Using the Dump Tools

Development stream (Kernel 4.0)
Using the Dump Tools

Development stream (Kernel 4.0)
Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices" on page 71.

This edition applies to the Linux on z Systems Development stream for kernel 4.0, s390-tools version 1.30, and to all subsequent releases and modifications until otherwise indicated in new editions.

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Contents

Summary of changes ........................................... v
Updates for kernel 4.0 ........................................ v
Updates for kernel 3.12 ........................................ v
Updates for kernel 3.11 ........................................ v

About this document ........................................... vii
Other publications for Linux on z Systems ................... vii
Device nodes used in this publication ......................... viii

Chapter 1. Introduction ........................................ 1
  The kdump tool ................................................ 2
  Stand-alone tools ............................................. 3
  The VMDUMP tool ............................................. 3
  Live-system dump ............................................. 4
  Dump methods compared ..................................... 4
  Version dependencies ....................................... 5

Chapter 2. Using kdump ........................................ 7
  How kdump works on z Systems ............................... 7
  Setting up kdump ............................................ 9
  How kdump is triggered ..................................... 11
  Accessing the dump ......................................... 11

Chapter 3. Using a DASD dump device ......................... 15
  Installing the DASD dump tool .............................. 15
  Initiating a DASD dump ..................................... 16
  Copying the dump from DASD with zgetdump ................. 16

Chapter 4. Using DASD devices for multi-volume dump ........ 19
  Installing the multi-volume DASD dump tool ............... 20
  Initiating a multi-volume DASD dump ....................... 21
  Copying a multi-volume dump to a file ..................... 22

Chapter 5. Using a tape dump device ......................... 23
  Installing the tape dump tool .............................. 23
  Initiating a tape dump ..................................... 23
  Tape display messages ..................................... 24
  Copying the dump from tape ................................ 24
  Preparing the dump tape .................................. 24
  Using the zgetdump tool to copy the dump ................. 25

Chapter 6. Using a SCSI dump device ......................... 27
  Installing the SCSI disk dump tool ......................... 27
  Example ..................................................... 27
  Initiating a SCSI dump .................................... 28
  Copying the dump from SCSI disks with zgetdump ......... 28
  Printing the SCSI dump header ............................. 28

Chapter 7. Creating dumps on z/VM with VMDUMP ............. 31
  Initiating a dump with VMDUMP ............................. 31
  Copying the dump to Linux ................................ 31
Chapter 8. Creating live-system dumps with zgetdump
Creating a kernel dump on a live system
Opening a live-system dump with the crash tool

Chapter 9. Handling large dumps
Compressing a dump using makedumpfile
Compressing a dump using gzip and split

Chapter 10. Sharing dump devices
Serialization and device locking
Sharing devices when dumping manually
Sharing DASD devices on LPARs
Sharing DASD devices under z/VM
Sharing SCSI devices
Using attach and detach as locking mechanism under z/VM
Sharing devices when dumping automatically
DASD (dump or dump_reipl panic action)
DASD (vmcmd panic action)
FCP-attached SCSI devices
Sharing dump devices between different versions of Linux
Sharing dump resources with VMDUMP

Appendix A. Examples for initiating dumps
z/VM
Using kdump
Using DASD
Using tape
Using SCSI
Using VMDUMP
Dumping NSSs
HMC or SE
  Triggering a dump remotely
Testing automatic dump-on-panic

Appendix B. Obtaining a dump with limited size

Appendix C. Command summary
The zgetdump tool
The dumpconf service
The crash tool
The vmconvert tool
The vmur tool

Appendix D. How to detect guest relocation

Accessibility

Notices
Trademarks
Summary of changes

This revision reflects changes to the Development stream for kernel 4.0.

Updates for kernel 4.0

This edition (SC33-8412-14) contains changes related to the kernel 4.0 release.

New information

- You can now create and analyze kernel dumps of Linux instances that run on an LPAR with multithreading enabled. See “Version dependencies” on page 5.

Changed Information

- The examples of dumping to SCSI disks now use multipath devices and partitions. See “Example” on page 27.

This revision also includes maintenance and editorial changes. Technical changes or additions to the text and illustrations are indicated by a vertical line to the left of the change.

Deleted Information

- None

Updates for kernel 3.12

This edition (SC33-8412-13) contains changes related to the kernel 3.12 release.

New information

- You can now install a SCSI dump tool directly on a SCSI partition, and also write the dump to the partition. You no longer need to create a file system. See Chapter 6, “Using a SCSI dump device,” on page 27.

Changed Information

- The zgetdump tool can now display information on the zfcpdump tool and ELF dumps on SCSI partitions. The zgetdump tool can now also copy an ELF dump from a SCSI dump partition.

