Kdump -very Briefly!

'Official' Kernel Documentation for Kdump - The kexec-based Crash Dumping Solution

Oops! Debugging Kernel Panics, LJ, Aug 2019

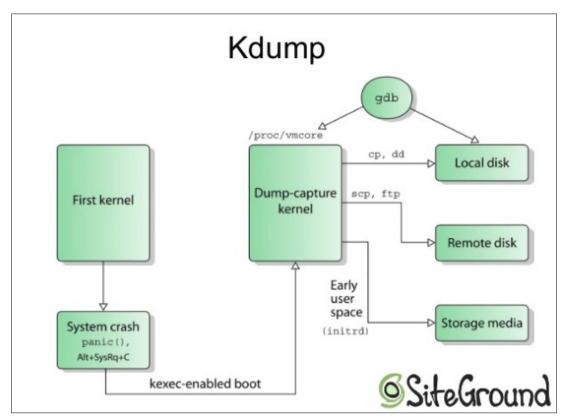
Kdump setup on Ubuntu

kdump (Linux) on Wikipedia

Source: https://www.slideshare.net/azilian/linux-kernel-crashdump

- No dependencies, theoretically ideal, but...
 - Based on kexec
 - Not all arch support kexec
 - Not easy to setup
 - > Boots a second kernel to retrieve the crash vmcore
 - > Almost useless in cases of HW failure
 - Needs assistance of other tools for analysis





Tip: Analyze the kdump image with crash (instead of GDB)

While writing the *Linux Kernel Programming*, 2nd *Ed* book, wrt this:

"What if your system just hangs upon insertion of this LKM? Well, that's a taste of the difficulty of kernel debugging! One thing you can try (which worked for me when trying this very example on a x86_64 Fedora 29 VM) is to reboot the hung VM and look up the kernel log by leveraging systemd's powerful journalctl(1) utility with the journalctl --since="1 hour ago" command; you should be able to see the printks from lockdep now. Again, unfortunately, it's not guaranteed that the key portion of the kernel log is saved to disk (at the time it hung) for journalctl to be able to retrieve. This is why using the kernel's **kdump** feature – and then performing postmortem analysis of the kernel dump image file with crash(8) – can be a lifesaver (see resources on using kdump and *crash* in the *Further reading* section for this chapter)."

...my Technical Reviewer, Chi Thanh Hoang, a very experienced embedded developer, commented:

"I enforce kdump on commercial systems I work, people are often very happy to use crash tool later to figure out issues, removing all the guessing work they would do. Crash tool can easily dump kernel log that was still in RAM, no need for systemd like you said, kdump works 100%."

1. Build a kernel with Kdump support

A simple Kdump kernel config check script:

```
#!/bin/bash
name=$(basename $0)

usage()
{
   echo "Usage: ${name} [kernel-config-file]"
```

```
Linux Debugging Techniques
```

```
kdump / crash intro
```

```
}
[[ $1 = "-h" ]] \&\& {
  usage ; exit 0
if [[ $# -ge 1 ]] ; then
   KCONFIG=$1
else
   # NOTE! ASSUMING arch is x86-64
   KCONFIG=/boot/config-$(uname -r)
fi
[[ ! -f ${KCONFIG} ]] && {
   echo "${name}: kernel config file ${KCONFIG} not found, aborting"; exit 1
echo "Kernel config file: ${KCONFIG}"
# From https://docs.kernel.org/admin-guide/kdump/kdump.html
KCONFIGS ARR=(KEXEC KEXEC CORE CRASH CORE SYSFS DEBUG INFO CRASH DUMP
PROC_VMCORE RELOCATABLE)
for KCONF in ${KCONFIGS_ARR[@]} ; do
    printf "checking for CONFIG %-15s" ${KCONF}
    grep "CONFIG ${KCONF}" ${KCONFIG} >/dev/null 2>&1
    [[ $? -ne 0 ]] && printf " NOT found!\n" || printf "
                                                              [0K1\n"
done
exit 0
```

2. Boot into the regular kernel reserving space for the dump kernel:

Now boot with the kernel cmdline param 'crashkernel=Y@X' On x86-64, 'crashkernel=256M' is sufficient.

3. After boot, load the dump-capture kernel into reserved RAM:

```
sudo kexec -p /boot/vmlinuz-5.10.153 --initrd /boot/initrd.img-5.10.153 \
    --append "irqpoll nr_cpus=1 reset_devices root=UUID=b67e<...> 3"
```

\$

Once *kexec* has successfully run on the original (first) kernel, can verify via sysfs (CONFIG_SYSFS required for exactly this):

```
3. Before kexec

ARM / $ ls /sys/kernel/kexec_*
/sys/kernel/kexec_crash_loaded /sys/kernel/kexec_loaded
/sys/kernel/kexec_crash_size

ARM / $ cat /sys/kernel/kexec_*
0
134217728
0
ARM / $
4. After successful kexec
ARM / $ cat /sys/kernel/kexec_*
cat /sys/kernel/kexec_*
1
134217728
0
ARM / $
```

