Knoppix is the quintessential Live troubleshooting tool for admins, developers, and desktop Linux users. This Debian-based distro runs directly from the DVD drive on a variety of Intel-based systems. Version 5.3 adds new features, such as VirtualBox virtualization and the Compiz-Fusion window manager.

Knoppix offers an impressive collection of GNU/Linux software, as well as automatic hardware detection and support for a variety of graphic cards, sound cards, and USB devices. We are happy to bring you Knoppix 5.3.1 as this month’s Linux Magazine DVD.

Knoppix creator Klaus Knopper pioneered many of the techniques used today in other Live distributions, and Knoppix remains at the forefront of the Live Linux movement. Knoppix offers a powerful collection of troubleshooting and diagnostic tools for professional sys admins, who use it to test for problems and resurrect downed computers. But Knoppix is also a powerful desktop system, built with ingenious compression features to deliver more business applications and user tools than you would ever expect to find on a bootable DVD.

Version 5.3.1 includes Linux Kernel 2.6.24.4. Knoppix also comes with popular tools such as OpenOffice.org, Abiword, GIMP, Apache, PHP, and MySQL. Through ntfsprogs and ntfs-3d, Knoppix offers support for viewing and writing to NTFS partitions, making Knoppix an excellent tool for resurrecting broken Windows systems.

Adriane
Each version of Knoppix brings new and interesting features to the realm of Live Linux. Version 5.3 rolls out the Adriane audio desktop. Adriane is an easy-to-use desktop system for the sight-impaired. The Adriane desktop provides a dialog-based menu with speech output or optional output to a USB or Bluetooth braille device. You’ll need to do some tinkering to get Adriane working in English (see the DVD pages in issue 91) but if you’re ready for a little reconfiguration, boot Knoppix and check out this powerful accessibility tool.

Is your system broken? Pop in your Knoppix DVD for help with troubleshooting, forensics, and data recovery. Because Knoppix is fully portable and runs from the DVD drive, you can take it with you and access the same familiar system even if you are using a computer configured for Windows. Use Knoppix as a backup system, or take advantage of its large collection of tools on a daily basis.