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Linux Disable Core Dumps

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Only software developers legitimately need to access core files and none of my production web server requires a core dump. How do I disable core dumps on Debian / CentOS / RHEL / Fedora Linux to save large amounts of disk space?

A core dump file is the memory image of an executable program when it was terminated by the operating system due to various error behavior.

Disable Core Dumps

[1]

To disable core dumps for all users, open /etc/security/limits.conf, enter:

```
# vi /etc/security/limits.conf
```

Make sure the following config directive exists:

```
* hard core 0
```

Save and close the file. Once a hard limit is set in /etc/security/limits.conf, the user cannot increase that limit within his own session. Add fs.suid_dumpable = 0 to /etc/sysctl.conf file:

```
# echo 'fs.suid_dumpable = 0' >> /etc/sysctl.conf
# sysctl -p
```

This will make sure that core dumps can never be made by setuid programs. Finally, add the following to /etc/profile to set a soft limit to stop the creation of core dump files for all users (which is default and must be disabled):

```
# echo 'ulimit -S -c 0 > /dev/null 2>&1' >> /etc/profile
```

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