5. Cause a panic!

echo c > /proc/sysrq-trigger

Demo on a Qemu-emulated Freescale i.MX6 platform (<u>more details here on the kaiwanTECH blog</u>). The first kernel crashes, and then, the dump-capture kernel boots!

```
ARM / $ id
uid=0 gid=0
ARM / $ echo c > /proc/sysrq-trigger << or an actual kernel Oops/panic occurs >>
  460.417261] sysrq: SysRq: Trigger a crash
  460.423293]
  ſ
  460.424965] [ INFO: suspicious RCU usage. ]
  460.426708] 4.1.46 #2 Not tainted
  460.427276] -----
  460.427864] include/linux/rcupdate.h:570 Illegal context switch in RCU read-
side critical section!
  460.429056]
  460.429056] other info that might help us debug this:
  460.429056]
  460.430726]
  460.430726] rcu_scheduler_active = 1, debug_locks = 0
  460.432040] 3 locks held by sh/130:
  460.432717] #0: (sb writers#4){.+.+.+}, at: [<800fb398>]
vfs write+0x140/0x15c
[ \overline{460.437331}] #1:
                 (rcu_read_lock){.....}, at: [<8031c664>]
 handle sysrq+0x0/0x254
 460.4\overline{3}8777] #2: (&mm->mmap sem){++++++}, at: [<8001ecb0>]
```

```
do page fault+0x78/0x37c
  460.440515]
   460.440515] stack backtrace:
                                   << back to the crash >>
   460.441491] CPU: 0 PID: 130 Comm: sh Not tainted 4.1.46 #2
   460.442026] Hardware name: Freescale i.MX6 Quad/DualLite (Device Tree)
   460.443113] Backtrace:
   460.443772] [<80013330>] (dump backtrace) from [<80013544>]
(show stack+0x18/0x1c)
[...]
  460.476990] Unable to handle kernel NULL pointer dereference at virtual
address 00000000
   460.477819] pgd = e71c8000
   460.478133] [00000000] *pgd=771ad831, *pte=00000000, *ppte=00000000 460.479304] Internal error: 0ops: 817 [#1] SMP ARM
   460.480044] Modules linked in:
   460.481368] CPU: 0 PID: 130 Comm: sh Not tainted 4.1.46 #2
   460.481945] Hardware name: Freescale i.MX6 Quad/DualLite (Device Tree)
   460.482577] task: e7abd000 ti: e728e000 task.ti: e728e000
   460.483090] PC is at sysrq handle crash+0x3c/0x4c
   460.483490] LR is at sysrq handle crash+0x34/0x4c
   460.483850] pc : [<8031bd80>]
                                     lr : [<8031bd78>]
                                                            psr: a0000013
   460.483850] sp : e728fe50 ip : e728fe50
                                              fp: e728fe5c
   460.4844801 r10: 00000000 r9: 00000000 r8: 00000007
   460.484849] r7 : 00000000 r6 : 00000063 r5 : 80a4d5e8 r4 : 80a61694
   460.485287 r3:00000000 r2:00000001 r1:f0004000 r0:00000063
   460.485741] Flags: NzCv IRQs on FIQs on Mode SVC_32 ISA ARM Segment user 460.486446] Control: 10c5387d Table: 771c8059 DAC: 00000015
   460.486846] Process sh (pid: 130, stack limit = 0xe728e210)
   460.487240] Stack: (0xe728fe50 to 0xe7290000)
   460.487605] fe40:
                                                            e728fe94 e728fe60
8031c744 8031bd50
[...]
   460.4927941 Backtrace:
   460.493127] [<8031bd44>] (sysrq handle crash) from [<8031c744>]
   handle sysrq+0xe0/0x254)
[ 460.493599] [<8031c664>] ( handle sysrq) from [<8031cd14>]
(write_sysrq_trigger+0x50/0x60)
[ 460.493982] r8:00000000 r7:e7bf5c00 r6:00000000 r5:00ab6400 r4:00000002
   460.494647] [<8031ccc4>] (write_sysrq_trigger) from [<8015815c>]
(proc_reg_write+0x68/0x90)
  460.495126] r5:00000001 r4:00000000
   460.495537] [<801580f4>] (proc reg write) from [<800faa4c>]
( vfs write+0x2c/0xe0)
[ 460.495945] r9:00ab6400 r8:00000002 r7:e728ff78 r6:e71aa8c0 r5:00ab6400
r4:80766b40
  460.496617] [<800faa20>] (<u>vfs_write</u>) from [<800fb2f4>]
(vfs write+0x9c/0x15c)
  460.497292] r8:00000002 r7:00000002 r6:e728ff78 r5:00ab6400 r4:e71aa8c0
   460.498014] [<800fb258>] (vfs write) from [<800fbb24>] (SyS write+0x44/0x98)
   460.498402] r9:00ab6400 r8:00000002 r7:e7laa8c0 r6:e7laa8c0 r5:00000000
r4:00000000
  460.499154] [<800fbae0>] (SyS write) from [<8000f960>]
(ret fast syscall+0x0/0x54)
  460.4996351 r9:e728e000 r8:8000fb44 r7:00000004 r6:00ab6400 r5:00000001
```

```
r4:000f8e2c
  460.500640] Code: 0a000000 e12fff33 e3a03000 e3a02001 (e5c32000)
   460.503826] Loading crashdump kernel...
  460.504424] Bye!
     0.000000] Booting Linux on physical CPU 0x0 << the dump kernel starts! >>
     0.000000] Linux version 4.1.46 (kai@klaptop) (gcc version 4.8.3 20140320
(prerelease) (Sourcery CodeBench Lite 2014.05-29) ) #2 SMP Mon Nov 27 17:16:22
IST 2017
     0.000000] CPU: ARMv7 Processor [410fc090] revision 0 (ARMv7), cr=10c5387d
     0.0000001 CPU: PIPT / VIPT nonaliasing data cache. VIPT nonaliasing
instruction cache
     0.000000] Machine model: Freescale i.MX6 DualLite SABRE Smart Device Board
     0.000000] Ignoring memory block 0x10000000 - 0x50000000
     0.000000] cma: Reserved 16 MiB at 0x7ec00000
     0.000000] Memory policy: Data cache writeback
     0.000000] CPU: All CPU(s) started in SVC mode.
     0.000000] PERCPU: Embedded 12 pages/cpu @87cb9000 s16640 r8192 d24320
u49152
     0.000000] Built 1 zonelists in Zone order, mobility grouping on. Total
[
pages: 32260
     0.000000] Kernel command line: console=ttymxc0 root=/dev/mmcblk0
rootfstype=ext4 rootwait init=/sbin/init maxcpus=1 reset devices
elfcorehdr=0x7ff00000 mem=130048K
     0.000000] PID hash table entries: 512 (order: -1, 2048 bytes)
[
     0.000000] Virtual kernel memory layout:
                   vector : 0xffff0000 - 0xffff1000
fixmap : 0xffc00000 - 0xfff00000
    0.0000001
                                                           4 kB)
                                                        (3072 kB)
    0.0000001
                   vmalloc : 0x88000000 - 0xff000000
                                                        (1904 MB)
    0.0000001
                   0.0000001
                                                        ( 127 MB)
    0.0000001
                                                           2 MB)
    0.0000001
                   modules : 0x7f000000 - 0x7fe00000
                                                          14 MB)
    0.0000001
                     .text : 0x80008000 - 0x809d7fdc
                                                        (10048 kB)
                     .init : 0x809d8000 - 0x80a3a000
                                                        ( 392 kB)
    0.000000]
[
    0.0000001
                     .data : 0x80a3a000 - 0x80a9a6e0
                                                        ( 386 kB)
     0.000000]
                      .bss : 0x80a9a6e0 - 0x812c3164
                                                        (8355 kB)
     0.000000] SLUB: HWalign=64, Order=0-3, MinObjects=0, CPUs=2, Nodes=1
[...]
     8.142812] fec 2188000.ethernet eth0: Link is Up - 100Mbps/Full - flow
control rx/tx
     8.145506] IPv6: ADDRCONF(NETDEV CHANGE): eth0: link becomes ready
    10.488149] cfg80211: Calling CRDA to update world regulatory domain
ARM / $ ls -lh /proc/vmcore
                                     1.9G Jan 1 00:07 /proc/vmcore
              1 0
ARM / $ cp /proc/vmcore /kdump.img << or transfer via scp >>
ARM / $
```

