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Determining Location and Cause of "core" File

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About This Document

This document describes how to determine where the "core" file resides and which program caused it. This document is applicable to AIX versions 3.2. You should have a core file if you have an error log entry
with the following:

```
ERROR LABEL:    CORE_DUMP
ERROR ID:       0F27AAE5
```

PROCEDURE

1. Log in as root.

2. Run "errpt –a | pg" and look for the word "CORE_DUMP". Note the file system Serial Number and the Inode Number from the CORE_DUMP error log entry. Here is an example:

   ```
   ERROR LABEL: CORE_DUMP
   ...
   File system Serial Number
           8
   Inode Number
         2049
   ```

3. Run "echo vfs | crash > file". Then look at the output (in "file") to find the file system with the Serial Number found in step 2. It will be in the column labeled "NUMBER".

   Example lines from "file":

   ```
   >VFS ADDRESS   TYPE OBJECT    STUB NUMBER FLAGS       PATHS
      5 583b4f4          jfs    5843108   58436b8          8 D        /dev/hd1 mounted
      over /home
   ```

   Note the directory following "mounted over" in the PATHS section ("/home" in the example above).

4. Now run the following command, replacing <dir> with the directory found in step 3. and replacing <inum> with the Inode Number found in step 2:

   ```
   find <dir> –xdev –inum <inum> –print
   ```

Here is example output from the "find" command:

/home/user_name

The output above is the directory in which the "core" file resides.

An alternate method to locate core files is to use the "find" command with the following:

find / –name core –ls

then look for a core file with the same date and time as the entry in the "errpt".

5. Now cd to the directory indicated in step 4.

6. If you are at AIX 3.2 run the following command:

/usr/sbin/hdf core 730 64

The program that caused the core dump is listed on the "730" line. For example:

00000730 6D65646C 65790000 00000000 00000000 |tsm.....|

If you recognize the program's name as one of your applications, you need to give the "core" file to your application supplier for further problem determination.

If the program listed is an AIX command, or if you are unsure of its origin, you may wish to work wit AIX support on this problem.

A core file is generated when a program tries to do something illegal on the system. The usual cau is trying to access memory outside the memory assigned to the program by the system. Core files are normally caused by a program error or some type of data corruption.

Unless the program that caused the core file is a special debug version of the program normally the only usefull information in the core file is the name of the module or program that caused a core du

Examining the errpt –a log will frequently alert you to possible problems with the system that may b the cause of the core file.

For information on support available from the AIX Support Family and Program Services (IBM's ba support for code–related problems), request these faxes from 1–800–IBM–4FAX:

1537	Overview of AIX Support
1760	Using Program Services
2464	The AIX Support Family

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