

Enable PAM Limits and Configure ulimit in Linux

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Check if pam_limits.so is enabled:

Run:

```
grep pam_limits.so /etc/pam.d/common-session /etc/pam.d/common-session-noninteractive
```

If you see:

```
session required pam_limits.so
```

then it's already enabled.

2. If not found, add pam_limits.so:

Edit file:

```
sudo nano /etc/pam.d/common-session
```

Add at the bottom:

```
session required pam_limits.so
```

3. Set your limits in /etc/security/limits.conf:

For all users:

```
* soft nfile 65535
```

```
* hard nfile 65535
```

Or for a specific user:

```
www-data soft nfile 65535
```

```
www-data hard nfile 65535
```

4. Reboot or re-login to apply changes:

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For interactive shells: log out and back in.

For services: reload systemd and restart the service.

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reexec
```

5. Test the limits:

Run:

```
ulimit -n
```

Expected output:

```
65535
```

6. BONUS: Configure systemd service explicitly:

Run:

```
sudo systemctl edit nginx
```

Add:

```
[Service]
```

```
LimitNOFILE=65535
```

Then:

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reexec
```

```
sudo systemctl restart nginx
```