(Large dumpfile because the RAM on this system is 2 GB).

Raspberry Pi's:

Issue with booting into the dump kernel! It's to do with lack of support on the R Pi kernel's for

PSCI (Power State Coordination Interface). Details:

- Booting Linux from Linux with kexec, Dec 202, A Murray
- Is kexec still broken? R Pi forum

kdump Downsides

- A second kernel needs to be started when crashing
- > Not all drivers work fine in the second kenrel
- > Very limited memory for the second kernel
- We need to construct a new initrd for the second kernel



+ a significant amount of RAM HAS to be set aside, though, most of the time it remains unused.

makedumpfile

Makes a small dumpfile from the panicked kernel's /proc/vmcore image (which can be very large).

From it's man page:

Description

With kdump, the memory image of the first kernel (called "panicked kernel") can be taken as /proc/vmcore while the second kernel (called "kdump kernel" or "capture kernel") is running. This document represents /proc/vmcore as VMCORE. makedumpfile makes a small DUMPFILE by compressing dump data or by excluding unnecessary pages for analysis, or both. makedumpfile needs the first kernel's debug information, so that it can distinguish unnecessary pages by analyzing how the first kernel uses the memory. The information can be taken from VMLINUX or VMCOREINFO.

makedumpfile can exclude the following types of pages while copying VMCORE to DUMPFILE, and a user can choose which type of pages will be excluded.

- Pages filled with zero
- Cache pages
- User process data pages
- Free pages

makedumpfile provides two DUMPFILE formats (the ELF format and the kdump-compressed format). By default, makedumpfile makes a DUMPFILE in the kdump-compressed format. The kdump-compressed format is readable only with the crash utility, and it can be smaller than the ELF format because of the compression support. The ELF format is readable with GDB and the crash utility. If a user wants to use GDB, DUMPFILE format has to be explicitly specified to be the ELF format.

...

Related:

https://github.com/makedumpfile/makedumpfile

-Available for Yocto!

[minicoredumper

Generate minimal and customized core dump files on Linux (for usermode app mini core dumps).]

Linux crash utility

Resources

Crash Whitepaper by Dave Anderson: superb! https://crash-utility.github.io/crash_whitepaper.html

crash page with overrall links

<u>Analyzing Linux kernel crash dumps with crash – Dedoimedo</u> 'crash' source repo on GitHub – do read the README here

RedHat

<u>How to troubleshoot kernel crashes, hangs, or reboots with kdump on Red Hat Enterprise Linux</u> RHEL 7: <u>Chapter 7. Kernel crash dump guide</u>

http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E37670 01/E41138/html/ch10s02.html

From the README

"

At this point, x86, ia64, x86_64, ppc64, ppc, arm, arm64, alpha, mips, s390 and s390x-based kernels are supported.

•••

- o One size fits all -- the utility can be run on any Linux kernel version version dating back to 2.2.5-15. A primary design goal is to always maintain backwards-compatibility.
- o In order to contain debugging data, the top-level kernel Makefile's CFLAGS definition must contain the -g flag. Typically distributions will contain a package containing a vmlinux file with full debuginfo data. If not, the kernel must be rebuilt

•••

The crash binary can only be used on systems of the same architecture as the host build system. There are a few optional manners of building the crash binary:

- o On an x86_64 host, a 32-bit x86 binary that can be used to analyze 32-bit x86 dumpfiles may be built by typing "make target=X86".
- o On an x86 or x86_64 host, a 32-bit x86 binary that can be used to analyze 32-bit arm dumpfiles may be built by typing "make target=ARM".
- o On an x86 or x86_64 host, a 32-bit x86 binary that can be used to analyze 32-bit mips dumpfiles may be built by typing "make target=MIPS".
- o On an ppc64 host, a 32-bit ppc binary that can be used to analyze 32-bit ppc dumpfiles may be built by typing "make target=PPC".
- o On an x86_64 host, an x86_64 binary that can be used to analyze arm64 dumpfiles may be built by typing "make target=ARM64".

Investigate a Live Linux system with crash

Required: the vmlinux kernel image built with debug symbolic information.

Getting the kernel vmlinux with debug symbolic info

For Ubuntu

Where can one get the Ubuntu linux debug kernel vmlinux from? See: https://wiki.ubuntu.com/Kernel/Systemtap#Where to get debug symbols for kernel X.3F

Short answer: here:

http://ddebs.ubuntu.com/pool/main/l/linux/

Download the

linux-image-\$(uname -r)-dbgsym_\$(uname -r)_amd64.ddeb

file (assuming you're running on an x86_64 system).

Eg. Required file for kernel ver 3.16.0-37-generic is linux-image-3.16.0-37-generic-dbgsym_3.16.0-37.49_amd64.ddeb

Extract the *vmlinux-\$(uname -r)* image from the downloaded ddeb file.

Unresolved: recent Ubuntu x86_64 (tried with 16.10, 17.04 and 17.10), there seems to be an issue running crash with the Ubuntu debugsym vmlinux (it *does* work well with older Ubuntu distros; tried with 14.04 LTS and it's fine). ??