This revision also includes maintenance and editorial changes. Technical changes or additions to the text and illustrations are indicated by a vertical line to the left of the change.

Deleted Information

- For dumping to a SCSI device, the dump_dir, dump_compress, and dump_mode parameters are obsolete, and have been removed.
- The dump tool target partition and the dump partition for a SCSI dump can no longer be separate partitions. Information pertaining to separate partitions has been removed.

Updates for kernel 3.11

This edition (SC33-8412-12) contains changes related to the kernel 3.11 release.
New information

- As of z/VM 6.3, you can use the nssdata IPL option to create a dump for a Linux instance that runs from a z/VM NSS, see "Dumping NSSs" on page 49.

Changed Information

- The default target dump format of the zgetdump command has changed from s390 to elf, see "The zgetdump tool" on page 57.

This revision also includes maintenance and editorial changes. Technical changes or additions to the text and illustrations are indicated by a vertical line to the left of the change.

Deleted Information

- None.
About this document

This document describes tools for obtaining dumps of Linux for IBM® z Systems™ instances. It describes how to use DASD, tape, and SCSI dump devices, as well as how to use kdump and VMDUMP.

As of January 2015, IBM System z® is re-branded to IBM z Systems. In this document, Linux on z Systems and Linux on System z are used synonymously to refer to Linux running on an IBM mainframe, including zSeries in 64- and 31-bit mode.

Unless stated otherwise, all z/VM® related information in this document assumes a current z/VM version, see www.ibm.com/vm/techinfo.

You can find the latest version of this document on developerWorks® at www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html

Authority

Most of the tasks described in this document require a user with root authority. In particular, writing to procfs, and writing to most of the described sysfs attributes requires root authority.

Throughout this document, it is assumed that you have root authority.

Other publications for Linux on z Systems

You can find publications for Linux on z Systems on IBM Knowledge Center and on developerWorks.

These publications are available on IBM Knowledge Center at

ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/linuxonibm/liaaf/lnz_r_lib.html

- Device Drivers, Features, and Commands (distribution-specific editions)
- Using the Dump Tools (distribution-specific editions)
- How to use FC-attached SCSI devices with Linux on z Systems, SC33-8413
- libica Programmer’s Reference, SC34-2602
- Exploiting Enterprise PKCS #11 using openCryptoki, SC34-2713
- Secure Key Solution with the Common Cryptographic Architecture Application Programmer’s Guide, SC33-8294
- Linux on z Systems Troubleshooting, SC34-2612
- Kernel Messages, SC34-2599
- How to Set up a Terminal Server Environment on z/VM, SC34-2596

These publications are available on developerWorks at

www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html

- Device Drivers, Features, and Commands, SC33-8411
- Using the Dump Tools, SC33-8412
Device nodes used in this publication

There can be multiple device nodes for the same device.

The DASD and tape examples in this publication use the standard device nodes. The SCSI examples use multipath device nodes. If you are using a Linux distribution that provides udev, you can also use the device nodes that udev creates for you. See your distribution documentation to find out which nodes are available.
Chapter 1. Introduction

Different tools can be used for obtaining dumps of Linux on z Systems instances.

Note: As of IBM z13™, simultaneous multithreading is available for Linux in LPAR mode. You must use dump tools that support multithreading on such LPARs. See "Version dependencies" on page 5.

You can use the dump analysis tool crash to analyze a dump. Depending on your service contract, you might also want to send a dump to IBM support to be analyzed.

Table 1 summarizes the available dump tools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dump aspect</th>
<th>kdump</th>
<th>DASD</th>
<th>Multi-volume DASD</th>
<th>SCSI</th>
<th>Tape</th>
<th>VMDUMP</th>
<th>Live-system dump with zgetdump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
<td>z/VM only</td>
<td>z/VM and LPAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z/VM NSS</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (see note 3)</td>
<td>Yes (see note 3)</td>
<td>Yes (see note 3)</td>
<td>Yes (see note 3)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System size (see also &quot;Dump size&quot; on page 2)</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Large</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>Fast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Any available medium</td>
<td>ECKD™ or FBA DASD (see note 1)</td>
<td>ECKD DASD</td>
<td>SCSI partition</td>
<td>Tape cartridges</td>
<td>z/VM reader</td>
<td>Any available medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compression possible</td>
<td>While writing</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (see &quot;Dump size&quot; on page 2)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dump filtering possible</td>
<td>While writing</td>
<td>When copying</td>
<td>When copying</td>
<td>When copying</td>
<td>When copying</td>
<td>When copying</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruptive (see note 2)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand-alone</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
1. SCSI disks can be emulated as FBA disks. This dump method can, therefore, be used for SCSI-only z/VM installations.
2. In this context, disruptive means that the dump process kills a running operating system.
3. As of z/VM 6.3, you can use the nisd ata IPL option to create a dump for a Linux instance that runs from a z/VM NSS.
Dump size

