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Mac OS X Disable Unnecessary Services

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How do I disable unnecessary services under Mac OS X to secure my Mac OS X based desktop / server / laptop?

[1]

Mac OS X use the following directories to start various services (quoting from the man page):

1. **/System/Library/LaunchDaemons/** - System-wide daemons provided by Mac OS X
2. **/System/Library/LaunchAgents/** - Per-user agents provided by Mac OS X.
3. **~/Library/LaunchAgents/** - Per-user agents provided by the user.
4. **/Library/LaunchAgents/** - Per-user agents provided by the administrator.
5. **/Library/LaunchDaemons/** - System-wide daemons provided by the administrator.

launchd manages processes, both for the system as a whole and for individual users using .plist files. Open the terminal and type the following commands to view directory files:

```
cd /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/
ls -l
ls -l | less
```

OR

```
cd /System/Library/LaunchAgents/
ls -l
ls -l | less
```

How Do I Disable Unnecessary Services?

You need to use the launchctl command as follows:

```
sudo launchctl unload -w /path/to/.plist/file
sudo launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/file.plist
```

In this example, you are disabling the Bonjour service, enter:

```
sudo launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.mDNSResponder.plist
sudo launchctl unload -w /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.mDNSResponderHelper.plist
```

References:

- launchctl(1) [2] man page.

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[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/mac-os-x/**
[2] launchctl(1):
http://developer.apple.com/Mac/library/documentation/Darwin/Reference/ManPages/man1/launchctl.1.html