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Best Method To Reboot Remote Linux / Windows / UNIX Server

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Q. I've couple of Linux / Windows server hosted in remote data center? My ISP provides following option for rebooting the box:

- a) Graceful shutdown command
- b) An IPMI reboot
- c) A power strip



[1]

Which one is the best way to reboot server and why?

A. For UNIX like system shutdown command is the best way to reboot system in a safe way. When you issue graceful shutdown command all logged-in users are notified that the system is going down and, within the last five minutes of TIME (if time is specified), new logins are prevented. Shutdown / reboot procedure will stop all services and unmount the file system. Login as root and type the command:

```
# shutdown -r +5  
# shutdown -r now
```

An IPMI reboot or a power strip should be only use when server is not responding to ssh / login / console requests. Modern IPMI implementation try to reboot gracefully using ACPI, but it is best to use console login. Usually it may take 3-5 minute to come back online. If you are using Windows use shutdown command or usual start > shutdown method.

You can always monitor your reboot procedure using [KVM over IP / IPMI client](#) [2].

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/>

[2] KVM over IP / IPMI client: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/kvm-over-ip.html>