The dump size depends on the size of the system for which the dump is to be created. All dump methods require persistent storage space to hold the kernel and user space of this system.

kdump
Initially uses the memory of the Linux instance for which a dump is to be created, and so supports any size. A persistent copy can be written to any medium of sufficient size. While writing, the dump size can be reduced through page filtering and compression.

DASD
Depends on the disk size. For example, ECKD model A provides several hundreds of GB, depending on the storage server model.

Multivolume DASD
Can be up to the combined size of 32 DASD partitions.

SCSI
Depends on the capacity of the SCSI disk and which other data it contains.

Tape
Depends on the tape drive. For example, IBM TotalStorage Enterprise Tape System 3592 supports large dumps and also offers hardware compression.

VMDUMP
Depends on the available spool space. The slow dump speed can lead to very long dump times for large dumps. Although technically possible, the slow dump speed makes VMDUMP unsuitable for large dumps.

zgetdump live-system dump
The dump can be written to any medium of sufficient size.

See Chapter 9, “Handling large dumps,” on page 37 for information specific to large dumps.

The kdump tool

The kdump tool is made available through a Linux kernel and initial RAM disk that are preloaded in memory, along with a production system.

You do not have to install kdump on a dedicated dump device. The kdump system can access the memory that contains the dump of the production system through a procfs file.

Filtering out extraneous memory pages and compression can take place while the dump is written to persistent storage or transferred over a network. The smaller dump size can significantly reduce the write or transfer time, especially for large production systems.

IPLing the production system again clears the dump in memory, so the dump must be saved to persistent storage before a subsequent re-IPL.

Because kdump can write dumps though a network, existing file system facilities can be used to prevent multiple dumps from being written to the same storage space. Sharing space for dumps across an enterprise is possible without the more complex setups described in Chapter 10, “Sharing dump devices,” on page 41.
Stand-alone tools

Stand-alone tools are installed on a device on which you perform an IPL. Different tools are available depending on the device type.

Four stand-alone dump tools are shipped in the s390-tools package as part of the zipl package:
- DASD dump tool for dumps on a single DASD device
- Multi-volume DASD dump tool for dumps on a set of ECKD DASD devices
- Tape dump tool for dumps on (channel-attached) tape devices
- SCSI disk dump tool for dumps on SCSI disks

You need to install these tools on the dump device. A dump device is used to initiate a stand-alone dump by IPL-ing the device. It must have a stand-alone dump tool installed and should provide enough space for the dump. If you install dump tools that are compiled for 64-bit, you can create both 64-bit and 31-bit Linux dumps. If you install dump tools that are compiled for 31-bit, you can create 31-bit Linux dumps only.

Typically, the system operator initiates a dump after a system crash, but you can initiate a dump at any time. To initiate a dump, you must IPL the dump device. This is destructive, that is, the running Linux operating system is killed. The IPL process writes the system memory to the IPL device (DASD device, tape, or SCSI disk).

You can configure a dump device that is automatically used when a kernel panic occurs. For more information, see "The dumpconf service" on page 62.

All examples for installing stand-alone tools by using a zipl configuration file assume that /etc/zipl.conf is used as the configuration file and that /etc/zipl.conf is the default configuration file.

For more information on zipl, refer to the zipl man page and to the zipl description in Device Drivers, Features, and Commands, SC33-8411. You can find the latest version of this document on developerWorks at: www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/linux390/documentation_dev.html

The VMDUMP tool

The VMDUMP tool is a part of z/VM and does not need to be installed separately.

Dumping with VMDUMP is not destructive. If you dump an operating Linux instance, the instance continues running after the dump is completed.

VMDUMP can also create dumps for z/VM guests that use z/VM named saved systems (NSS).

Do not use VMDUMP to dump large z/VM guests; the dump process is very slow. Dumping 1 GB of storage can take up to 15 minutes depending on the used storage server and z/VM version.

For more information on VMDUMP see z/VM CP Commands and Utilities Reference, SC24-6175.
### Live-system dump

You can create a kernel dump from a live system without disruption.

Use the `zgetdump` tool that is shipped with the s390-tools package to create a kernel dump while the Linux system continues running. No dump device must be prepared, because the `/dev/mem` device node is used to create the dump.

