

# The Ubuntu Census Survey

- ran during the period from 16th of May to the 8th of June 2006,
- based on a questionnaire consisting of 5 sections and a total of 65 questions.
- sought to get basic statistical data on the Ubuntu community members'

- 1) personal profile
- 2) computer use and habits
- 3) previous F/OSS involvement
- 4) Ubuntu involvement
- 5) the channels of communication they use in community

# Announcing the Survey

A websurvey distributed through [SurveyMonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) announced on

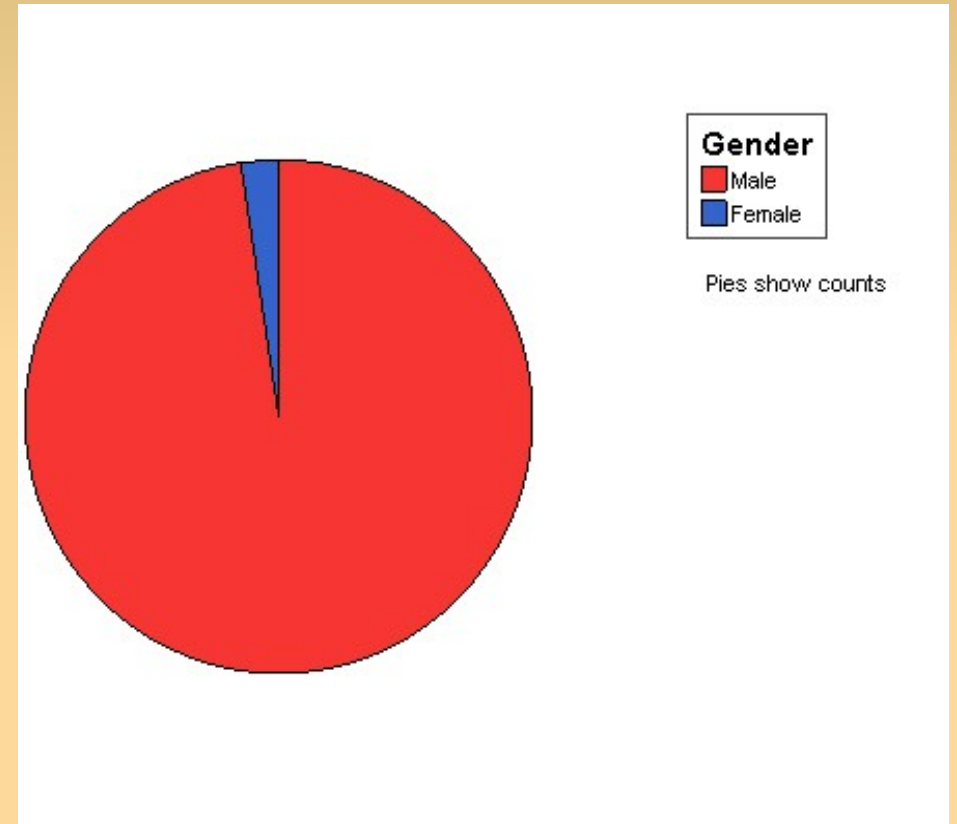
- ubuntu-users mailing list (approx. 3000 subscribers)
- ubuntu-devel mailing list (approx. 1000 subscribers)
- sounder mailing list (approx. 500 subscribers)
  
- Ubuntu Web Forums Community Section (number of regular readers unknown, but 120.000 registered users on the forums).

# Results

more than 330 responses  
of which there were  
~290 valid responses

# Results – gender

- 97,6 % male
- 2,4 % female



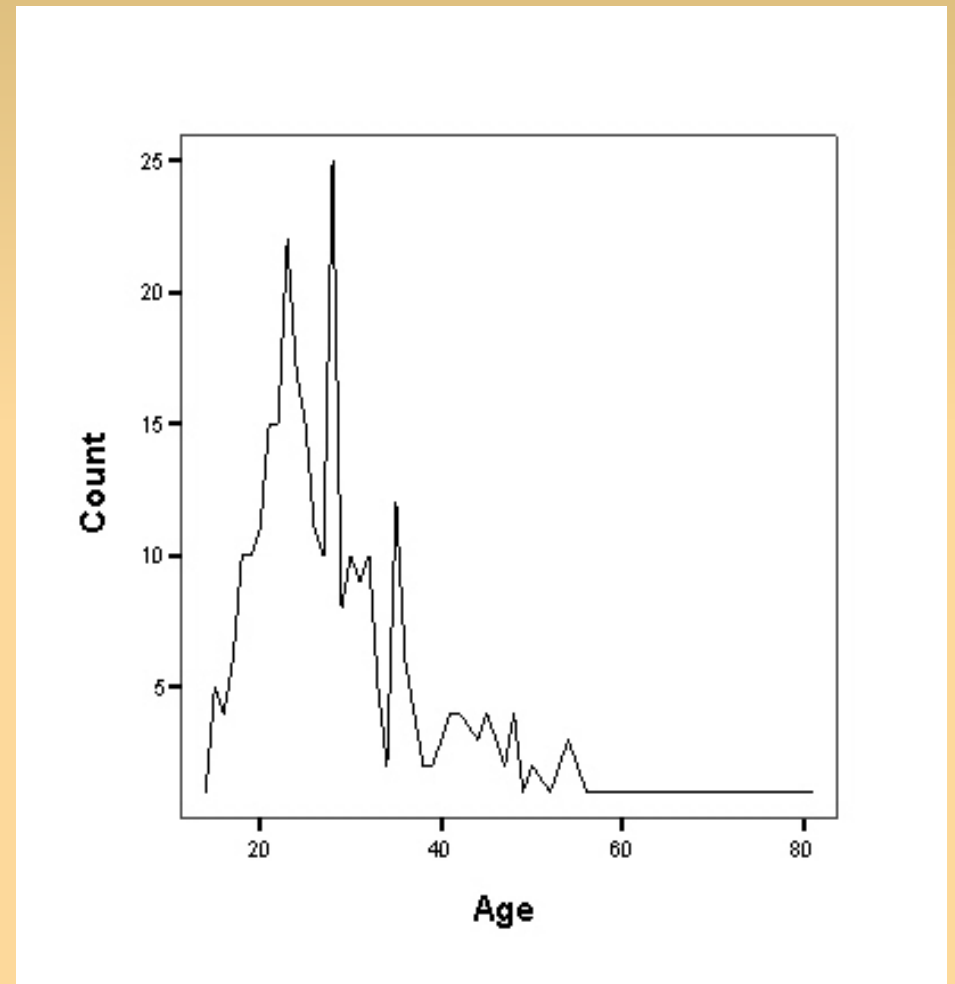
# Results – age

Average age: 29 years

Youngest respondee: 14

Oldest respondee: 81

But most respondees are in their 20s and 30s.