<< Update: does work on Ubuntu 18.04.2, 20.04 LTS, 22.04, 23.10 >>

For Fedora

Kernel-debug repo:

https://www.rpmfind.net/linux/rpm2html/search.php?query=kernel-debug

How to use kdump to debug kernel crashes

https://fedoraproject.org/wiki/How to use kdump to debug kernel crashes

Essentially, need to do this to get the latest debug kernel: sudo dnf install kernel-debug-<tab><tab>

(Observation: it's not always *the* latest kernel installed, so debugging the "live" way can become an issue).

Two broad ways to run **crash**:

• Running with a **kdump image** (obtained via Kdump/kexec facility upon kernel crash/Oops/panic):

```
sudo crash <vmlinux-with-symbolic-info> <kdump-image>
[System.map]
```

Running with the 'live' kernel image:

```
sudo crash <vmlinux-with-symbolic-info> /proc/kcore
[System.map]
```

Note:

The <code>/proc/kcore</code> pseudo-file – the kernel memory snapshot – becomes visible when CONFIG_PROC_KCORE=y (doesn't seem to work on some ARM platforms though (?)).

For a live debug session, the <vmlinux-with-symbolic-info> must precisely match the currently running kernel version.

\$ sudo crash

. . .

If that doesn't work, try passing parameters explicitly; for example, below with a 5.10.153 'debug' kernel on an Ubuntu 22.04 LTS x86_64 guest:

\$ sudo crash ~/linux-5.10.153/vmlinux /proc/kcore

```
crash 8.0.0
Copyright (C) 2002-2021 Red Hat, Inc.
Copyright (C) 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010 IBM Corporation
Copyright (C) 1999-2006 Hewlett-Packard Co
Copyright (C) 2005, 2006, 2011, 2012 Fujitsu Limited
Copyright (C) 2006, 2007 VA Linux Systems Japan K.K.
Copyright (C) 2005, 2011, 2020-2021 NEC Corporation
Copyright (C) 1999, 2002, 2007 Silicon Graphics, Inc.
```

```
Copyright (C) 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 Mission Critical Linux, Inc. Copyright (C) 2015, 2021 VMware, Inc.
This program is free software, covered by the GNU General Public License,
and you are welcome to change it and/or distribute copies of it under
certain conditions. Enter "help copying" to see the conditions.
This program has absolutely no warranty. Enter "help warranty" for details.
GNU qdb (GDB) 10.2
Copyright (C) 2021 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <a href="http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html">http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html</a>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
Type "show copying" and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86 64-pc-linux-gnu".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
    <http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
      KERNEL: /home/osboxes/linux-5.10.153/vmlinux [TAINTED]
    DUMPFILE: /proc/kcore
        CPUS: 6
        DATE: Tue Jun 13 16:08:03 IST 2023
      UPTIME: 00:07:50
LOAD AVERAGE: 0.25, 0.13, 0.08
       TASKS: 551
    NODENAME: osboxes
     RELEASE: 5.10.153-kdbg1
     VERSION: #1 SMP Tue Jun 13 15:51:43 IST 2023
     MACHINE: x86 64 (2592 Mhz)
      MEMORY: 2 GB
         PID: 2539
     COMMAND: "crash"
        TASK: ffff9f11c40217c0 [THREAD INFO: ffff9f11c40217c0]
       STATE: TASK RUNNING (ACTIVE)
crash>
It works!
(Sometimes leaving out the last System.map parameter actually helps (?)).
If you get errors like this (this was on an Ubuntu 22.04 LTS running a custom 6.1.25 debug kernel
```

(configured with Kexec/Kdump support)):

Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...

WARNING: kernel version inconsistency between vmlinux and live memory

```
crash: invalid structure member offset: kmem cache s num
      FILE: memory.c LINE: 9619 FUNCTION: kmem cache init()
```

[/usr/bin/crash] error trace: 557782d9969e => 557782d6d2f4 => 557782e3b11b => 557782e3b09c

I find that it's hard to resolve... Instead, carefully and correctly reconfiguring and rebuilding the target kernel is the approach that has it then work (also ensure that besides kdump, kernel debug info is on).

<<

Tip

Particularly for the above failure, <u>see this link</u>; there is indeed an issue within crash, which has been fixed in later releases of the app. I built crash ver 8.0.3 (above was 8.0.0), ran it and it worked!. (*crash source available here*).

>>

Crash Commands - Quick Notes

The tool's environment is context-specific. On a live system, the default context is the command itself; on a dump the default context will be the task that panicked [can be changed with the 'set' command].

Structures

Do what	How / Command	Example
See structure definition	Give name of structure or use 'whatis' <struct_name></struct_name>	crash> file crash> whatis file
See structure runtime contents	[*] <struct_name> <ptr></ptr></struct_name>	crash> * file ffff88018c320d00
See particular member(s) of a struct	<struct_name> grep <member-name></member-name></struct_name>	<pre>crash> task grep uid uid = 3369, euid = 3369, suid = 3369, fsuid = 3369,</pre>

Set the (process) context

set <**PID**> ...

Set a new task context by PID, task address, or cpu. Since several crash commands are context-sensitive, it's helpful to be able to change the context to avoid having to pass the PID or task address to those context-sensitive commands in order to access the data of a task that is *not* the current context.

Open Files

Do what	How / Command	Example
See all open files for process	files	crash> files
context		

Useful Commands

log: view kernel printks

bt : get a kernel stack backtrace of the current context

bt -a: kernel stack trace of the active task(s) when the kernel panicked

(help: https://crash-utility.github.io/help_pages/bt.html)

task: task structure of the current context

files: see open file information of the current context

vm: see virtual memory information of the current context

vtop: translate virtual to physical address

kmem: kernel memory subsystems

To see number to different bases, use the 'eval' command.