### Dump methods compared

The process for preparing a dump device and obtaining a dump differs for the available dump methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dump aspect</th>
<th>kdump</th>
<th>Stand-alone tools</th>
<th>VMDUMP</th>
<th>Live-system dump with zgetdump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation</td>
<td>Reserve memory with the <code>crashkernel=</code> kernel parameter</td>
<td>Write the stand-alone dump tool to the dump device (<code>zipl</code>)</td>
<td>Define the panic shutdown action (<code>dumpconf</code>)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Load the kdump kernel and the initial RAM disk into the memory of the production system Use <code>kexec</code> or <code>systemctl start kdump</code></td>
<td>Define the panic shutdown action (<code>dumpconf</code>)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dump trigger</td>
<td>Automatic: Kernel panic</td>
<td>Automatic: Kernel panic</td>
<td>Automatic: Kernel panic</td>
<td>Initiated by operator: <code>zgetdump</code> invocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initiated by operator: PSW restart</td>
<td>Initiated by operator: IPL of the dump device</td>
<td>Initiated by operator: <code>z/VM CP VMDUMP</code> command</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial dump space</td>
<td>Memory</td>
<td>Dump device</td>
<td>Spool device</td>
<td>Memory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessing the initial dump</td>
<td>Through <code>/proc/vmcore</code> from the kdump instance (automatically done by kdump initrd)</td>
<td>Using <code>zgetdump</code> from a new Linux instance</td>
<td>Using <code>vmur -c</code> from a new Linux instance</td>
<td>Through <code>/dev/mem</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copying the initial dump to the final dump store (and releasing the initial dump space)</td>
<td>Copied from the kdump instance to any available storage (automatically done by kdump initrd)</td>
<td>Copied from the new Linux instance to any available storage</td>
<td>Copied from the new Linux instance to any available storage</td>
<td>Copied from the current Linux instance to any available storage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional: Filtering the initial dump</td>
<td>Using <code>/proc/vmcore</code> and <code>makedumpfile</code> on the kdump instance (automatically done by kdump initrd)</td>
<td>Using <code>zgetdump</code> and <code>makedumpfile</code> on the new Linux instance</td>
<td>Using <code>zgetdump</code> and <code>makedumpfile</code> on the new Linux instance</td>
<td>Not recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Version dependencies

Use dump tools with multithreading support for Linux instances that run on LPARs with enabled multithreading.

Table 3 shows how you can verify the version of the different tools.

Table 3. Tool versions for multithreading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dump tool</th>
<th>Your tools support multithreading if:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DASD dump tool</td>
<td>The command <code>zipl -v</code> displays a version of 1.30.0 or later, and the command <code>zgetdump -d &lt;dump device&gt;</code> displays a version of 4 or later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tape dump tool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCSI dump tool</td>
<td>The Linux kernel version is 4.0 or later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kdump</td>
<td>The kdump kernel version is 4.0 or later.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attention: If you must IPL a Linux kernel with a version earlier than 4.0 on an LPAR that has previously run with multithreading enabled, use IPL clear. Otherwise any memory dumps that you create for this Linux kernel might be flawed.
Chapter 2. Using kdump

You can use kdump to create system dumps for instances of Linux on z Systems.

Before you begin

For using kdump, you require:

- A Linux kernel image that has been compiled with the common code kernel configuration options CONFIG_KEXEC, CONFIG_CRASH_DUMP, and CONFIG_PROC_VMCORE. This requirement applies to both, the production system for which kdump is set up and to the kdump image.
- An initial kdump RAM disk if required by the kdump kernel image.
- A kexec package with kdump support.
- A System z9® or later mainframe system.

Advantages of kdump

kdump offers these advantages over other dump methods:

- While writing the dump, you can filter out extraneous pages and compress the dump, and so handle large dumps in a short time.
- When writing dumps over a network, you can use existing file system facilities to share dump space without special preparations.

Shortcomings of kdump

kdump has these drawbacks:

- kdump is not as reliable as the stand-alone dump tools. For critical systems, you can set up stand-alone dump tools as a backup, in addition to the kdump configuration (see “Failure recovery and backup tools” on page 9).
- kdump cannot dump a z/VM named saved system (NSS).
- For production systems that run in LPAR mode, kdump consumes memory (see “Memory consumption” on page 8).

How kdump works on z Systems

You can set up kdump according to your needs.

With kdump, you do not need to install a dump tool on the storage device that is to hold a future dump. Instead, you use a kdump kernel, a Linux instance that controls the dump process.

