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Find out my Linux distribution name and version

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Q. How do I find out what version of Linux distribution I'm using from the shell prompt?

A. To find out what version of Linux (distro) you are running, enter the following command at the shell prompt:
$ **cat /etc/*-release**

Output on RHEL 5

[1]

Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server release 5 (Tikanga)

Output on Ubuntu 7.10

DISTRIB_ID=Ubuntu
DISTRIB_RELEASE=7.10
DISTRIB_CODENAME=gutsy
DISTRIB_DESCRIPTION="Ubuntu 7.10"

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