Eg.

crash> eval 140737488351232

hexadecimal: 7fffffff000 (137438953468KB)

decimal: 140737488351232
 octal: 377777777770000

crash>

net : networking information

runq : runqueue information

Quick summary of common 'crash' commands [src]

- bt
- bt -c 17: only task at cpu-17
- bt -c 16-31: cpu 16 ~ 31
- foreach bt: backtrace of all processes
- log: kernel log
- ps
- disassemble
 - disassemble /r : print opcode and instruction
- rd : read memory from address
- gdb list *(memcpy+16): find c-code line
- mod: print modules
 - no information for module loaded: fffffffa0316fa0 kvm 342174 (not loaded)
 [CONFIG_KALLSYMS]

- mod -s: load modules
 -s module [objfile] Loads symbolic and debugging data from the object file
 for the module specified. ...
- There not only vmlinux but also modules should be copied

Common Commands

bt	Display the backtrace of the current context, or as specified with arguments. This command is typically the first command entered after starting a dumpfile session. Since the initial context is the panic context, it will show the function trace leading up to the kernel panic. bt -a will show the trace of the <i>active</i> task on each CPU, since there may be an interrelationship between the panicking task on one CPU and the running task(s) on the other CPU(s). When bt is given as the argument to foreach. displays the backtraces of <i>all</i> tasks. << bt -1 : show file and line number of each stack trace text location. >>
struct	Print the contents of a data structure at a specified address. This command is so common that it is typically unnecessary to enter the struct command name on the command line; if the first command line argument is not a crash or gdb command, but it is the name of a known data structure, then all the command line arguments are passed to the struct command. So for example, the following two commands yield the same result: crash> struct vm_area_struct d3cb2600 crash> vm_area_struct d3cb2600
set	Set a new task context by PID, task address, or cpu. Since several crash commands are context-sensitive, it's helpful to be able to change the context to avoid having to pass the PID or task address to those context-sensitive commands in order to access the data of a task that is <i>not</i> the current context.
р	Prints the contents of a kernel variable; since it's a gateway to the print command of the mbedded gdb module, it can also be used to print complex C language expressions.
rd	Read memory, which may be either kernel virtual, user virtual, or physical, and display it several different formats and sizes.
ps	Lists basic task information for each process; it can also display parent

	and child hierarchies.
log	Dump the kernel log_buf, which often contains clues leading up to a subsequent kernel crash.
foreach	Execute a crash command on all tasks, or those specified, in the system; can be used with bt, vm, task, files, net, set, sig and vtop.
files	Dump the open file descriptor data of a task; most usefully, the file, dentry and inode structure addresses for each open file descriptor.
Vm	Dump the virtual memory map of a task, including the vital information concerning each vm_area_struct making up a task's address space. It can also dump the physical address of each page in the address space, or if not mapped, its location in a file or on the swap device.

whatis <struct-or-symbol-name> : displays the structure members

```
Eg.
 << On Ubuntu 23.10 running a 6.1.25 custom kernel >>
crash> whatis thread_info
struct thread info {
   unsigned long flags;
   unsigned long syscall work;
   u32 status;
   u32 cpu;
SIZE: 24
crash> struct task_struct
struct task struct {
   struct thread info thread info;
   unsigned int __state;
   void *stack;
    refcount_t usage;
   unsigned int flags;
   union rv task monitor rv[1];
   struct thread_struct thread;
SIZE: 13120
crash>
Disassembly:
crash> disassemble __printk_ratelimit
Dump of assembler code for function __printk_ratelimit:
  0xffffffff86fb8100 <+0>:
                              nopl
                                     0x0(%rax,%rax,1)
  push
                                     %rbp
  %rdi,%rsi
                              mov
```

```
0xffffffff86fb8109 <+9>:
                               mov
                                      $0xffffffff8a623480,%rdi
   0xffffffff86fb8110 <+16>:
                               mov
                                      %rsp,%rbp
  0xffffffff86fb8113 <+19>:
                               call
                                      0xffffffff893b0fc0 < ratelimit>
  0xffffffff86fb8118 <+24>:
                               pop
  0xffffffff86fb8119 <+25>:
                               xor
                                      %esi,%esi
  0xffffffff86fb811b <+27>:
                                      %edi,%edi
                               xor
  0xffffffff86fb811d <+29>:
                               ret
  int3
  0xffffffff86fb811f <+31>:
                               int3
  0xffffffff86fb8120 <+32>:
                               int3
   0xffffffff86fb8121 <+33>:
                               int3
End of assembler dump.
crash>
```

Disassemble 20 instructions of tcp_sendmsg, showing source line numbers (-l option) and change radix to hex (-x):

```
crash> dis -l tcp sendmsg 20 -x
/home/c2kp/6.1.25/net/ipv4/tcp.c: 1480
0xffffffff88f30400 <tcp sendmsg>:
                                         nopl
                                                0x0(%rax,%rax,1) [FTRACE NOP]
/home/c2kp/6.1.25/./include/net/sock.h: 1721
0xffffffff88f30405 <tcp sendmsg+0x5>:
                                         push
                                                %rbp
0xffffffff88f30406 <tcp_sendmsg+0x6>:
                                         mov
                                                %rsp,%rbp
0xffffffff88f30409 <tcp_sendmsg+0x9>:
                                         push
                                                %r13
0xffffffff88f3040b <tcp_sendmsg+0xb>:
                                         mov
                                                %rdx,%r13
0xffffffff88f3040e <tcp_sendmsg+0xe>:
                                                %r12
                                         push
0xfffffff88f30410 <tcp sendmsg+0x10>:
                                        mov
                                                %rsi,%r12
0xffffffff88f30413 <tcp sendmsg+0x13>:
                                         xor
                                                %esi,%esi
/home/c2kp/6.1.25/net/ipv4/tcp.c: 1480
0xffffffff88f30415 <tcp sendmsq+0x15>:
                                         push
                                                %rbx
0xffffffff88f30416 <tcp sendmsq+0x16>:
                                                %rdi,%rbx
                                        mov
<< Disassemble help:
With a /s modifier, source lines are included (if available).
In this mode, the output is displayed in PC address order, and
file names and contents for all relevant source files are displayed.
With a /m modifier, source lines are included (if available).
This view is "source centric": the output is in source line order, ...
>>
crash> disassemble /s tty read
Dump of assembler code for function tty read:
drivers/tty/tty io.c:
916
   0xffffffffbbfa9d20 <+0>:
                                 nopl
                                        0x0(%rax,%rax,1)
   0xffffffffbbfa9d25 <+5>:
                                push
                                        %rbp
919
                struct inode *inode = file inode(file);
                struct tty_struct *tty = file_tty(file);
920
921
                struct tty ldisc *ld;
922
                if (tty_paranoia_check(tty, inode, "tty read"))
923
                                        $0xffffffffbce0315f,%rdx
   0xffffffffbbfa9d26 <+6>:
                                mov
```

Example - Figuring out how stdin/stdout/stderr actually work!

