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Core Dump (Segmentation fault) in C/C++

Core Dump/Segmentation fault is a specific kind of error caused by accessing memory that “does not belong to you.”

- When a piece of code tries to do read and write operation in a read only location in memory or freed block of memory, it is known as core dump.
- It is an error indicating memory corruption.

Common segmentation fault scenarios:

- **Modifying a string literal :**

The below program may crash (gives segmentation fault error) because the line `*(str+1) = 'n'` tries to write a read only memory.

```
int main()
{
    char *str;

    /* Stored in read only part of data segment */
    str = "GfG";

    /* Problem: trying to modify read only memory */
    *(str+1) = 'n';
    return 0;
}
```


Abnormal termination of program.

Refer [Storage for Strings in C](#) for details

- **Accessing an address that is freed :**

Here in the below code, the pointer `p` is dereferenced after freeing the memory block, which is not allowed by the compiler. So it produces the error segment fault or abnormal program termination at runtime.

Example:





```
// C program to illustrate
// Core Dump/Segmentation fault
#include <stdio.h>
#include <alloc.h>
int main(void)
{
    // allocating memory to p
    int* p = malloc(8);
    *p = 100;

    // deallocated the space allocated to p
    free(p);

    // core dump/segmentation fault
    // as now this statement is illegal
    *p = 110;


    return 0;
}
```





Output:

Abnormal termination of program.

- **Accessing out of array index bounds :**



```
// C++ program to demonstrate segmentation
// fault when array out of bound is accessed.
#include <iostream>
using namespace std;
int main()
{
    int arr[2];
    arr[3] = 10; // Accessing out of bound
    return 0;
}
```



Output:

Abnormal termination of program.

This article is contributed by **Bishal Kumar Dubey**. If you like GeeksforGeeks and would like to contribute, you can also write an article using contribute.geeksforgeeks.org or

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