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## Making changes to /proc filesystem permanently

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Q. How do I make changes to /proc filesystem permanently? For example I want to set fs.file-max to 65536, I can use command `echo "65536" > /proc/sys/fs/file-max`. But, after rebooting my Linux server this value will be reset to the default. How do I make it permanent?

A. You are right. You are using `sysctl`. It is used to modify kernel parameters at runtime. The parameters available are those listed under `/proc/sys/`.

You need to use `/etc/sysctl.conf` file, which is a simple file containing `sysctl` values to be read in and set by `sysctl`. This is a configuration file for setting system variables.

So all you have to do is add `variable = value` in `/etc/sysctl.conf` file. So the changes remain permanent.

### Example

For example, above command `echo "65536" > /proc/sys/fs/file-max`, should be added as follows:

```
# vi /etc/sysctl.conf
```

Append following line:

```
/proc/sys/fs/file-max = 65536
```

Save the file.

Here is my sample `sysctl.conf` file:

```
net.ipv4.ip_forward = 1
kernel.shmall = 2097152
kernel.shmmax = 2147483648
kernel.shmmni = 4096
kernel.sem = 250 32000 100 128
fs.file-max = 65536
net.ipv4.ip_local_port_range = 1024 65000
```

To load in `sysctl` settings from the file specified in `/etc/sysctl.conf` immediately type following command:

```
# sysctl -p
```

### See also:

- [Linux increase the maximum number of open files using /etc/sysctl.conf](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

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[1] Linux increase the maximum number of open files using `/etc/sysctl.conf`: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-increase-the-maximum-number-of-open-files/>

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