Ok, which process is in context now?

```
crash> set
   PID: 3835
COMMAND: "crash"
   TASK: ffff93a44402b000 [THREAD_INFO: ffff93a44402b000]
   CPU: 2
  STATE: TASK_RUNNING (ACTIVE)
```

Let's see what files the *crash* process has open:

```
crash> files
PID: 3835
            TASK: ffff93a44402b000 CPU: 2
                                              COMMAND: "crash"
R00T: /
           CWD: /home/osboxes
 FD
          FILE
                          DENTRY
                                            INODE
                                                        TYPE PATH
 0 ffff93a46d985500 ffff93a4628d0900 ffff93a494150e40 CHR
                                                             /dev/pts/4
   ffff93a46d985500 ffff93a4628d0900 ffff93a494150e40 CHR
                                                             /dev/pts/4
   ffff93a46d985500 ffff93a4628d0900 ffff93a494150e40 CHR
                                                             /dev/pts/4
  3 ffff93a4832a7900 ffff93a4414433c0 ffff93a441c2a500 CHR
                                                             /dev/null
  4 ffff93a444b72800 ffff93a4645d5780 ffff93a47c56bd60 REG
                                                             /proc/kcore
  5 ffff93a444b72300 fffff93a47c6d6d80 fffff93a4a6067040 REG
                                                             /home/osboxes/linux-
5.10.153/vmlinux
 6 ffff93a4a1aec600 ffff93a4a602bc00 ffff93a47c765300 FIF0
  7 ffff93a4a1aece00 ffff93a4a602bc00 ffff93a47c765300 FIF0
 8 ffff93a4a1aec400 ffff93a4a602bcc0 ffff93a47c764260 FIF0
 9 ffff93a4a1aecb00 ffff93a4a602bcc0 ffff93a47c764260 FIF0
 10 ffff93a4a1aecf00 ffff93a4a602bb40 ffff93a47c766600 FIF0
 11 ffff93a4a1aec900 ffff93a4a602bb40 ffff93a47c766600 FIF0
 12 ffff93a4a1aec200 ffff93a4a602b000 ffff93a47c764be0 FIF0
 13 ffff93a4a1aecc00 ffff93a4a602b000 ffff93a47c764be0 FIF0
 14 ffff93a4a1aec500 ffff93a47c7b8e40 ffff93a4bd306700 REG
                                                             /tmp/#4849686
 16 ffff93a46ebf6700 fffff93a450c6d6c0 fffff93a450f19ee0 FIF0
crash>
```

We understand that file descriptors 0,1,2 represent stdin,stdout and stderr of the process context (here, it's the *crash* process itself) respectively... So, look up their open file structure (notice it's the same for all three):

```
crash> file ffff93a46d985500
struct file {
   f_u = {
      fu_llist = {
        next = 0x0
      },
      fu rcuhead = {
```

A big structure... grep for the *fops*, the *file_operations* structure:

```
crash> file ffff93a46d985500 | grep f_op
f_op = 0xffffffffbcacle00 <tty_fops>,
```

We can see the *fops*, the *file_operations* structure! It holds the key to how the 'device' or 'file' works...So let's peek into it; but we need to translate the kernel virtual address (kva) to a symbolic name:

```
crash> sym 0xfffffffbcacle00
ffffffffbcacle00 (d) tty_fops
```

Cool, it's the *tty_fops* structure; lets look it up:

```
crash> tty_fops
tty fops = $3 = {
 owner = 0x0,
 llseek = 0xffffffffbbb61dc0 <no llseek>,
  read = 0x0,
 write = 0x0,
  read iter = 0xffffffffbbfa9d20 <tty read>,
 write_iter = 0xffffffffbbfaa6f0 <tty_write>,
 iopoll = 0x0,
 iterate = 0x0,
 iterate shared = 0x0,
 poll = 0xffffffffbbfac290 <tty poll>,
 unlocked ioctl = 0xfffffffbbfaabc0 <tty ioctl>,
  compat ioctl = 0xffffffffbbfab4f0 <tty compat ioctl>,
 mmap = 0x0.
 mmap_supported_flags = 0,
 open = 0xffffffffbbfad5f0 <tty open>,
 flush = 0x0,
  release = 0xffffffffbbfabca0 <tty_release>,
 fsync = 0x0,
 may_pollfree = false
```

Wow; we got the read/write '_iter' routines that perform I/O on the TTY device! which show as the

tty_read(), tty_write()!

```
Let's disassemble, for exampe, the code that runs when userspace writes (via the write() syscall) to
the tty device, i.e., the tty_write() function within the kernel (/s => source lines are shown, if
possible (if -q used when compiling)):
crash> disassemble /s tty write
Dump of assembler code for function tty_write:
drivers/tty/tty io.c:
1124
   0xffffffffbbfaa6f0 <+0>:
                                  nopl
                                         0x0(%rax,%rax,1)
                 return file_tty_write(iocb->ki_filp, iocb, from);
1125
   0xffffffffbbfaa6f5 <+5>:
                                  push
                                         %rbp
Ah, so it's a wrapper over file_tty_write():
crash> disassemble /s file tty write
Dump of assembler code for function file tty write:
Address range 0xfffffffb5faa330 to 0xffffffffb5faa653:
drivers/tty/tty io.c:
        static ssize t file tty write(struct file *file, struct kiocb *iocb,
struct iov_iter *from)
   0xffffffffb5faa330 <+0>:
                                  laon
                                         0x0(%rax,%rax,1)
179
                 return ((struct tty_file_private *)file->private_data)->tty;
   0xfffffffffb5faa335 <+5>:
                                  push
                                         %rbp
1100
        {
1101
                 struct tty struct *tty = file tty(file);
1102
                 struct tty ldisc *ld;
1103
                 ssize_t ret;
1104
                 if (tty paranoia check(tty, file inode(file), "tty write"))
1105
   0xffffffffffb5faa336 <+6>:
                                         $0xffffffffb6e03168,%rdx
                                  mov
        static ssize t file tty write(struct file *file, struct kiocb *iocb,
struct iov_iter *from)
   0xfffffffffb5faa33d <+13>:
                                         %rsp,%rbp
                                  mov
   0xffffffffb5faa340 <+16>:
                                         %r15
                                  push
   0xffffffffffb5faa342 <+18>:
                                  push
                                         %r14
   0xffffffffb5faa344 <+20>:
                                  push
                                         %r13
   0xffffffffffb5faa346 <+22>:
                                         %rdi,%r13
                                  mov
   0xffffffffb5faa349 <+25>:
                                         %r12
                                  push
```