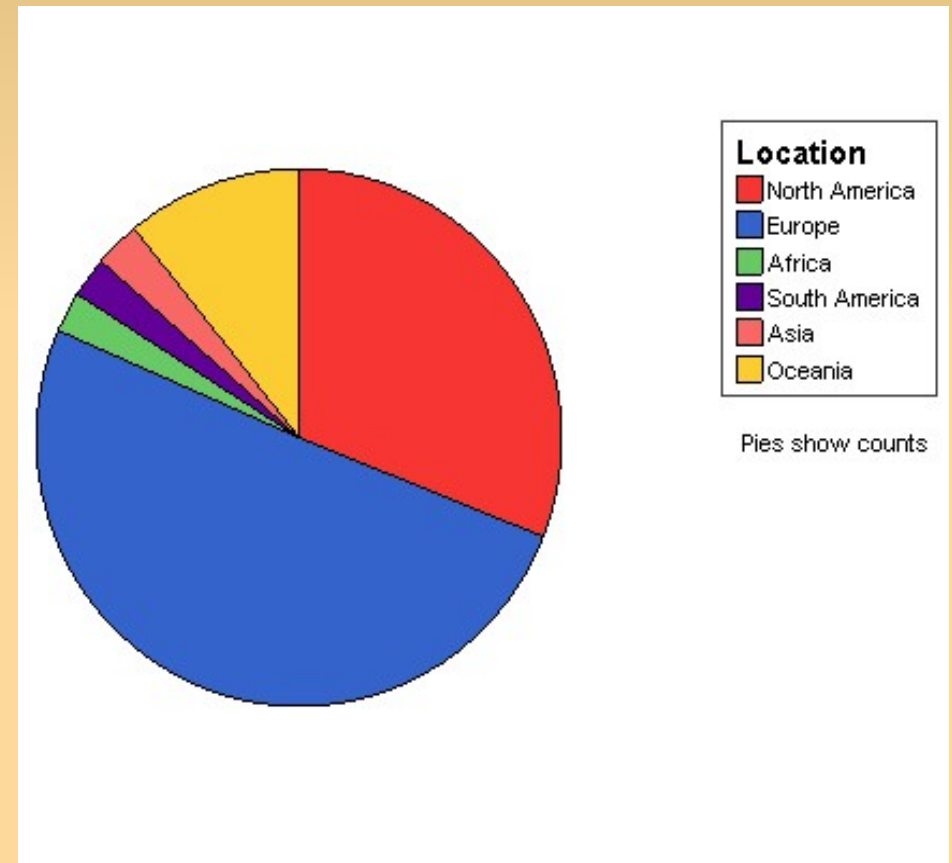
# Results – Location & Language

50 % Europe  
32 % North America  
10 % Oceania  
2,5 % South America  
2,5 % Asia  
2,5 % Africa

60 % English language countries

30 % Other western European language countries

10 % Other languages



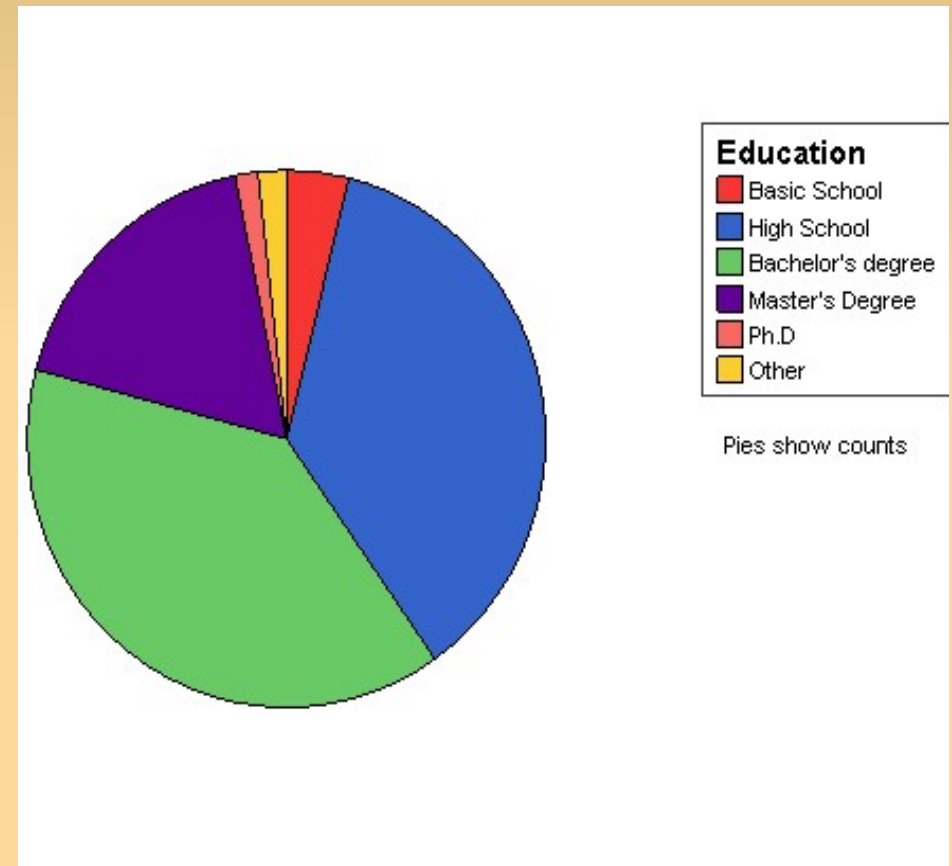
# Results – Education

Based on highest finished degree:

