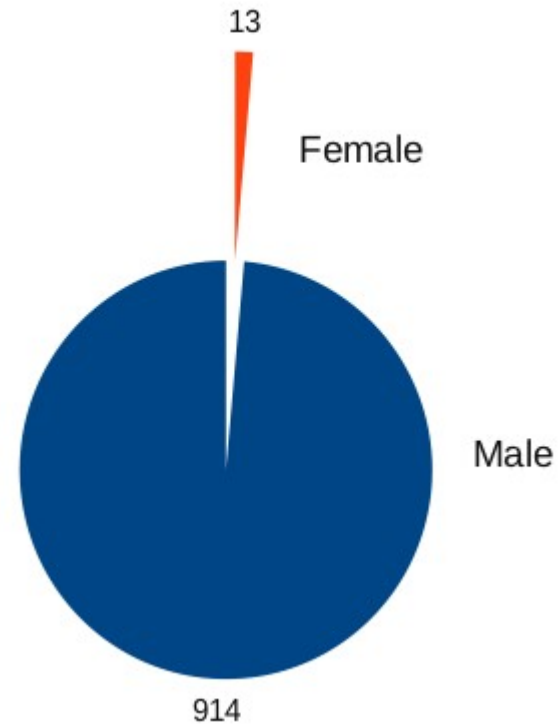
First uploads by women





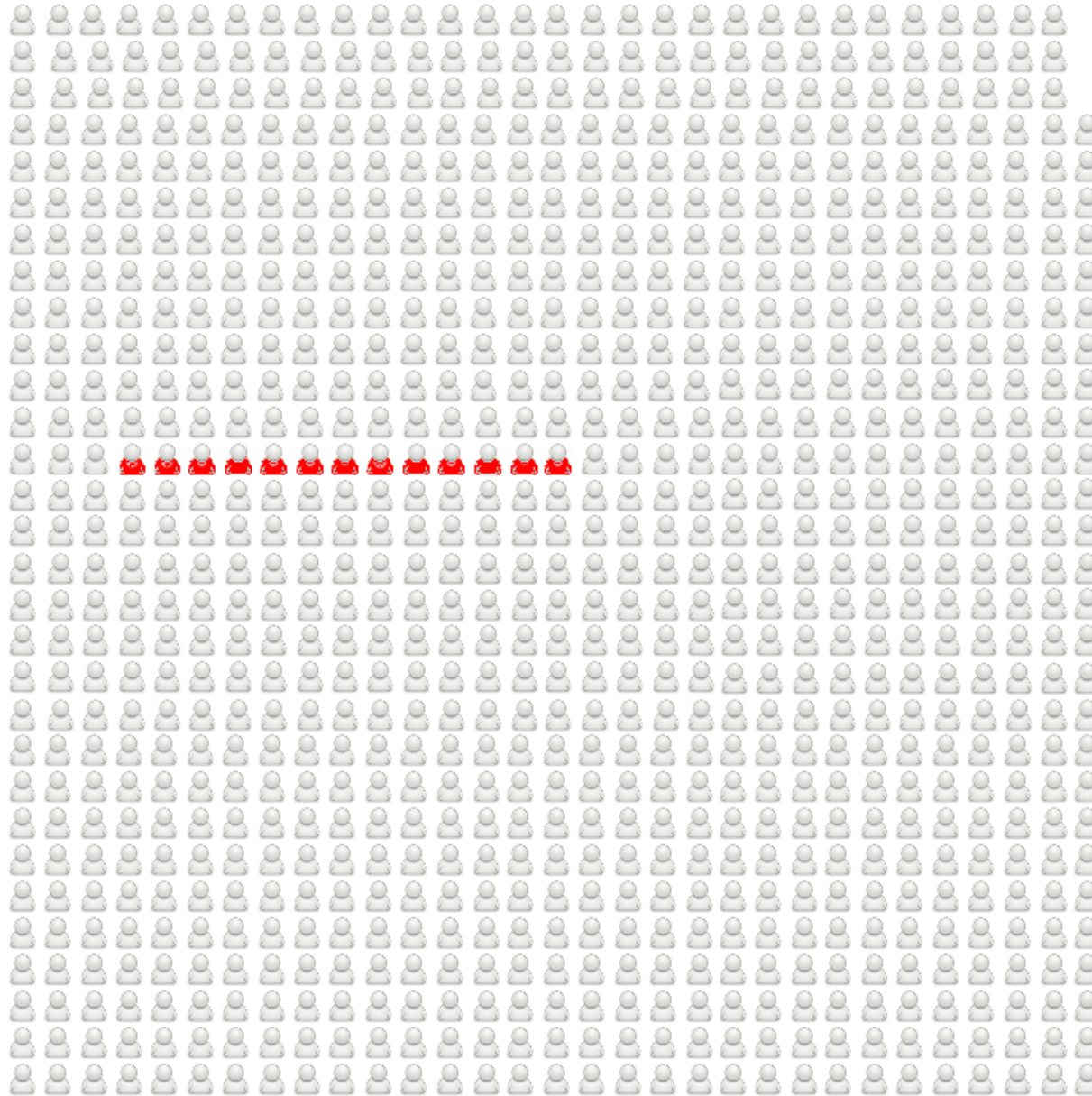
So things did get better

- Yes, they did. The number of female DDs has increased 325%
... we now have 13





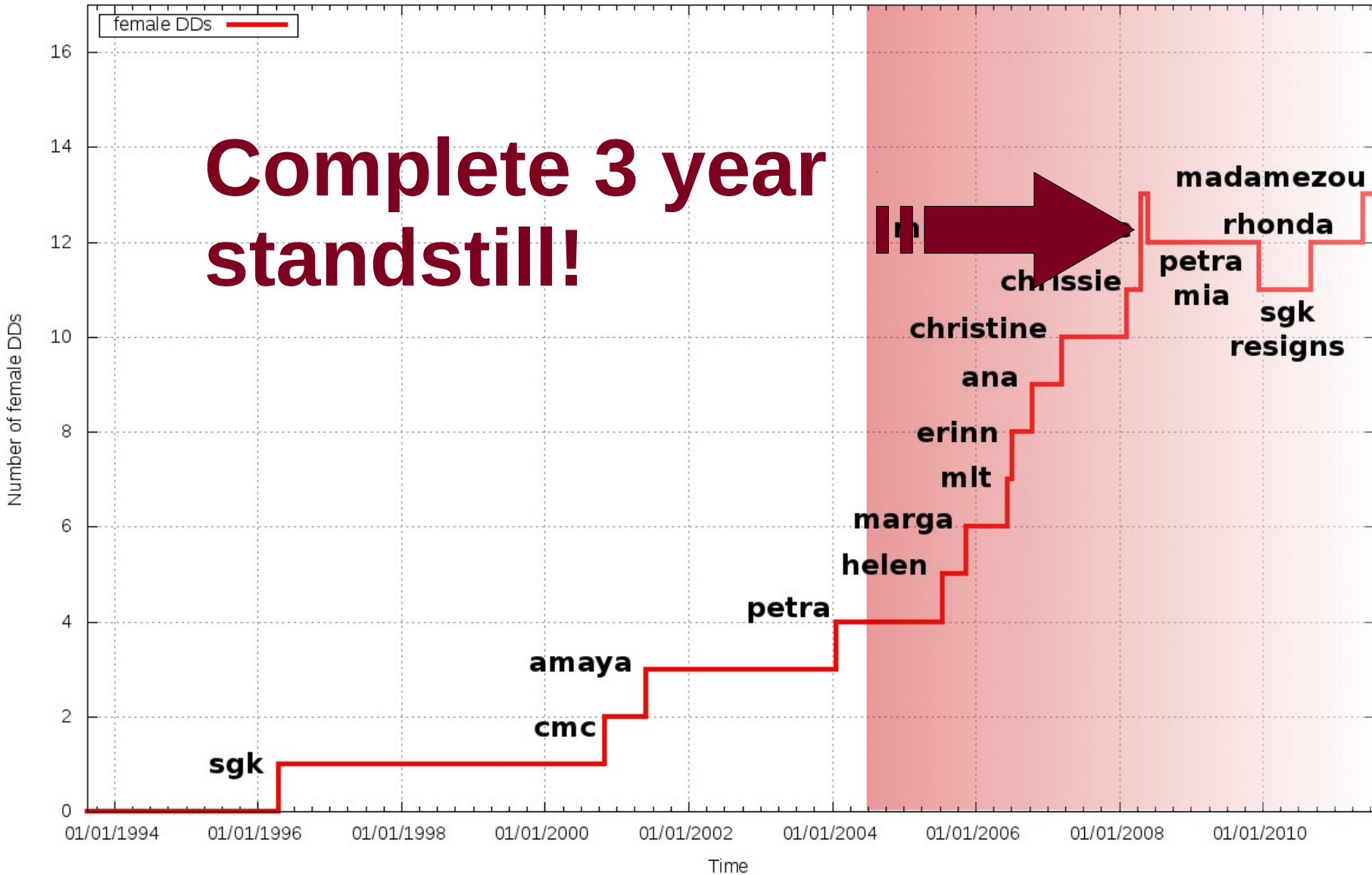
13 in 927





Development of female DDs

Number of female DDs over time





Possible explanations

- 1) Women find it easy to get a package into Debian but hard to become Debian Developers
- 2) Women find it easy to become Debian Developers but they don't feel the motivation to do so.
 - Why not?
 - What are the benefits of being a DD?



Questions ...

- How do we find out what keeps women from applying to the New Maintainer Process?
- Are the benefits of being a Debian Developer obvious enough?
- Does the Debian-Women project need a new purpose? (*“The wild west days are over”*)



Thu 10:00 Round Room: Debian Women BoF!