

Fixing the firmware mess



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Agenda

- This is a BoF!
- What are the problems?
- What do we do?
- Discuss!
- Gobby doc – please take notes
 - gobby.debian.org
 - `Debconf22/bof/Firmware`



The general problem

- Hardware need firmware to work
- Some is built-in
 - Keyboard, mouse, disk, ...
- Some is loaded at run-time
 - Wifi, graphics, wired net, audio, ...
- Most of this is non-free

The problem for Debian



- “Our priorities are our users and free software” (SC #4)
- Users need firmware to make modern hardware devices work
- Firmware archives in non-free
- “Unofficial” installer / live images with firmware included
- This is a mess, and it’s getting worse

What have we done already?

- New “non-free-firmware” archive section in dak (DONE – thanks Ansgar!)
- Install / upgrade non-free firmware **without** other non-free stuff
- No magic here
 - Use non-free-firmware/<foo> in uploads (i.e. in debian/control)
- Need to add support elsewhere...



What do we do next?

- Decide on options for installer / images
 - No change
 - Stop providing non-free images
 - Make non-free images “official”
 - Just include non-free-firmware on official images
 - Something else?
- I want the **project** to decide this, not just me...



What else?

Discuss!

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