Dozens of distros grace the pages of the Internet, and yet, the world knows there is only one Debian. The much-respected Debian GNU/Linux plays a special role in the Linux pantheon because of its size, its scope, and its active social conscience. Linux experts have used Debian for years, but the no-frills installation scheme offered few concessions for beginners. Now with the arrival of Debian 3.1, Debian at last has a system that is accessible to everyone. We're proud to bring you Debian 3.1 sarge on this month's Linux Magazine Magazine DVD.

**New Installer**

The biggest change with Debian 3.1, and perhaps the biggest reason why Debian is poised to reach a new generation of users, is the arrival of the Debian installer. The installer provides easy setup and configuration of your Debian system. Installation options appear in a convenient menu format. Behind the scenes, the Debian installer delivers improved disk management and hardware detection. Debian leverages the power of its superb package management system to install packages quickly, easily, and reliably from within the installer.

**Package Perks**

Debian's package management system is a fast and convenient means for installing and updating software on your system. You only need to type a single command in order to install a new application. If you prefer a GUI, you can manage packages through the intuitive Synaptic front end. Debian's package management tools automatically obtain the necessary files from sources on the Internet and handle any dependencies. Other Linux distros have unveiled similar package management systems, some derived from Debian and some modeled on it, but Debian's system remains the most efficient means of installing Linux software.

**Scope and Scale**

This month's Linux Magazine DVD contains over 6,500 packages, representing the contents of seven Debian installation CDs. Once your system is up and running, you'll have access to the rest of Debian through Debian's package management system. In all, the vast Debian distribution includes over 15,000 packages.

If you choose Debian, you'll be part of a huge community of users, bloggers, admins, and developers. Help is never far from the Debian user. The Debian community is a network of over 1,600 volunteers who are motivated and personally invested in Debian's success.

**Try It Now**

There has never been a better time to try the acclaimed Debian GNU/Linux. If you are already a Debian user, this DVD offers a convenient path for upgrading to the last Debian release. Debian 3.1 is the easiest and friendliest Debian yet, and the handy single-DVD format makes this DVD even more appealing. Now you can try the long-awaited Debian sarge without delivery charges or lengthy downloads. Just plug in this month's Linux Magazine DVD, and take your own tour of the powerful Debian 3.1.