39 % Bachelor's degree

37 % High School (or equivalent)  
(40 % of whom are students)

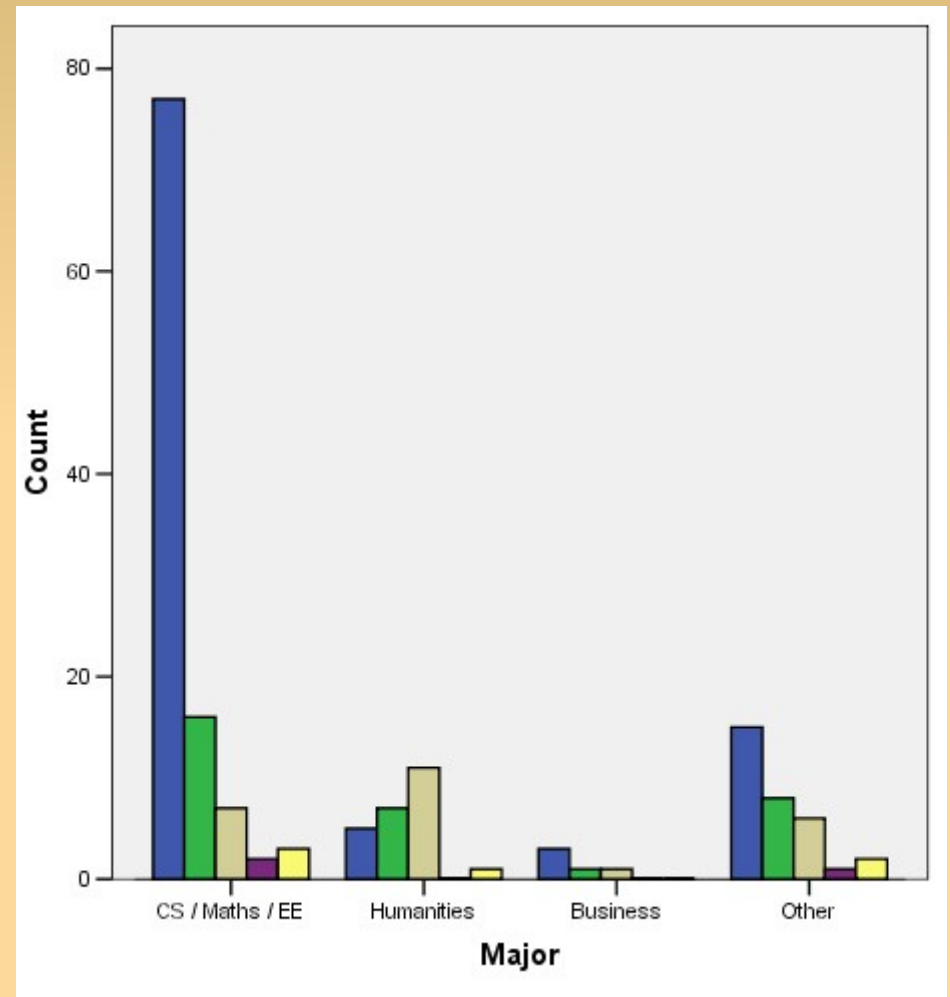
18 % Master's degree



# Results – Major

55 % of respondees with a university degree have majored in either

- Computer Science,
- Mathematics
- Electrical Engineering



# Results – Profession

- 50 % IT professionals
- 25 % students
- 20 % other (remaining being retired or unemployed)

55 % of all respondees do software development

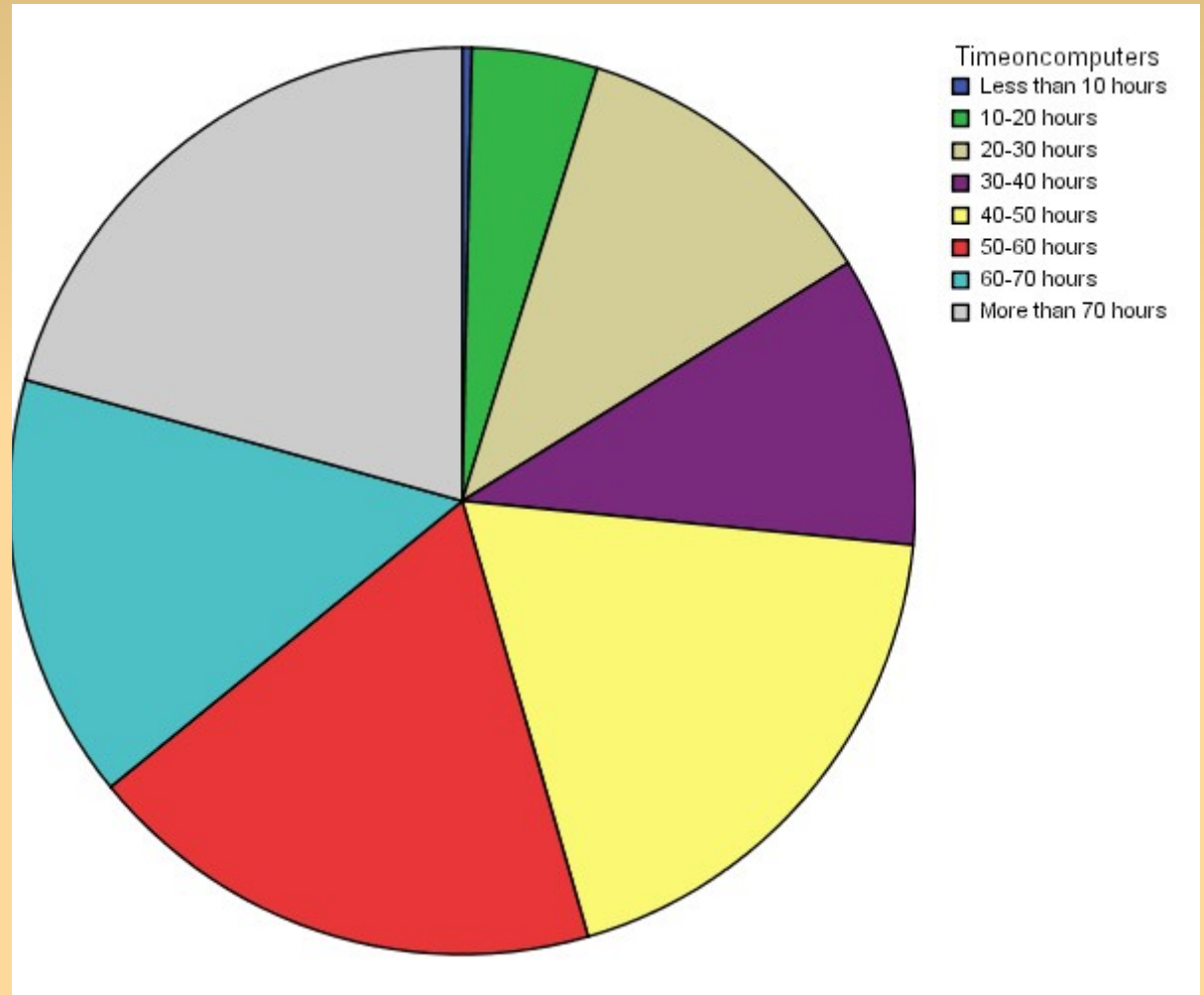
50 % of all respondees do network administration

