

sync; echo 3 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches

Writing to this will cause the kernel to drop clean caches, dentries and inodes from memory, causing that memory to become free.

To free pagecache:

\* echo 1 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches

To free dentries and inodes:

\* echo 2 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches

To free pagecache, dentries and inodes:

\* echo 3 > /proc/sys/vm/drop\_caches

As this is a non-destructive operation, and dirty objects are notfreeable, the user should run "sync" first in order to make sure allcached objects are freed.

This tunable was added in 2.6.16.