

List and get rid of obsolete program core dump files and completely disable core files on FreeBSD

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My FreeBSD router has started running out of space, I looked for ways to clean up some space. So I remembered some programs are generating **core files** while they crash. Some of these files are really huge and can be from 1Mb to > 1G.

I used **find** to first list all my produced core files starting from *root directory (/)* , like so:

```
find / -name core -exec du -hsc {} \;  
....
```

Having a list of my core files with the respective *core file* size and after reviewing, I deleted one by one the *cores* which were there just taking up space.

It's a wise idea that **core dumps file generation on program crash is completely disabled**, however I forgot to disable cores, so I had plenty of the cores - (*crash files which are handy for debug purposes and fixing the bug that caused the crash*).

Further on I used an */etc/rc.conf* - **dumpdev=NO** , variable which instructs the kernel to not generate core files on program crash:

```
freebsd# echo 'dumpdev=NO' >> /etc/rc.conf
```

Next, to make *dumpdev=NO* , take affect I rebooted the server:

```
freebsd# shutdown -r now  
...
```

There is a way to instruct every server running daemon to know about the newly set **dumpdev=NO** by restarting each of the services with their init scripts individually, but I was too lazy to do that.