

Re: Determine system ver (Debian vs. other Linuxes) at runtime?

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Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2005-12/msg03324.html>

- *From:* OxyOss <oxyoss@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 31 Dec 2005 16:21:54 +1100
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Matt England wrote:

> In my cross-platform-programming quests, I'm looking for ways to
> determine via my Makefiles which system/platform said build process is
> running on, so I can automatically pull in the correct libraries, build
> to the correct target directories, use the correct platform-specific
> code, etc.
>
> Back in the "old days" for me (mid 1990s), the Unix builds I was making
> were mostly Solaris, HP-UX, Irix, Digital-Unix, AIX....etc etc. In such
> cases, 'uname -rs' all had distinctly different outputs.
>
> Now, 'uname -rs' (and the newer 'uname -o') all say "Linux" or
> "GNU/Linux" for all the Linux distributions.
>
> So I'm left with figuring out much harder ways to tell system revs
> apart. I'm guessing I'm going to have to make an application which does
> nothing but evaluate a system and report it's variant (Redhat vs SuSE
> vs. Debian) and revision (Debian Woody/3.0, Sarge/3.1, etc).
>
> Thing is, I don't even know where to start. Will some uname-based
> analysis work by itself? Haven't seen anything yet that will
> distinguish between the different Linux distros. I suspect there will
> be other cmds/APIs I can use to do stuff. I'm looking for suggestions.
>
> -Matt
>
>
G'day

Have you tried to use the contents of /etc/issue ? Typically for RedHat/Fedora this will have the release in it, and (for Sarge at least) this is also the case for Debian. I've done a dist-upgrade on this box and the file shows the correct version number at least...

```
user@debian:~# cat /etc/issue
Debian GNU/Linux 3.1 \n \l
```

Regards,

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Re: Determine system ver (Debian vs. other Linuxes) at runtime?

Russell

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- **References:**

- ◆ **Determine system ver (Debian vs. other Linuxes) at runtime?**

- ◆ *From:* Matt England

- Prev by Date: **Re: Where's the d@mn GUI?**
- Next by Date: **Re: USB flash drive problem**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Determine system ver (Debian vs. other Linuxes) at runtime?**
- Next by thread: **Compatible VoIP software on Debian**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**