

People behind Debian: Sam Hartman, Kerberos package maintainer

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Sam Hartman is a Debian developer since 2000. He has never taken any sort of official role within Debian (that is besides package maintainer), yet I know him for his very thoughtful contributions to discussions both on mailing lists and IRL during Debconf.

Until I met him at Debconf, I didn't know that he was blind, and the first reaction was to be impressed because it must be some tremendous effort to read the volume of information that Debian generates on mailing lists. In truth he's at ease with his computer much like I am although he uses it in a completely different way. Read on to learn more, my questions are in bold, the rest is by Sam.

You're blind and yet you're using your computer as effectively as I am. Can you explain us how you setup your computer ?

I gave a talk at Debconf9 on how my computer is set up; you can watch the video for full details.

My main laptop runs Debian. I use the `gnome-orca` package as my primary screen reader. It speaks the GNOME desktop. It does a relatively good job of speaking Iceweasel/Firefox and Libreoffice.

While it does speak `gnome-terminal`, it's not really good enough at speaking terminal programs that I am comfortable using it. So, I run Emacs with the `Emacspeak` package.

[rest here](#) [3]

Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/63>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/119>

[3] <http://raphaelhertzog.com/2011/06/24/people-behind-debian-sam-hartman-kerberos-package-maintainer/>