

Debian Linux Distribution

Tak Auyeung

July 28, 2003

1 What is it?

If you don't know what Linux is, this product probably won't interest you. However, if you already know other distributions of Linux, maybe you should read on, just a little more.

GNU/Linux is a collection of free software OS and applications. As such, everything comes with source code so hard core hackers can build everything from source and customize everything for their systems. Although this approach proves to be flexible and powerful, it is not for the everyday user like Dr. Tak.

Debian (derived from Debbie and Ian) is a distribution of the Linux OS and many free software applications in binary form. Yes, this means you don't need to spend hours configuring and compiling software. The distribution can either be "traditional" (CD-ROM based) or web-based. See below for more about distribution methods.

2 Does it work?

Yes! Debian GNU/Linux has been Dr. Tak's desktop and server OS since 2000. Dr. Tak practically does everything with Debian GNU/Linux, except when it is necessary to grade Visual Basic programs or run software that comes with some neat toys that only runs in Windows.

3 How does this compare to...

Windows? Well, Debian GNU/Linux is legally free.

- 4 **Tips**
- 5 **Room for Improvement**
- 6 **Bottomline**
- 7 **Where to get it?**