

Check Debian Version

This guide explains several ways to check your Debian version from the command line.

Quick Reference

Method	Command
Recommended	cat /etc/os-release
Version number only	cat /etc/debian_version
Distribution summary	lsb_release -a
Hostname and OS info	hostnamectl
Kernel version	uname -r

lsb_release

The `lsb_release` command displays Linux Standard Base (LSB) information about the distribution. It is a clean way to print release details when the package is installed. To display full release information:

```
# lsb_release -a
-----
No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Debian
Description:   Debian GNU/Linux 12 (bookworm)
Release:      12
Codename:     bookworm
```

/etc/debian_version

The `/etc/debian_version` file contains the Debian version number as a simple string. This file is always present on Debian systems and does not require any additional packages. The output shows the installed Debian point release.

```
# cat /etc/debian_version
-----
12.15
```

/etc/os-release

The `/etc/os-release` file contains operating system identification data in a key-value format:

```
# cat /etc/os-release
```

```
-----  
PRETTY_NAME="Debian GNU/Linux 12 (bookworm)"  
NAME="Debian GNU/Linux"  
VERSION_ID="12"  
VERSION="12 (bookworm)"  
VERSION_CODENAME=bookworm  
ID=debian  
HOME_URL="https://www.debian.org/"  
SUPPORT_URL="https://www.debian.org/support"  
BUG_REPORT_URL="https://bugs.debian.org/"
```

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