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- New versions of Desktop environments including GNOME 3.38, MATE 1.24, KDE Plasma 5.20, LXDE 11, LXQt 0.16, and Xfce 4.16.
- A new theme known as the Homeworld theme that was inspired by an art style born in Germany called Bauhaus movement.
- In Debian 11, over 40,000 software packages have newer versions. With Debian 11, you will get LibreOffice 7.0, Apache 2.4.48, MariaDB 10.5, Python 3.9.1, and PostgreSQL 13 to mention a few. You can have a glance at the entire list by heading over to the release notes.
- CUPS and driverless printing.
- Support for exFAT filesystem.
- Support for numerous architectures: 64-bit & 32-bit PC, 64-bit ARM (Arch 64. IBM System Z, POWER Processors, EABI ARM, 64-bit MIPS among others.

That was just an overview of what Debian 11 provides. Let's now focus on how you can upgrade from Debian 10 Buster to Debian 11.

## Step 1) Perform a backup of all your files

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```
$ cat /etc/os-release
```

Alternatively, you can run the command:

```
$ cat /etc/debian_version
```

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Next, proceed and update the package index and upgrade the software packages by running:

```
$ sudo apt update -y && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

Next, run the [dist-upgrade](#) command shown. In addition to upgrading the packages, it also handles changing of dependencies with new versions of packages installed.

```
$ sudo apt dist-upgrade
```

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[command](#) as provided.

```
$ sudo sed -i 's/buster/bullseye/g' /etc/apt/sources.list
```

Thereafter, locate the following debian-security lines in the sources.list file:

```
deb http://security.debian.org/debian-security bullseye/updates main
deb-src http://security.debian.org/debian-security bullseye/updates main
```

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```
deb http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye main
deb-src http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye main
deb https://deb.debian.org/debian-security bullseye-security main contrib
deb-src https://deb.debian.org/debian-security bullseye-security main contrib
deb http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye-updates main
deb-src http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye-updates main
deb http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye-backports main
deb-src http://deb.debian.org/debian bullseye-backports main
```

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### Step 4) Perform minimal system upgrade

Performing a full system upgrade will remove numerous packages that you might want to keep – and this is not recommended. As a workaround, the developers have recommended a two-stage upgrade process that will gracefully upgrade Debian Buster to Debian Bullseye. We have the minimal upgrade process which is soon followed by the full-upgrade.

The minimal upgrade upgrades all the existing packages without installing new ones or purging the existing ones. To perform the minimal upgrade, run the command:

```
$ sudo apt upgrade --without-new-pkgs
```

During the upgrade process, a pop-up prompt will appear requesting you to restart system services when certain libraries such as libpam and libc are upgraded. Select 'Yes' and press **ENTER**.

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## Step 5) Perform full upgrade to Debian 11

This is the last step and the most crucial part of the upgrade. The full upgrade upgrades the entire Debian 10 system to Debian 11. It installs the latest packages that come with Debian 11 and resolves dependency issues. This might take a while depending on your bandwidth.

```
$ sudo apt full-upgrade
```

Once again, some additional prompts will appear. For example, you will be asked what you want to do about the [chrony.conf](#) file. Here, I chose to keep the local version installed.

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For the [Openssh-server](#) file, again, I chose to keep the local version installed as well.



Once the upgrade is completed then reboot the system with beneath command,

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```
$ cat /etc/os-release  
$ cat /etc/debian_version
```

Your system will now be running Debian 11 Bullseye.

```
$ lsb_release -a
```

## Conclusion

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**ANDERS J. GONZÁLEZ**

September 12, 2021 at 4:23 pm

Just upgraded and it all went perfect! Thanks so much!

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