35 % of all respondees do helpdesk/support work

(several respondees are most likely doing more than one function)

# Results – Computer Use

75 % of respondees spend more than 40 hours a week in average on the computer



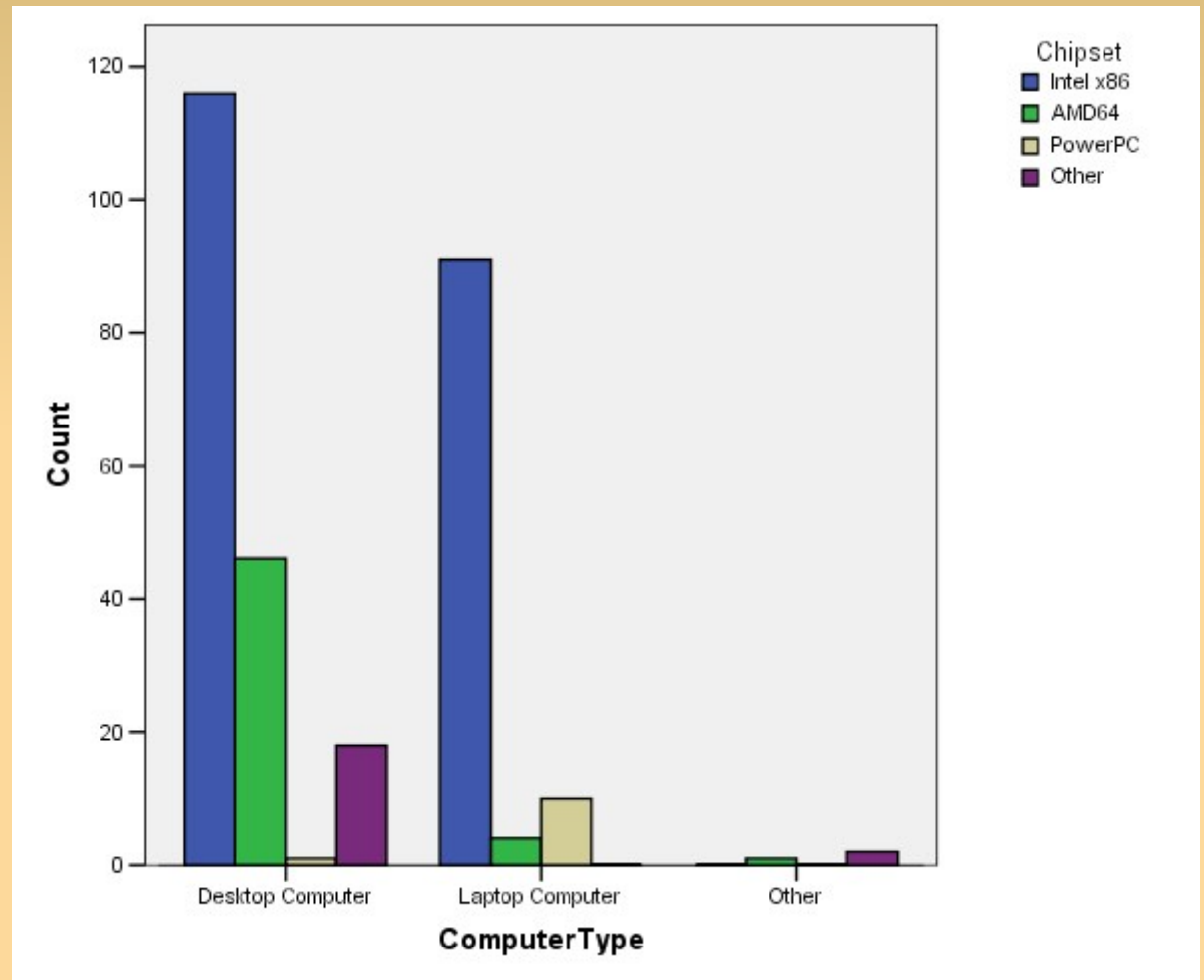
# Results – Computer Use

70 % x86

17 % AMD64

4 % PowerPC

7 % Other (or combinations of above)



# Results – Computer Use

- 50 % have more than 3 computers
- 80 % rate themselves intermediate or better at programming
- 85 % have DSL or cable internet access

# Results – Software Use

OS'es used in daily work:

