aws marketplace

Debian

Reviews, tips, and advice from real users






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Contents

Product Recap

Debian

Debian Recap

Debian is a reliable open-source operating system ideal for servers and desktops. With its wide array of packages and stable releases, it suits developers and organizations seeking dependable performance and security.

Debian stands out for its stability and extensive package repository, making it a go-to choice for developers. Its open-source nature ensures transparency and flexibility. Debian's package management system, APT, simplifies software installation and updates. Its security updates are regular and prompt, ensuring systems are protected. With support for multiple architectures, Debian caters to various environments from desktops to large-scale servers.

What are the key features of Debian?

- Package Management: APT tool for efficient software installation and updates.
- Security: Regular security updates maintain robust protection.
- Open Source: Community-driven with transparency and flexibility.
- Architecture Support: Compatibility with diverse hardware systems.
- Stability: Reliable performance across server and desktop configurations.

What benefits and ROI should be considered in reviews?

- Cost Efficiency: Free distribution reduces expenses.
- Performance: Stable and reliable for demanding applications.
- Customizability: Open-source nature allows tailored solutions.
- Community Support: Extensive community for troubleshooting and advice.

Debian is widely used in industries such as web hosting, scientific research, and education, where reliability and long-term support are priorities. Its flexibility allows it to be adapted for specialized applications in scientific computing or educational environments, ensuring it meets industry-specific technical requirements.

Valuable Features

Excerpts from real customer reviews on PeerSpot:

- "Debian has been a very reliable and stable foundation for all the systems I have worked on, and its package management, transparency, and predictable updates have been extremely helpful, especially for embedded and production environments."

Badal Shrivastav

Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

- "Debian positively impacts my organization by allowing us to utilize a much more lightweight operating system with Amazon EC2 instances, which greatly reduces costs because we can use EC2 instances with lower RAM."

Verified user

Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

- "Debian has positively impacted my organization, and I have noticed specific improvements since adopting it."

Verified user

Senior Software Engineer (Backend) at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

"Debian offers features that are best for my needs, including being open source, which allows for the implementation of many things and the use of a wide variety of open-source tools."

Verified user

IT Support Manager at a educational organization with 5,001-10,000 employees

"Debian is the most straightforward and compatible option, which greatly simplifies our engineers' tasks."

Verified user

Cybersecurity Engineer at a tech consulting company with 51-200 employees

"Debian offers the best features in that it is open source, simple, and battle-tested, with a good release cycle."

Verified user

Founder at a media company with 1-10 employees

"Debian always provides zero downtime because all that is needed is to run pseudo APT upgrade and it fixes NGINX or the other packages that need to be fixed."

Manas Kashyap

DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

What users had to say about valuable features:

“Debian offers excellent stability and reliability as its best features.

What stands out to me about Debian's stability is its reliability.

Debian has positively impacted my organization as it leads to much more stable workloads. For example, if things were running worse a long time ago, with Debian it is now better.

I can share specific outcomes, such as downtime reduction and positive changes related to that..”

Ivan Karpenko
SRE at Akamai

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“Debian's best features are that it is very light and very comfortable for even older computers.

Regarding speed, Debian feels light and comfortable to me, and it has significant community support. If anyone encounters a problem in Debian, they can connect to the Debian community and receive help very quickly. This is the main reason I use Debian, and I love using the terminal.

Since using Debian, I have noticed that whatever I need for my work is already available in Debian. The Debian community is very active, and if any new feature or concern comes up, as soon as they update Debian mirrors or the apt repository, I can install and use it..”

Verified user

Data Science at a outsourcing company with 1-10 employees

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"The best features Debian offers include very good support and a huge library with support for various packages we can install to customize our workloads.

"Compared to CentOS, we are using Debian for many things; what we can achieve with Red Hat and CentOS, we can achieve on Debian itself, so I have been using Debian for a while.

"Debian has positively impacted my organization in that most of our applications are running on Debian.."

Bsubbiah Bsubbiah
Infrastructure Team Lead at Scalecomputing

Read full review

"Debian functions as an umbrella where you will find all those packages that are available for Ubuntu as well as for different operating systems. I feel that Debian is one of the origins from which it all started, so contributing to it makes me feel special.

Debian has impacted my work significantly. All the upstream servers are on Ubuntu or Debian and I have to fix issues on them. That is what I have been working on.

