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Answers to Even-numbered Exercises

2. What is an installer?

The installer is a tool that automates the process of installing Linux and makes the installation process easier and friendlier. Two installers exist: the graphical installer (ubiquity) and the textual installer (debian-installer).

4. A system boots from the hard disk. To install Linux, you need it to boot from a DVD. How can you make the system boot from a DVD?

As the system boots, go into the BIOS setup and change the order of the devices the system tries to boot from. Revise the order so that the system first tries to boot from the DVD and then tries to boot from the hard disk.

6. What is an ISO image file? How do you burn an ISO image file to a DVD?

An ISO image is an exact copy of what is on a DVD. When you burn an ISO image file to a DVD, you must use a special command that is part of most DVD-writing software; you cannot copy an ISO image to a DVD the same way you copy other files. The special command has a label similar to **Record CD from CD Image** or **Burn CD Image**.

8. What are RAM disks? How are they used during installation?

A RAM disk is random access (system) memory that is made to look like a hard disk. Tools used during the installation process are copied to RAM disks. RAM disks allow the installation process to run through the specification and design phases without writing to the hard disk. Thus RAM disks enable you to quit installing the system and, unless the installer initialized the hard disk, leave the hard disk as it was at any point before the system warns it is going to write to the hard disk.