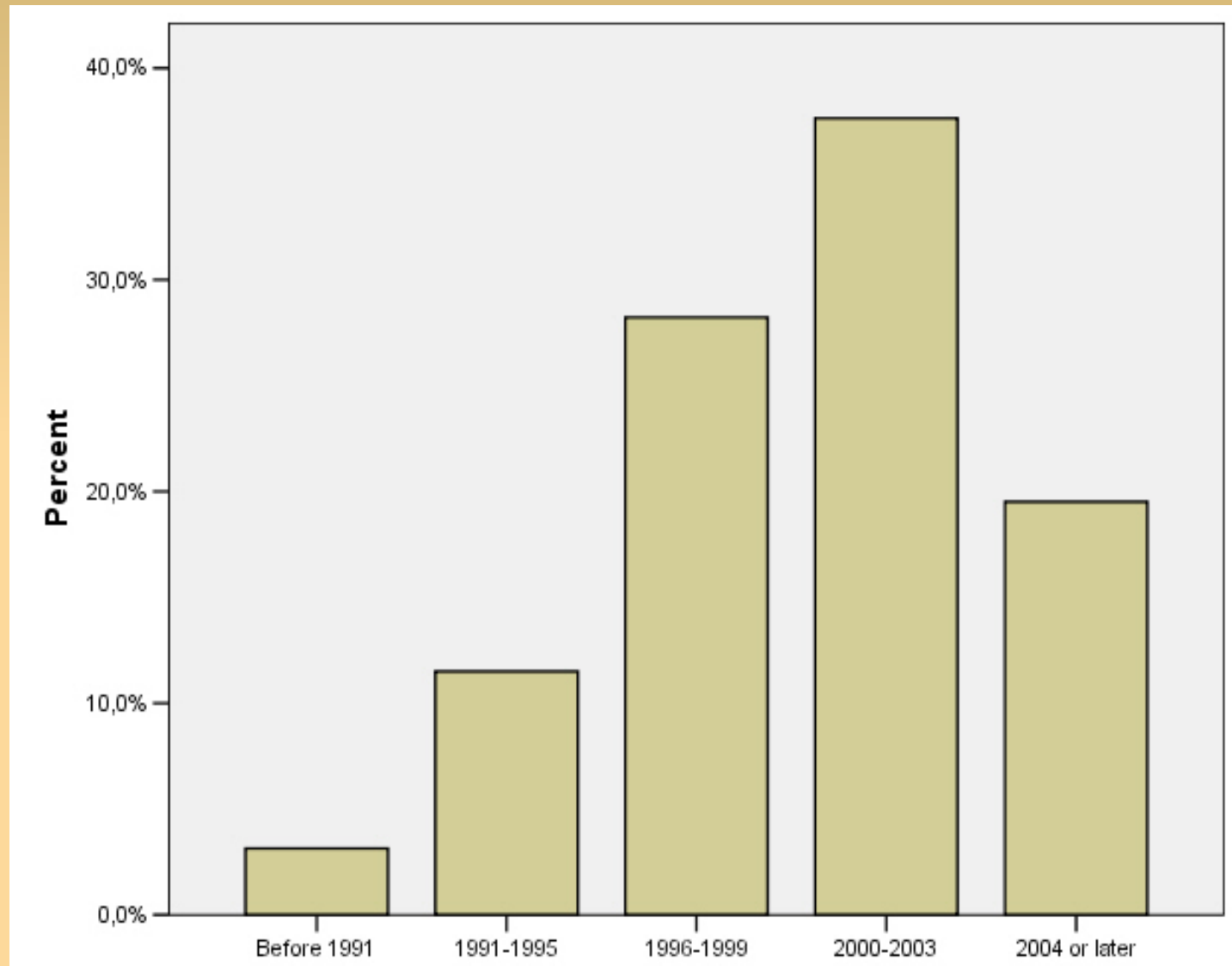
- 80 % use Ubuntu
- 14 % use Kubuntu
- 45 % use Windows XP
- 8 % use Mac OS X

# Results – Software Use

## Application Use:

- 90 % use Music Players
- 77 % use Video Players
- 75 % use Office applications
- 70 % use Instant Messaging
- 50 % use Filesharing
- 30 % use Web editing

# Results – First use of F/OSS



# Results – reasons for using F/OSS

- In order of importance:
- Curiosity
- The community
- Free of charge
- Open source code
- GNU philosophy
- Unix architecture

# Results – other distro use

- 62 % have used Debian
- 58 % have used Red Hat (or Fedora)
- 45 % have used Mandriva
- 40 % have used SUSE

again, most likely a fairly big overlap, but:

