My two cents on d-i

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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
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 knows 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
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
F AI.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.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: [ debian ] 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

Debian developer tools
Web server
Print server

OpenSSH server
Standard system tools
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

Create image

Any feedback is welcome. Send an email to FAI.me =at= fai-project.org