A screenshot- the crash app with the disassembled code on the left, the very same source code on the right:

```
osboxes@osboxes: ~
Dump of assembler code for function file tty write:
Address range 0xffffffffb5faa330 to 0xffffffffb5faa653:
osboxes@osboxes: ~
                    return ((struct tty_file_private *)file->private_data)->tty;
faa335 <+5>: push %rbp
   0xffffffffb5faa335 <+5>:
                                                                                                                       static ssize_t file_tty_write(struct file *file, struct kiocb *iocb, struct
                                                                                                                                 struct tty_struct *tty = file_tty(file);
struct tty_ldisc *ld;
ssize_t ret;
1100
                    struct tty_struct *tty = file_tty(file);
struct tty_ldisc *ld;
ssize_t ret;
1101
1102
1103
1104
                                                                                                                                  if (tty_paranoia_check(tty, file_inode(file), "tty_write"))
  o.
05 if (tty_paranoia_check(tty, file_inode(file), "tty_write"))
0xfffffffb5faa336 <+6>: mov $0xfffffffb6e03168,%rdx
1105
                                                                                                                                  if (!tty || !tty->ops->write || tty_io_error(tty))
                                                                                                                                  /* Short term debug to catch buggy drivers */
if (tty->ops->write_room == NUL)
    tty_err(tty, "missing write_room methold = tty_ldisc_ref_wait(tty);
if (!ld)
    return hung_up_tty_write(iocb, from);
if (!ld->ops->write)
    ret = -EIO;
else
         static ssize_t file_tty_write(struct file *file, struct kiocb *iocb, struct iov_
1099
   0xfffffffffb5faa33d <+13>:
0xfffffffffb5faa340 <+16>:
                                                 %rsp,%rbp
%r15
                                        push
   0xfffffffffb5faa342 <+18>:
                                        push
                                                 %г14
   0xffffffffb5faa344 <+20>:
0xffffffffb5faa346 <+22>:
                                        push
                                                 %rdi,%r13
                                        MOV
                                        push
                                                 %г12
%гbх
   0xffffffffb5faa349 <+25>:
   0xffffffffb5faa34b <+27>:
   0xffffffffb5faa34c <+28>:
                                        sub
                                                 $0x40,%rsp
                                                                                                                                  ret = do_tty_write(ld->ops->write, tty, file, from);
tty_ldisc_deref(ld);
return ret;
                    return ((struct tty_file_private *)file->private_data)->tty;
   0xffffffffb5faa350 <+32>:
                                       mov
                                               0xc8(%rdi),%rax
1049
                              tty_update_time(&file_inode(file)->i_mtime);
1050
                              ret = written;
                                                                                                                        static ssize_t tty_write(struct kiocb *iocb, struct iov_iter *from)
                   }
                                                                                                                                  return file tty write(iocb->ki filp, iocb, from);
         out:
1052
1053
                   tty_write_unlock(tty);
return ret;
1054
                                                                                                                        ssize_t redirected_tty_write(struct klocb *locb, struct lov_iter *iter)
{
         }
1055
1056
                                                                                                                                  struct file *p = NULL;
1057
           * tty_write_message - write a message to a certain tty, not just the console.
* @tty: the destination tty_struct
* @msg: the message to write
1058
                                                                                                                                  1060
1061
               forward: <SPACE>, <ENTER> or j backward: b or k quit: q
                                                                                                                                  /*
 * We know the redirected tty is just another tty, we can can
 * call file_tty_write() directly with that file pointer.
```

Running crash in "batch mode"

Very useful technique to grab "just enough" information from a dumpfile and save it.

1. Create a crash "commands script" file; for example:

```
$ cat crash getinfo
echo "=== System Info ==="
echo "--- sys ---"
sys
echo "--- log ---"
log
echo "--- ps ---"
echo "--- dev ---"
dev
echo "=== Current Context Info ==="
echo "--- bt -a ---"
bt -a
echo "--- files ---"
files
echo "--- vm ---"
vm
exit
```

2. Invoke it via crash:

```
sudo crash vmlinux_dbgsym.img {dumpfile.img -or- /proc/kcore} <
crash getinfo > report.txt
```

We now have a report!

```
sym (symbol)
```

[Running crash on a dump image from an ARM-32; see how to here]

```
crash_32bit_for_arm> help sym
NAME
   sym - translate a symbol to its virtual address, or vice-versa

SYNOPSIS
   sym [-l] | [-M] | [-m module] | [-p|-n] | [-q string] | [symbol | vaddr]
```

DESCRIPTION

This command translates a symbol to its virtual address, or a static kernel virtual address to its symbol -- or to a symbol-plus-offset value, if appropriate. Additionally, the symbol type is shown in parentheses, and if the symbol is a known text value, the file and line number are shown.

