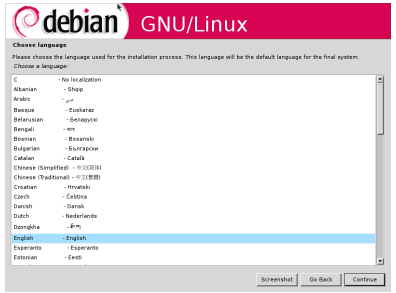
About Debian

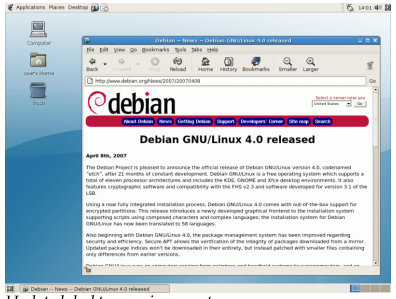
Debian GNU/Linux is a free operating system, developed by more than a thousand volunteers from all over the world who collaborate via the Internet. Debian's dedication to Free Software, its non-profit nature, and its open development model make it unique among GNU/Linux distributions.

The Debian project's key strengths are its volunteer base, its dedication to the Debian Social Contract, and its commitment to provide the best operating system possible. Debian 4.0 is another important step in that direction.

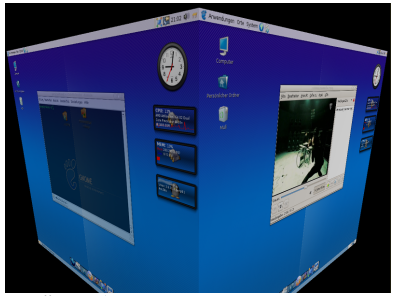
About this release



Graphical installer



Updated desktop environments



3D-effects with Compiz

http://www.debian.org

Debian GNU/Linux 4.0 "Etch" includes a number of updated software packages, such as Linux kernel version 2.6.18, GNU Compiler Collection 4.1.1, Python 2.4.4 and 2.5, Perl 5.8.8, PHP 4.4.4 and 5.2.0 and more than 18,000 other ready to use software packages.

Among many others, server software now include the mail servers Exim 4.63, Postfix 2.3, Courier 0.53 and Cyrus 2.2. It ships with the web server Apache 2.2, the database servers MySQL 5.0.32 and PostgreSQL 8.1, the OpenSSH server version 4.3, the name server Bind 9.3 and the directory server OpenLDAP 2.3.

Debian now includes the desktop environments GNOME 2.14, KDE 3.5.5a, and Xfce 4.4. Productivity applications have also been upgraded, including the office suites OpenOffice.org 2.0.4a, KOffice 1.6 and GIMP 2.2.13.

Updates of other desktop applications include the upgrade to Evolution 2.6.3 and Gaim 2.0. The Mozilla suite has also been updated, with a rename of the main programs: iceweasel (version 2.0.0.3) is the unbranded Firefox web browser and icedove (version 1.5) is the unbranded Thunderbird mail client.

With this release, Debian GNU/Linux switches from XFree86 to the 7.1 release of X.Org, which includes support for a greater range of hardware and better autodetection. This allows the use of Compiz, which is one of the first compositing window managers for the X Window System, taking full advantage of hardware OpenGL acceleration for supported devices.

Using a now fully integrated installation process, Debian GNU/Linux 4.0 comes with out-of-the-box support for encrypted partitions. This release also introduces a newly developed graphical frontend to the installation system.

The graphical installer has to be booted using installgui instead of install. Analogous, the expert and rescue modes are booted using expertgui and rescuegui respectively.

debian GNU/Linux 4.0 "Etch"

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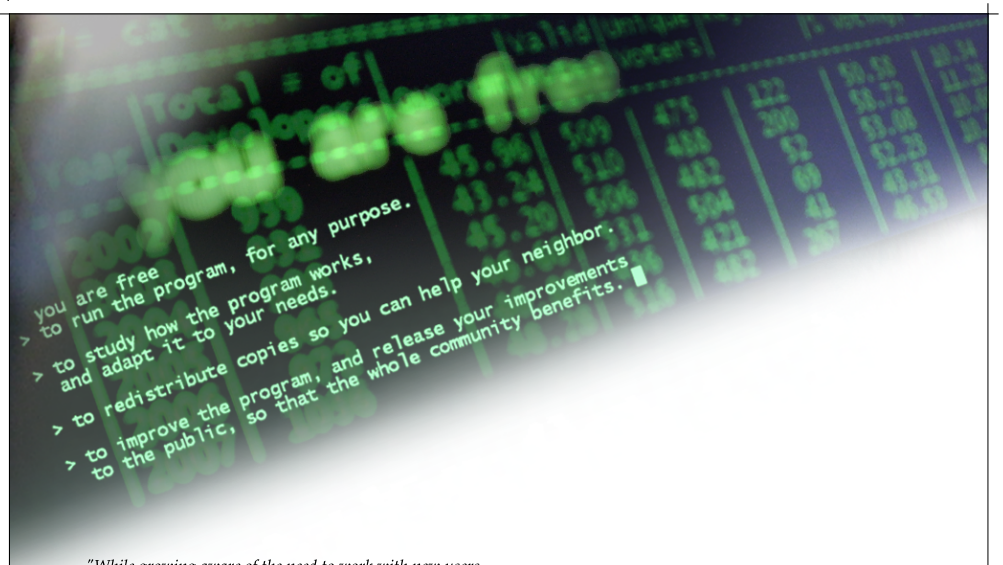

"While growing aware of the need to work with new users, Debian is also preserving some of the traditional do-it-yourself approach of free software by giving users the chance to learn more about their operating system should they choose."

linux.com *April 13, 2007*

"We were impressed to find that while the Debian project has not abandoned its overall conservatism, the team's latest release sports leading-edge credentials in some key areas.

Debian is great fit for server deployments and is particularly well-suited for hosting applications that draw on popular open-source components, such as Apache or MySQL.

Debian 4.0 can also work well in a desktop role. This latest release is certainly the handsomest yet..."

eWEEK *April 17, 2007*

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GNU/Linux 4.0 "Etch"

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