Debian always provides zero downtime because all that is needed is to run pseudo APT upgrade and it fixes NGINX or the other packages that need to be fixed. It is straightforward to be used because APT is available for that purpose. APT produces Python packages as well as Node packages, and I just need to install them from there rather than having multiple sources.."

Manas Kashyap
DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

Read full review

“In my experience, the best features Debian offers are its stability, predictability, behaviors, and strong package management, which are crucial for a reliable system. Updates are well-tested, dependencies are handled cleanly, and the system remains reliable over a long period, which is very important for production and embedded Linux environments.

When comparing Debian with other Linux distributions, Debian stands out for its stability and conservative package updates. Updates rarely introduce unexpected changes, making our system more reliable over time. The package management handles dependencies very cleanly, making installs and upgrades predictable and easier to manage, reducing downtime and debugging efforts compared to faster-moving distributions.

One particularly useful feature is how Debian handles package information with tools like apt-cache and apt-policies, making it easy to understand package versions, dependencies, and where a package is coming from, which helps during debugging. Additionally, I find the Debian DPKG tool very useful, among other tools that aid in integration.

In my case, Debian provides stability and reliable versions, as I have noticed very few system breakages after updates. The reliable package updating process in Debian is very dependable, which helps me considerably in my organization for reliable application development.

Using Debian, we experience significantly fewer bugs after deployment, resulting in smoother deployments owing to Debian's stability.

Debian support is excellent. While it does not have traditional paid customer support like some commercial distributions, the Debian community and documentation are very strong. I find that relying on community support and documentation has been more than sufficient to solve any issues I have faced..”

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

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“In my opinion, the best features Debian offers include its stability. The stable branch really is stable because once it is configured, I understand you can run it for a very long period of time without needing to reboot or update any of the components. That is really good when you want an application to be extremely stable and not go down, and you are happy using slightly older components. I also value the fact that Debian is open source, so it is free. That is very useful, and it has a big development community that builds it. I understand there are tens of thousands of software libraries which work with Debian from the apt package manager, APT, and also it is very lightweight, which I find to be good as well because that helps with cost savings.

“Debian's lightweight design benefits my organization because it does not come with bloatware, minimizing RAM usage. Because of that, we can choose cheaper EC2 instances. You do not have to have as powerful RAM, which makes things cheaper, and also because it does not come with all this bloatware, it also makes it faster. So it is very efficient.

“Debian positively impacts my organization by allowing us to utilize a much more lightweight operating system with Amazon EC2 instances, which greatly reduces costs because we can use EC2 instances with lower RAM. Cost savings are good. Debian is very well known across the industry, so different engineers from different teams know how to use it. Using the APT package manager is a common skill for cloud professionals, which makes it good, especially if you are hiring individuals into the company, because at least you would expect they have some type of background using Debian.

“I do not know exact measurements, but I would expect we could save at least 10% of costs with EC2 instances just because our memory and CPU requirements would be lower because Debian is lightweight. So it would save cost to some degree..”

Verified user

Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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Other Solutions Considered

"I previously used Ubuntu. The reason for switching to Debian was that I found it a little more lightweight, and the stable branch is extremely stable, which is something I wanted for this particular web website project that I was working on.."

Verified user

Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"Before choosing Debian, we evaluated other Linux distributions, mainly Ubuntu and some vendor-specific Linux. Debian's stability, support, and package management made it a better fit for production and embedded systems.."

Badal Shrivastav

Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

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"Before using Debian, we had experience with other Linux distributions, mainly Ubuntu-based systems and some vendor-provided Linux images. We decided to use Debian because we needed a more stable and predictable base, especially for long-running systems where frequent changes or upgrades could cause issues. Debian's updates and clean package management gave us more control over system behavior.."

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

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"Previously, from the very beginning, our architect mentioned that we would look to Debian as this was one of the better options in the marketplace. We examined this solution based on our architecture discussion, and Debian seemed better than Fedora and Mint. The main reason was that latest updates are already being implemented in Debian rather than Fedora and Mint.."

Verified user
Senior Software Engineer (Backend) at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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"Before choosing Debian, we evaluated other options like Ubuntu, Kali Linux, and CentOS, but many of them have additional costs such as support licensing, even though they are still cheaper than Windows. Debian stood out as the most compatible option, being the most stable with frequent updates and reliable backward support, making it the best choice for us.."