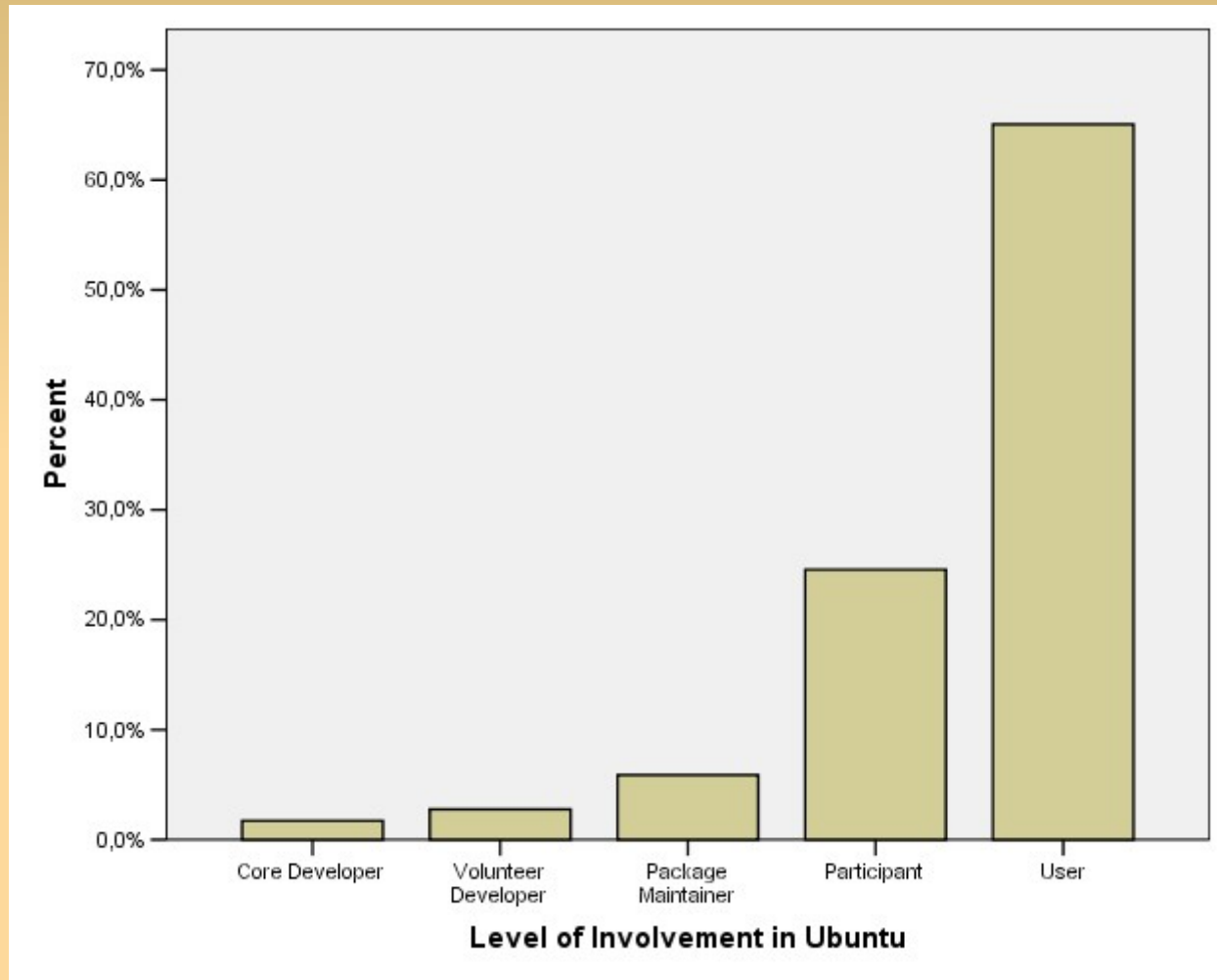
- 8 % have only used Ubuntu

# Results – Other F/OSS contributions

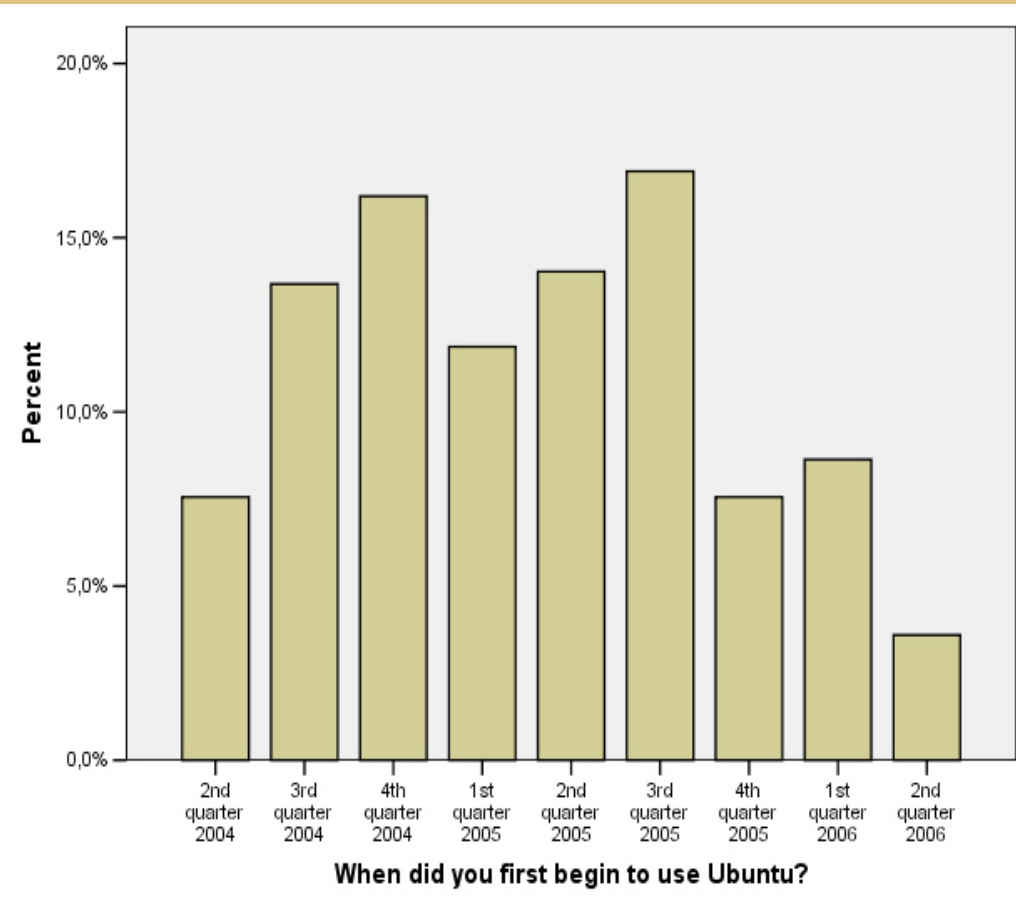
