

# Checking a Slackware Version

To check which version of Slackware you are running, we have two means that are widely used and practical, the first is to read the `slackware-version` file, which is located in the `/etc/` directory. For this you can run the `'cat'` command indicating the input file, or simply open it with your favorite editor.

## Slackware Version file

```
$ cat /etc/slackware-version  
Slackware 14.2
```

The `slackware-version` file will also be updated if you upgrade your Slackware, since it is part of the `"aaa_base"` package.

If the `slackware-version` output is appended by a `'+'` it means that the system is running the Slackware `-current` (development) version.

```
$ cat /etc/slackware-version  
Slackware 14.2+
```

## os-release file

The second method is the most complete. There is a file containing a lot of basic system information which is present in practically all Linux distributions. IT was first introduced by *systemd*.

This file is called `os-release` and is also located in `/etc/`. To view it, you can use the same methods as above with the `cat` command or your favorite editor.

```
$ cat /etc/os-release  
NAME=Slackware  
VERSION="14.2"  
ID=slackware  
VERSION_ID=14.2  
PRETTY_NAME="Slackware 14.2"  
ANSI_COLOR="0;34"  
CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:slackware:slackware_linux:14.2"  
HOME_URL="http://slackware.com/"  
SUPPORT_URL="http://www.linuxquestions.org/questions/slackware-14/"  
BUG_REPORT_URL="http://www.linuxquestions.org/questions/slackware-14/"
```



There is a lot of very valuable information in this file. This information can be easily used in your Shell script using the `source` command (also known as the `'dot'` command `."`). A very simple example using `bash`:

```
$ source /etc/os-release
$ echo "Distribution: $NAME"
Distribution: Slackware
$ echo "Version: $VERSION"
Version: 14.2
$ echo "URL SITE: $HOME_URL"
URL SITE: http://slackware.com/
```

## Unix Way

Or you can use a more UNIX way of handling things using old rice and beans ... So you can also collect the necessary data. For this we execute a pipeline command storing the result inside a variable called `version` as an example.

```
$ version=$(grep '^VERSION=' /etc/os-release | cut -d '=' -f 2 | sed
's/"//g')
$ echo "$version"
14.2
```

## Sources

- Original source: [http://slackjeff.com.br/artigos/verificando\\_versao\\_slackware.html](http://slackjeff.com.br/artigos/verificando_versao_slackware.html)
- Originally written by [Slackjeff](#)

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