Verified user

Cybersecurity Engineer at a tech consulting company with 51-200 employees

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ROI

Real user quotes about their ROI:

"There is nothing as such for return on investment, but I do not need a new computer to run Debian or a highly configurable computer. I can run Debian on my old computer as well, which is very useful for saving money.."

Verified user
Data Science at a outsourcing company with 1-10 employees

Read full review

"I have seen a return on investment using Debian. The least amount of privileges which we provide and the investment cost which we incurred on another machine images were comparatively lower. We saved around $150 per month regarding the same.."

Verified user
Senior Software Engineer (Backend) at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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"Regarding return on investment, although I needed more employees, I cut down on licensing and maintenance costs, estimating around sixty percent savings percentage-wise.."

Verified user
IT Support Manager at a educational organization with 5,001-10,000 employees

Read full review

"I have seen a return on investment; specifically, the cost is around zero because there is no need for a license, and since my whole team uses Debian, we are fine with the number of employees needed.."

Sabry Tarek
DevOps Technology Lead at TriStratus Ltd

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"It is very difficult to find an exact metric for return on investment because Debian is really a bedrock from which everything else is built upon. However, I would say that using Debian compared to other distributions which have more bloatware would be cheaper because we can run it on less powerful hardware. In terms of cost savings, we might see a cost of at least 10% reduction compared to distributions with more bloatware.."

Verified user
Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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"We did not track formal ROI metrics, but we clearly observe returns in terms of time saved and reduced maintenance efforts. Debian's stability leads to fewer production issues, emergencies, fixes, and less time spent on system recovery, improving overall engineering efficiency. For example, we had fewer post-update failures and rollbacks, which saved debugging time and reduced downtime, allowing the same team to manage systems without needing additional resources. Additionally, there were direct cost savings since Debian has no licensing fees, and we did not require paid support, so it saved us considerable money.."

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

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Use Case

“My main use case is about server handling, creating pipelines, and maintaining Docker images that have been used in the DevOps field.

The work involves going into the server, running APT updates, maintaining the packages that are there, and checking all vulnerabilities that exist. I then fix those vulnerabilities using different packages, upgrade those packages, and install new packages as needed..”

Manas Kashyap
DevOps Engineer at Elevenxcapital

Read full review

“My main use case for Debian is that a lot of my infrastructure resources are running on Debian, and many in-house tools are hosted on Debian servers.

“A specific example of how I am using Debian in my infrastructure is that we are running our application servers, we have a Postgres database hosted on Debian, and we have some customized monitoring tools hosted on Debian.

“In addition to my main use case, I was using Debian for ETL jobs..”

Bsubbiah Bsubbiah
Infrastructure Team Lead at Scalecomputing

Read full review

"I use Debian for programming, maintaining my website, and learning Linux scripting. I also encourage my friends to use open-source operating systems such as Debian, Ubuntu, or any other Linux variant.

I am using Debian on my personal computer and also on my friend's computer. I am not using Debian at work.

I use Debian for all purposes and all of my computer activities, not for any specific feature or particular use case.."

Verified user
Data Science at a outsourcing company with 1-10 employees

Read full review

"I have been using Debian for around 10 years now.

My main use case for Debian is that it's a regular Linux operating system with many use cases and system servers.

One specific example of how I use Debian is running the LAMP stack, including NGINX or other tools.

I have many use cases for Debian, but it does not make sense to share each one because there are too many of them.."

Ivan Karpenko
SRE at Akamai

Read full review

"My main use case for Debian includes numerous applications, ranging from running web applications on AWS EC2 instances using Debian 12, and Debian 12 being the bedrock of Linux Mint, which I run on a personal Mac that is really old. Because of using Linux Mint, it has brought the laptop back to life and it is quick enough to use in a modern way even though the laptop is over a decade old.

"I use Debian 12 for building a web application which runs on EC2 instances, and since Debian 12 is free on AWS, I believe it was made to be optimized for EC2 usage. Debian is one of the biggest and oldest Linux distributions, so it is one that came to mind when I was deciding which machine image to run.

"Debian is deployed in my organization through the public cloud. I use Debian through the AWS Marketplace, but it is actually used on EC2 instances in AWS, which you would purchase through the EC2 page of the AWS console.."

Verified user

Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"I have primarily used Debian for bare-metal systems and embedded devices, utilizing it as a stable base OS for development, testing, and production environments. Debian is particularly useful for package management, OTA updates using .deb packages, and system-level debugging.