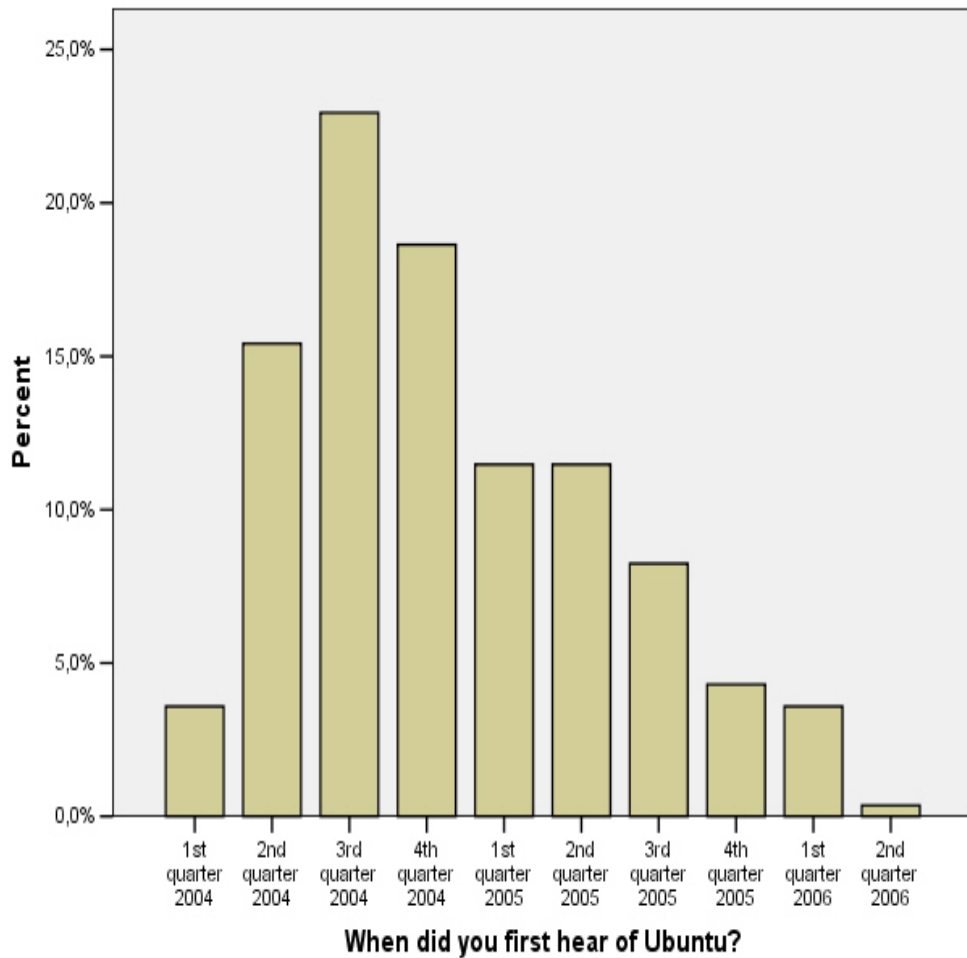
- 50 % have contributed to other F/OSS projects
- ~20 % are developers on other F/OSS projects
- 85 % have reported bugs on other F/OSS projects

