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Find Linux / UNIX Kernel Version

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Q. How do I find out what kernel version I am currently running under Debian Linux or any
other Linux distribution using a shell prompt?

A. Use uname command which print certain system information such as:
=> Kernel version and name
=> Print the machine hardware name
=> print the processor type
=> print the operating system etc

[1]

This command works under all Linux distroubtions and other UNIX like operating systems such as FreeBSD,
OpenBSD, Solaris, HP UX etc. Type the following command to see running kernel version:

```
$ uname -r
```

Output:

```
2.6.22-14-generic
```

Where,

- **2** : Kernel version
- **6** : The major revision of the kernel
- **22** : The minor revision of the kernel
- **14** : Immediate fixing / bug fixing for critical error
- **generic** : Distribution specific sting. For example, Redhat appends string such as EL5 to indicate RHEL 5
  kernel.

Another common usage:

```
$ uname -mrsn
```

Output:

```
Linux moon.nixcraft.in 2.6.18-53.1.4.el5 x86_64
```
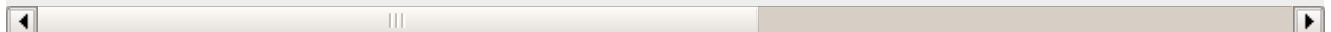
/proc/version file

You can also obtain kernel version from /proc/version file:

```
$ less /proc/version
$ more /proc/version
$ cat /proc/version
```

Output:

```
Linux version 2.6.18-53.1.4.el5 (brewbuilder@hs20-bc2-3.build.redhat.com) (gcc version 4.1.
```

Package management tools

You can list all installed kernel and its version with the following command under RHEL / CentOS / Suse / Fedora
Linux :

```
$ rpm -q kernel
```

Output:

```
kernel-2.6.18-53.el5
kernel-2.6.18-53.1.4.el5
```

If you are using Debian / Ubuntu, try:

```
$ dpkg --list | grep linux-image
```

Output:

```
ii  linux-image                    2.6.22.14.21              Generic Lin
rc  linux-image-2.6.20-15-generic  2.6.20-15.27              Linux kerne
ii  linux-image-2.6.20-16-generic  2.6.20-16.32              Linux kerne
ii  linux-image-2.6.22-14-generic  2.6.22-14.47              Linux kerne
ii  linux-image-generic            2.6.22.14.21              Generic Lin
```

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