The last few years have seen the emergence of a new kind of Linux: the enterprise distribution. Enterprise distros are built for the demanding world of the enterprise corporation, and they are designed for stable performance and a long shelf life. These qualities are highly prized in the world of business, and for that reason, enterprise distros command a very high price.

If you're looking for an enterprise-ready Linux distribution, but you're not ready to pay the premium rate, you may be the perfect candidate for CentOS. CentOS is a fully functioning, stable, and ready-to-use enterprise distro without the high price. We are proud to bring you CentOS 4.2 as this month’s Linux Magazine DVD.

CentOS is based on the source code from Red Hat Enterprise Linux. This month's DVD is equivalent to Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 update 2 - a state of the art Linux system that retails from US$179 to US$1,499. This industrial-strength Linux is yours absolutely free. Just plug in the Linux Magazine DVD and start the installation. As a special bonus, this month's DVD comes with both the 32-bit and 64-bit versions of CentOS.

Why CentOS?
The high-end pedigree of CentOS makes CentOS 4.2 the perfect tool for server applications. You can use CentOS as a web server, mail server, database server, or application server. CentOS also comes with the sophisticated Windows compatibility features included with Red Hat Enterprise Linux. You can use CentOS as a primary or secondary domain controller or as a Samba-based SMB-based server for Windows clients.

CentOS is also a fully functioning desktop Linux system. You’ll find many of your favorite desktop tools, such as OpenOffice.org 1.1.2, Mozilla 1.7.12, Firefox 1.0.7, Evolution 2.0.2, Gaim 1.3.1-0.el4.i386, X-chat 2.4.0, Konqueror 3.3.1, Gimp 2.0.5-5, GNOME 2.8, and KDE 3.3. Whether you are working with an enterprise server, a small office server, or even an ordinary desktop system, you’ll find that CentOS is a stable, high-performance Linux distribution that is easy to manage and easy to use. Plug in this month's Linux Magazine DVD and explore the exciting world of CentOS, the community enterprise Linux.