# Results – Ubuntu Involvement

- 65 % users
- 25 % participants
- 6 % package maintainers
- 4 % developers



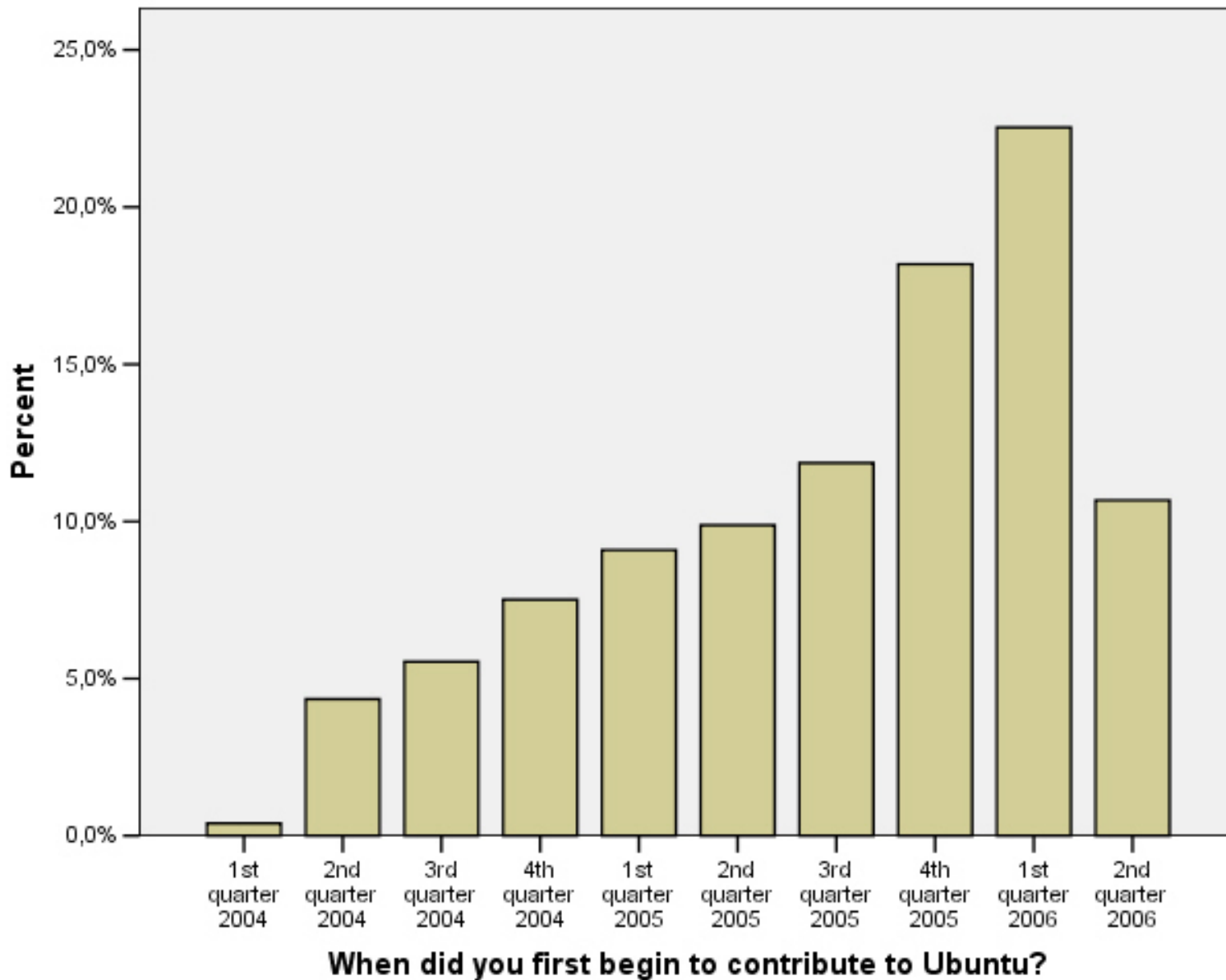
# Results – Introduction to Ubuntu



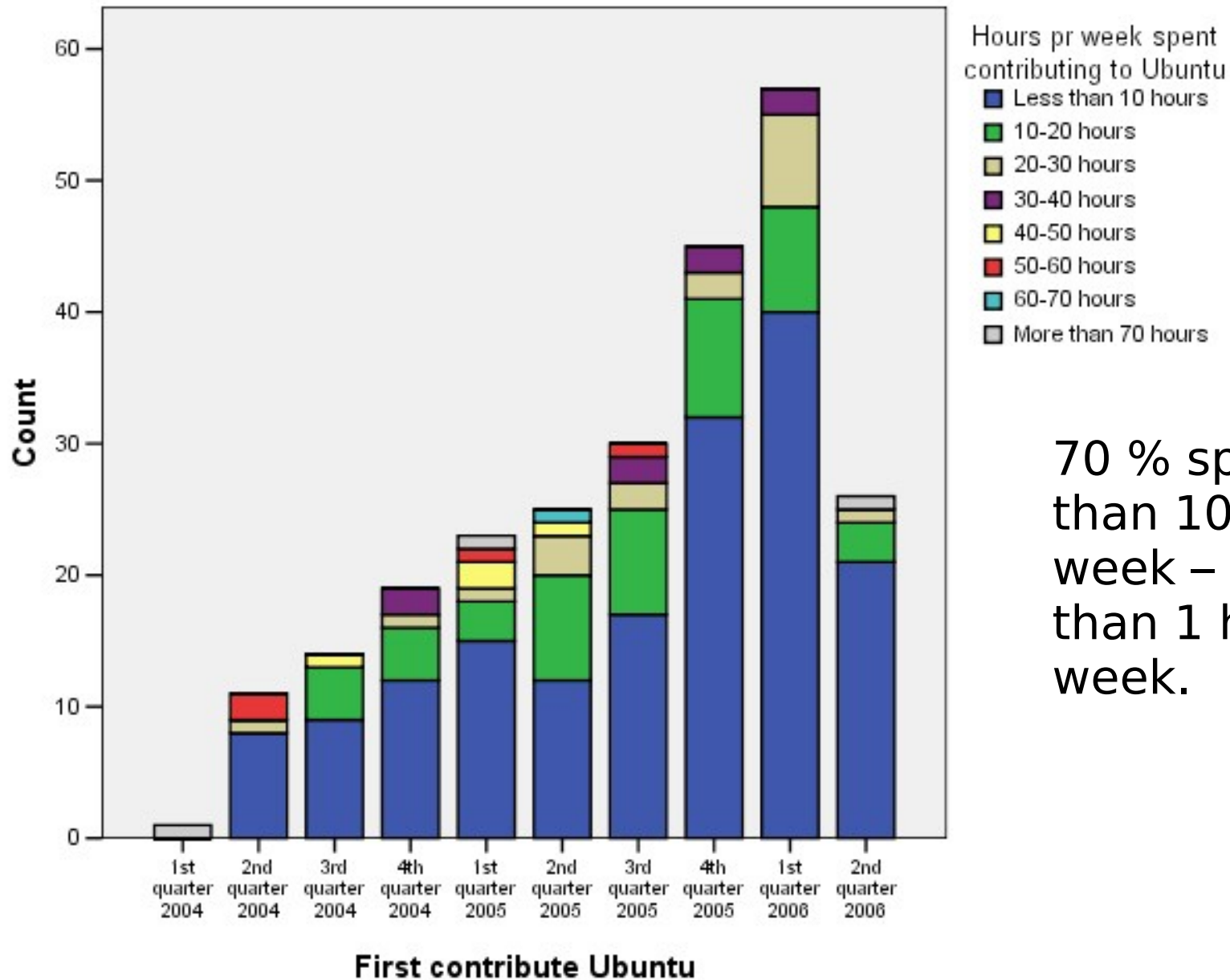
# Results – Reasons for using Ubuntu

- 70 % - Desktop Usability
- 63 % - Debian Base
- 50 % - Free of Charge
- 50 % - Hardware detection
- 50 % - Community
- 30 % - GNU philosophy
- 30 % - South African philosophy

# Results – Contributing to Ubuntu



# Results – Hours contributing



70 % spends less than 10 hours a week – many less than 1 hour a week.

# Results – Community Communications

- 45 % subscribe to ubuntu-devel
- 60 % use the forums regularly
- 35 % use the IRC channels regularly
- 70 % use the Wiki
- 75 % don't use announce and devel-announce mailing lists
- 60 % don't use the fridge
- 45 % don't use Planet Ubuntu

# Results – Launchpad Use

- 40 % do not have a Launchpad account
- 55 % of Launchpad registrants are not members of any teams.
  
- 90 % use Malone
- 20 % use Blueprint
- 30 % use Rosetta
- 12 % use Support Tracker
- 7 % use Bazaar

# Analysis

- Contributors are technically capable
- Passivity rules
- Casual contributions rule
- Little “official” involvement
- Feeling of belonging to the community
- Community segmentation between Mailing lists and Forums.

# Conclusion

- Not enough responses to be reliable
- Only patterns and ideas
- Interest in the community for more data – there are many informal polls in the forums
- Focus on contributors may be misleading. Focus on end users may be more interesting for further development.