Currently, I have been developing an IP PA system project where I was using Debian exclusively, and it helped me significantly because of its reliability, stability, and package management system. Using Debian, I was able to deploy a reliable application and a reliable OTA update system.

Debian has been a great distribution that I have used, and it helped me considerably when I deployed my project, providing a reliable system for deployment.

I have primarily used Debian on on-premises systems and private environments, especially for Linux-based development and deployment setups. I have not primarily used it on public cloud platforms like AWS, but it works reliably in private setups.

It is mostly custom in-house infrastructure where we run Debian on our own hardware and internal systems, not relying on a managed private cloud provider.

For my needs, we require a stable release and predictable updates with minimal regressions and support for OTA updates. Debian excels in all these requirements with its tested stable release and conservative updates, making deployment predictable and reliable, especially in embedded or production systems.."

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

Read full review

Setup

The setup process involves configuring and preparing the product or service for use, which may include tasks such as installation, account creation, initial configuration, and troubleshooting any issues that may arise. Below you can find real user quotes about the setup process.

My advice to others looking into using Debian is to not step out from the initial configuration. It might be hard, but you will learn something, and then everything will work.

Verified user

Read full review

Embedded Developer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

"The installer experience with Debian is not great, but it is not terrible now. With AI, it is pretty easy to follow the basic steps to get it going. Most people setting up Linux are often using a distro based on Debian rather than vanilla Debian.."

Verified user

Read full review

Founder at a media company with 1-10 employees

"I purchased Debian through the Azure Marketplace. My experience with pricing, setup cost, and licensing seems acceptable. We have also used Ubuntu as well. Comparing to Ubuntu, Debian is cheaper.."

Anand R.

Cloud Solutions Specialist at Cloud Kinetics

Read full review

Customer Service and Support

"I have not needed customer support for Debian. I never had to contact the Debian help center, and whenever I had a query, I used Google to search for it and found very helpful information from public platforms.."

Hamza Sharif
Cloud Engineer at a consultancy with 11-50 employees

Read full review

"My experience with customer support is that I use Debian on AWS, and Amazon's enterprise support is amazing. They get back to you extremely quickly and they are highly experienced. I have not needed help from the Debian community for assistance, but I would imagine that would be brilliant because the user community is massive for Debian.."

Verified user
Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"Debian support is excellent. While it does not have traditional paid customer support like some commercial distributions, the Debian community and documentation are very strong. I find that relying on community support and documentation has been more than sufficient to solve any issues I have faced.."

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

Read full review

"We rely on community resources for support, such as documentation, forums, and asking questions online. It's very easy to find reliable tutorials and guides. However, we've never reached out for official support or dealt with Debian's vendor tickets, as we manage everything ourselves by utilizing open-source resources.."

Verified user
Cybersecurity Engineer at a tech consulting company with 51-200 employees

Read full review

Other Advice

I think that sometimes while I am speaking, you say thanks because you think I have ended my speech or my phrase, and then it is not so smooth. I would rate this review as providing comprehensive feedback on my experience with Debian.

Verified user
Embedded Developer at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

"When it comes to specific outcomes or metrics, I would stick with improved performance and reduced downtime.

"My advice to others looking into using Debian is to prioritize stability. I would rate this review a nine overall.."

Bsubbiah Bsubbiah
Infrastructure Team Lead at Scalecomputing

Read full review

"Since I support using open-source applications, my advice to others looking into using Debian is to embrace the freedom to use everything without limitations. I encourage people to use open-source applications and operating systems such as Debian and any Linux variant, so that what they are using remains open-source and useful to all.

Debian is doing a great job, and they should keep it up. Thank you.

I should note that since I mentioned I am using Debian on my personal computer, there were many questions regarding my workplace or my organization, so the questions should be classified based on earlier questions. I would rate this review an eight out of ten.."

Verified user
Data Science at a outsourcing company with 1-10 employees

Read full review

"I advise others to use Debian if they need stability and reliability for their software update plans, utilizing backports and manual builds. It is an excellent choice for systems needing long-term support and minimal surprises, although they should be aware that it may not always have the latest packages. Some additional planning, such as using backports and building from source, might be necessary for projects requiring cutting-edge software. Overall, it is a solid choice for production and embedded environments.

