

## Re: Poll results: User views on the FDL issue

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-04/2722.html>

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**From:** Brian Nelson ([pyro\\_at\\_debian.org](mailto:pyro_at_debian.org))

**Date:** 04/20/05

Date: Wed, 20 Apr 2005 11:46:53 -0700

To: [debian-project@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-project@lists.debian.org), [debian-user@lists.debian.org](mailto:debian-user@lists.debian.org)

On Wed, Apr 20, 2005 at 01:26:52PM +0100, MJ Ray wrote:

[...]

> *The preamble of the survey was terrible, in my opinion. I found*  
> *it in the mail log, but not in the results posted here or on*  
> *the poll results text file. I consider it incorrect on several*  
> *key points and it states a lot of the surveyor's beliefs. For a*  
> *self-selecting listener opinion poll (SLOP), this seems likely*  
> *to influence which listeners respond. Additionally, it should*  
> *have contained some details about what happens to responses,*  
> *especially how and when the results would be published.*

It was intended to be a very short introduction to the issues (which turned out to be really hard to write since each issue is complicated) to make sure they at least had a vague idea what the poll was about. I did encourage them to read Manoj's draft statement.

Nonetheless, I think it was still too long and probably contributed to the low turnout.

> [...]

>> *5. Is Debian making a big deal out of a minor issue? Should Debian be*  
>> *focusing more on creating a usable operating system and less on worrying*  
>> *about licensing issues?*

>

> *This question is very troublesome. It's actually two different*  
> *questions and rather biased wording. The original post of it*  
> *was missing a word, too. I don't think it's safe to give much*  
> *weight to the answers. If a respondent read this question*  
> *before answering any (as they can with an emailed survey),*  
> *it may have biased all their answers even further. :-(*

The intention was to see if people were voting based on a perceived overreaction by Debian to licensing issues in general, or perhaps a frustration with the release cycle (e.g. we're wasting time on other things when we should be releasing). Think of it as a knee-jerk-o-meter.

## Debian-User: Re: Poll results: User views on the FDL issue

Given that only 60% voted "Yes", and a few of those clarified that only this particular licensing issue was overblown, that indicates to me many had not given knee-jerk responses and had given some consideration to the GFDL before answering.

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Society is never going to make any progress until we all learn to pretend to like each other.

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