<lots of examples!>

```
crash 32bit for arm> bt
PID: 735
           TASK: 9f6af900 CPU: 0
                                    COMMAND: "echo"
#0 [<804060d8>] (sysrq handle crash) from [<804065bc>]
#1 [<804065bc>] (__handle_sysrq) from [<80406ab8>]
#2 [<80406ab8>] (write sysrq trigger) from [<80278588>]
#3 [<80278588>] (proc_reg_write) from [<802235c4>]
#4 [<802235c4>] (__vfs_write) from [<80224098>]
#5 [<80224098>] (vfs_write) from [<80224d30>]
#6 [<80224d30>] (sys_write) from [<801074a0>]
                                             psr: 60000010
   sp : 7ebdcc7c ip : 00000000 fp : 00000000
    r10: 0010286c r9: 7ebdce68 r8: 00000020
    r7 : 00000004 r6 : 00103008 r5 : 00000001
                                                r4: 00102e2c
    r3 : 00000000 r2 : 00000002 r1 : 00103008 r0 : 00000001
    Flags: nZCv IRQs on FIQs on Mode USER 32 ISA ARM
crash 32bit for arm> sym 801074a0
801074a0 (t) ret fast syscall ../arch/arm/kernel/entry-common.S
crash_32bit_for_arm> bt -l
                                       << -l: show file and line number info >>
                                    COMMAND: "echo"
           TASK: 9f6af900 CPU: 0
PID: 735
#0 [<804060d8>] (sysrq handle crash) from [<804065bc>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/drivers/tty/sysrq.c: 144
#1 [<804065bc>] ( handle sysrq) from [<80406ab8>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/drivers/tty/sysrq.c: 552
#2 [<80406ab8>] (write sysrq trigger) from [<80278588>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/drivers/tty/sysrq.c: 1101
#3 [<80278588>] (proc reg write) from [<802235c4>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/fs/proc/inode.c: 216
#4 [<802235c4>] (__vfs_write) from [<80224098>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/fs/read write.c: 510
#5 [<80224098>] (vfs_write) from [<80224d30>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/fs/read write.c: 561
#6 [<80224d30>] (sys_write) from [<801074a0>]
   <...>/linux-4.9.1/fs/read write.c: 608
    pc : [<76e8d7ec>]
                        lr : [<0000f9dc>1
                                              psr: 60000010
   sp : 7ebdcc7c ip : 00000000 fp : 00000000
    r10: 0010286c r9: 7ebdce68 r8: 00000020
    r7 : 00000004 r6 : 00103008 r5 : 00000001
                                                r4 : 00102e2c
    r3 : 00000000 r2 : 00000002 r1 : 00103008 r0 : 00000001
    Flags: nZCv IRQs on FIQs on Mode USER 32 ISA ARM
crash 32bit for arm>
```

Module Debugging with crash

```
Compile the kernel module with -g (edit it's Makefile, specify EXTRA_CFLAGS += -DDEBUG -g #older/deprecated style ccflags-y += -DDEBUG -g crash : mod -S :

Load the symbolic and debugging data of all modules
```

Appending the directory pathname (where your kernel module resides) will restrict the search to that folder...

Eq. on a simple misc character driver kernel module:

```
crash> mod -S <...>/miscmj_tst/
                                         SIZE
                                               OBJECT FILE
     MODULE
                  NAME
fffffffc0393480
                  pata acpi
                                        16384
/lib/modules/4.17.0/kernel/drivers/ata/pata acpi.ko
fffffffc039d500 i2c_piix4
                                        24576
/lib/modules/4.17.0/kernel/drivers/i2c/busses/i2c-piix4.ko
fffffffc03a9580 libahci
                                        32768
/lib/modules/4.17.0/kernel/drivers/ata/libahci.ko
[\ldots]
ffffffffc072a940 vboxsf
                                        45056
/lib/modules/4.17.0/misc/vboxsf.ko
ffffffffc075c080 miscmi tst
                                        16384
/home/seawolf/kaiwanTECH/L3 dd trg/miscmj tst/miscmj tst.o
crash>
Set ctx to the process accessing the driver (it should be alive):
crash> set 4675
    PID: 4675
COMMAND: "echo"
   TASK: ffff9e7dbb865a00 [THREAD INFO: ffff9e7dbb865a00]
    CPU: 1
  STATE: TASK INTERRUPTIBLE
Now dump the stack frames — all show up!!
crash> bt
PID: 4675
            TASK: ffff9e7dbb865a00 CPU: 1
                                             COMMAND: "echo"
 #0 [ffffc24c01607cd0] __schedule at ffffffffa133731b
 #1 [ffffc24c01607d68] schedule at ffffffffa13378dc
 #2 [ffffc24c01607d78] schedule_timeout at ffffffffa133b69b
 #3 [ffffc24c01607df8] my dev write at ffffffffc075a0ff
                                                           [miscmj tst]
 #4 [ffffc24c01607e18] vfs write at ffffffffa0c8bd3a
 #5 [ffffc24c01607ea0] vfs write at ffffffffa0c8c011
 #6 [ffffc24c01607ed8] ksys write at ffffffffa0c8c2a5
 #7 [ffffc24c01607f20] __x64_sys_write at ffffffffa0c8c32a
 #8 [ffffc24c01607f30] do_syscall_64 at fffffffa0a041fa
 #9 [ffffc24c01607f50] entry_SYSCALL_64_after_hwframe at ffffffffa1400088
crash>
```

```
bt -f
. . .
#3 [ffffc24c01607df8] my_dev_write at ffffffffc075a0ff [miscmj_tst]
    ffffc24c01607e00: 000000000000000 ffff9e7db6d27900
    ffffc24c01607e10: ffffc24c01607e98 ffffffffa0c8bd3a
 #4 [ffffc24c01607e18]
                        vfs write at ffffffffa0c8bd3a
    ffffc24c01607e20: fffff9e7db88ad330 ffffff0cdc0e22b70
    ffffc24c01607e30: 000000000000000 0dabdbe391c9e100
    ffffc24c01607e40: 000000000000055 ffff9e7db46c2708
    ffffc24c01607e50: 00005643ea666408 ffff9e7db6e49080
    ffffc24c01607e60: 000000000000000 ffffc24c01607ea0
    ffffc24c01607e70: ffffffffa0c21fc3 0000000000000000
    ffffc24c01607e80: 0dabdbe391c9e100 00000000000000004
    ffffc24c01607e90: 00000000000000 ffffc24c01607ed0
    ffffc24c01607ea0: ffffffffa0c8c011
 #5 [ffffc24c01607ea0] vfs_write at ffffffffa0c8c011
    ffffc24c01607ea8: ffff9e7db6d27900 ffff9e7db6d27900
    ffffc24c01607eb8: 00005643ea665400 00000000000000004
    ffffc24c01607ec8: 00000000000000 ffffc24c01607f18
    ffffc24c01607ed8: ffffffffa0c8c2a5
```

Note-

- SETTING UP KDUMP AND CRASH FOR ARM-32 AN ONGOING SAGA, kaiwanTECH, July 2017
- Running crash on ARM- see this link from the Linaro Wiki
- *crash* used quite a bit here: <u>A Short Guide to Kernel Debugging: A story about finding a kernel bug on a production system, Square</u>.

<< End document >>