I would add that Debian has been a very reliable and stable foundation for all the systems I have worked on. Its package management, transparency, and predictable updates have been extremely helpful, especially for embedded and production environments. Overall, it is a solid operating system for long-term projects, and I would recommend it to anyone who values stability and maintainability. I rate this review at an eight out of ten.."

Badal Shrivastav
Embedded Linux / BSP Engineer at Veethree

Read full review

"Majority of the things in Debian packages are handled using this, and all security packages are scanned on a daily basis so that any vulnerability does not emerge. A system cron job is also added in Debian console so that regular scans and updates are reflected on our Power BI dashboard via that system cron job, allowing the leadership and organization level to get updates regularly on what is happening in the background.

"A specific example that shows how Debian made a positive impact is in recent scenarios. In the 12.18 version, Debian actually provided very good faster patching, which helped us resolve that CVE as soon as possible. Timely updates and providing open source helps Debian packages to be updated by the open source community as well and mark down those packages which are critical and high so that everyone gets to know what is happening in the background. Keeping

everything open source helps grow the community and also lets others know what is happening as well.

“My advice to others looking into using Debian is that they can explore multiple operating system patch and image options, but the shipping mechanism of Debian is much wider and the community can be quite large. The updates are maintained consistently. Debian is quite good, and I hope future releases are much better with new features being added regularly so that it takes and stays relevant and competitive in the market with other operating system patches.

“I rate Debian overall at an 8 out of 10 based on performance and the scale with which it works, the release and updates, and a few areas for improvement that I have mentioned previously. I have cut two marks for the improvements needed, but everything else is quite good..”

Verified user
Senior Software Engineer (Backend) at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

Read full review

“I did not realize before starting to use Debian that there are different branches, which allows you to choose how stable or how up to date you want it to be. The stable branch, which is what I use, has features that are heavily tested. The software is older, but it does not break often at all because you have to manually update different components if you want them to do so. However, if you did want to use state-of-the-art components, you could consider the unstable version, which I have not personally used, but if I ever did want to do active development for the newest features, then I would be able to do that.

“Debian is deployed in my organization through the public cloud. Using the APT package manager is a common skill for cloud professionals, which makes it good, especially if you are hiring individuals into the company, because at least you would expect they have some type of background using Debian.

“I rate Debian a 10 because it is extremely stable, lightweight, fast, and open

source, so it is free. The only real downsides are that there might be a learning curve because installing it requires a bit more technical experience than Ubuntu, and the hardware compatibility does not always work out of the box with the newest hardware. However, those things are to be expected if you are trying to configure something which is world-class and also highly stable. So I do not really see them as drawbacks; they are more considerations to be aware of.

“My advice to others looking into using Debian is that I recommend using the stable branch if they want to make sure their application would be extremely stable, as it is a good way to go. Because it is so lightweight, it is very efficient to run Debian. There is a slight learning curve to it, which might make it a little harder to use than Ubuntu, but if experienced engineers are deploying it, I do not think that is a reason not to use it. I would recommend going for it..”

Verified user
Cloud Ops Lead at a tech vendor with 10,001+ employees

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by visitors reading reviews

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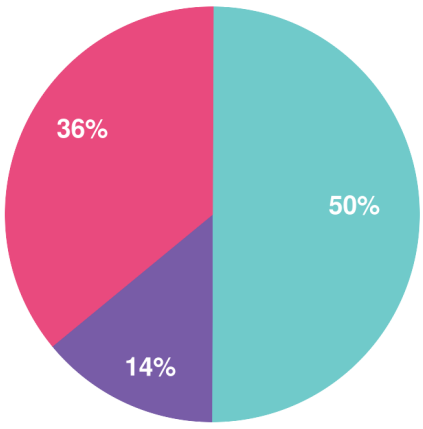
Company Size

by reviewers



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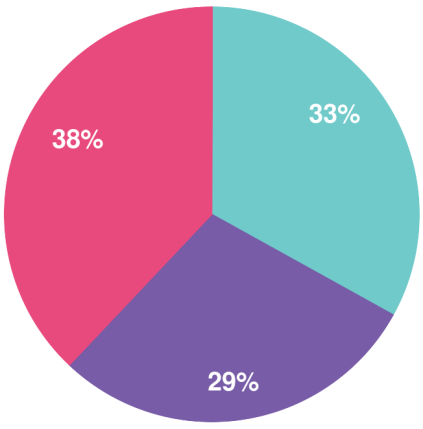

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