After installation of your Debian Sarge system following the appropriate baseline installation process, perform the following hardening tasks;

Configure appropriate login banners place the following in /etc/issue

NOTICE

This system is to be used only by properly authorized persons for the sole use of Mikrotec Internet Solutions. If you are not an authorized user, disconnect immediately. All system activities are monitored for administrative and security purposes. Use of this system implies consent to such monitoring and acceptance of responsibility to preserve the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the resources accessed.

edit /etc/ssh/sshd_config and set Banner /etc/issue

- Review patch levels and be sure that any outstanding updates have been applied
- Review all startup services and shutdown any services that aren't required.
- Review all user accounts, remove any that aren't valid.
- Review logging and log rotation.
- Restrict open ports and access to ssh via network or host based firewalling
- perform appropriate service hardening as per documented procedures