

My two cents on d-i

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MiniDebConf Cambridge 2017

finger Mrfai@localhost

▶ whoami

- ▶ Sysadmin for more than two decades
- ▶ Debian developer since 2000
- ▶ Diploma in computer science, University of Bonn, Germany
- ▶ SunOS 4.1.1 on SPARC hardware, then Solaris Jumpstart
- ▶ Started FAI in 1999 for my first cluster (16× Dual PII 400 MHz)
- ▶ Several talks and tutorials:
Linux Kongress, Linuxtag, DebConf, SANE, LCA, FOSDEM,
CeBit, OSDC, UKUUG, FrOSCon, Chemnitzer Linuxtag

Disclaimer

- ▶ I'm not a d-i expert
- ▶ I really don't use d-i that much ;-)
- ▶ But I've look into some of its source code in the past
- ▶ I've looked at several other graphical installers
- ▶ I'm very lazy, I do not want to hit Enter very often

Let's do a d-i installation

How many times will I hit Enter?

How many times did I had to press Enter?

- ▶ Debian installer stretch 9.2 netinst
- ▶ Hitting Tab is not included

How many times did I had to press Enter?

- ▶ Debian installer stretch 9.2 netinst
- ▶ Hitting Tab is not included
 - 1 Language
 - 2 Region (Why?, this is not the timezone)
 - 3 Keyboard
 - 4,5 Confirm hostname, domainname
 - 6 Empty root PW
 - 7-10 User full name, user name, 2x user PW
 - 11 Timezone (Here the region from above is used)
- ▶ Until now only user name and PW was not the default

How many times do I have to press Enter cont.

Partitioning

- 12 Guided - use entire disk
 - 13 Select disk (Why if I only have one disk)
 - 14 All in one partition
 - 15 Finish partitioning (What does this do? It does NOT write to disk as it says)
 - 16 Write changes (You have to select yes)
- ▶ Only one non-default selection

How many times do I have to press Enter cont.

- 17 Scan another CD (Why? This is the netinst CD)
- 18-20 Debian archive mirror (Why not deb.debian.org)
- 21 Pop-contest
- 22 Now tasksel shows several options
 - A lot of software is installed
- 23 Write grub to MBR (Does your dad know what grub and the MBR is?)
- 24 A favorite of mine: ENTER DEVICE MANUALLY.
WHAT?
It also offers me a real device, the correct one.
- 25 Finally finished. Press return to reboot

Summary

- ▶ Most of the times you just hit Enter
- ▶ You have to do that again and again
- ▶ and again and again

Summary

- ▶ Most of the times you just hit Enter
- ▶ You have to do that again and again
- ▶ and again and again
- ▶ Only two times you have to choose the non-default option
- ▶ Too much information for a beginner
- ▶ Some questions are really needless

Summary

- ▶ d-i is a huge amount of code
- ▶ E.g. 24 partman modules with > 20.000 lines of shell code
- ▶ Strange things in d-i (partman daemon, exceptions in shell)
- ▶ You can save your logs on a floppy
- ▶ You can start a web server
- ▶ new to me: kickseed
- ▶ In expert mode you can set the priority to critical, then less questions are asked
- ▶ A discussion started on debian-boot about an easier installation mode

Make the installer simpler

- ▶ Ask only the most important questions
- ▶ Provide a customized installation media
- ▶ Boot this media and get yourself a coffee or a beer
- ▶ But hurry up

Why not FAI?

- ▶ Ask only the most important questions
- ▶ Provide a customized installation media
- ▶ Boot this media and get yourself a coffee or a beer
- ▶ But hurry up

FAI.me

- ▶ Simple creation of an installation media
- ▶ Should cover most of the common installations
- ▶ Does not need to cover all corner cases
- ▶ Some simple customization
- ▶ All desktops available
- ▶ Stable and testing support

FAI.me more ideas

- ▶ Option for backports will come
- ▶ The same service for cloud images?
- ▶ Support of other architectures?

- ▶ Boot a **generic** FAI.me media
- ▶ Just enter the job ID from the FAI.me web page
- ▶ The config will be loaded and a netinst will be done

FAI - Fully Automatic Installation

• Home

- Features
- Poster / Flyer
- User reports
- Mailing Lists / IRC / Wiki
- Clusters built with FAI

• Videos / Screenshots

• Download

- FAI CD
- Packages
- FAI questionnaire

• Documentation

- FAI Guide
- Manual pages
- Other documentation
- Talk slides and videos

• Developers

- Sources / Bugs
- Roadmap
- Team

• Contact / Support

• Site search

FAI.me. Build your own installation media

This installation image will automatically install the OS and applications onto the computer. No network connection is needed, since all packages are on the installation media. You can burn this image onto a CD/DVD or write it to an USB stick.

All data on the first disk will be overridden without any further confirmation.

Root password: If not set, sudo will be configured for the user account

User name: Not the full name

User password: If not set, a password will be generated

Language and keyboard layout

Disk partitioning scheme

Select a distribution

Which desktop to install

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debian developer tools | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Openssh server |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Web server | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard system tools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print server | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-free Linux firmware |

Additional packages to be installed:

Separate with spaces, multiple names on one line are fine

Email (optional): You will be informed when the image generation is finished

- For the keyboard layout we assume Generic 105-key PC
- To change the keyboard layout call `dpkg-reconfigure keyboard-configuration`
- The timezone will be set to UTC. To change the timezone call `dpkg-reconfigure tzdata`
- You should change the user and root password after installation

Any feedback is welcome. Send an email to [FAI.me](mailto:fai@fai-project.org) =at= fai-project.org