The kdump kernel occupies a reserved memory area within the memory of the production system for which it is set up. The reserved memory area is defined with the crashkernel* kernel parameter. After the production system is started, the kdump init service loads the kdump kernel and its initial RAM disk (initrd) into the reserved memory area with the kexec tool.
At the beginning of the dump process, the reserved memory area is exchanged with the lower memory regions of the crashed production system. The kdump system is then started and runs entirely in the memory that was exchanged with the reserved area. From the running kdump kernel, the memory of the crashed production system can be accessed as a virtual file, `/proc/vmcore`.

This process is fast because the kdump kernel is started from memory, and no dump data needs to be copied up to this stage. Typically, the `makedumpfile` tool is now used to write a filtered and compressed version of the dump to a file on persistent storage, locally or over a network. Again, this method saves time because the dump is reduced in size while it is written or transferred.

After the dump is written, the production system can be IPLed again.

**Memory consumption**

Although each Linux instance must be defined with additional memory for kdump, the total memory consumption for your z/VM installation does not increase considerably.

On most architectures, the inactive kdump system consumes the amount of memory that is reserved with the `crashkernel=` kernel parameter.
For Linux on z/VM, only the kdump image and its initial RAM disk consume actual memory. The remaining reserved memory is withheld by the z/VM hypervisor until it is required in exchange for the lower memory region of the crashed production system.

Because the kdump image and initial RAM disk are not used during regular operations, z/VM swaps them out of memory some time after IPL. Thereafter, no real memory is occupied for kdump until it is booted to handle a dump.

For Linux in LPAR mode, the reserved memory area consumes real memory.

**Failure recovery and backup tools**

If kdump fails, stand-alone dump tools or VMDUMP can be used as backup tools. Backup tools are, typically, set up only for vital production systems.

Because of being preloaded into memory, there is a small chance that parts of kdump are overwritten by malfunctioning kernel functions. The kdump kernel is, therefore, booted only if a checksum assures the integrity of the kdump kernel and initial RAM disk. This failure can be recovered automatically by setting up a backup dump tool with the `dumpconf` service or through a backup dump that is initiated by a user. See the "The dumpconf service" on page 62.

A second possible failure is the kdump system itself crashing during the dump process. This failure occurs, for example, if the reserved memory area is too small for the kdump kernel and user space. For this failure, initiate a backup dump, which captures data for both the crashed production system and the crashed kdump kernel. You can separate this data with the `zgetdump --select` option. See "The zgetdump tool" on page 57.

---

**Setting up kdump**

Before you can use kdump, you must load the kdump kernel into a reserved memory area.

**Before you begin**

- The steps that are described here are typically done for you by your distribution or through distribution-specific configuration tools.
- You need a kdump kernel image and initial RAM disk.
- The kexec-tools package must be installed.

**About this task**

The reserved memory area must be sufficiently large to accommodate the kdump system, including user space, when it is booted. If too little memory is reserved, kdump itself crashes if booted (see "Failure recovery and backup tools").

**Procedure**

1. For your production system, code the `crashkernel=` kernel parameter according to this syntax:

   \[
   \text{crashkernel}=<\text{size}>@<\text{offset}>
   \]
where <size> specifies the amount of memory to be reserved and <offset> the beginning of the memory range. The values are integers, optionally followed by K for kilobyte, M for megabyte, or G for gigabyte. The values are adjusted to multiples of 1 MB.

The specified memory area, <offset> through <offset> + <size>, and a corresponding memory area 0 through <size>, must both be available and must both not contain any memory holes.

If you omit @<offset>, a suitable offset is chosen for you. If you specify an offset, it must be greater than the size of the reserved memory. For example, the following specification reserves 128 MB for the kdump kernel at an automatically selected suitable offset.

crashkernel=128M

The following specification reserves 128 MB for the kdump kernel at an offset of 256 MB.

crashkernel=128M@256M

Optionally, you can make the specification of reserved memory size and offset dependent on the size of the available memory. See Documentation/kernelparameters.txt in the Linux source tree for details about how to do this and about further details of the crashkernel= kernel parameter.

2. Boot your production system.
3. Optional: Issue the following command to confirm that a memory area was reserved for the kdump kernel:

# cat /proc/iomem

The command output must include a memory range for Crash kernel.

4. Load the kdump kernel with the kexec command according to this syntax:
   
    # kexec -p <image> --initrd <initrd> --command-line "<kparms>"

   where:

   <image>
   specifies the kdump kernel image.

   <initrd>
   specifies the initial RAM disk of the kdump kernel. This specification can be omitted if the kdump kernel does not require an initial RAM disk.

   <kparms>
   specifies kernel parameters for the kdump kernel.

Example:

    # kexec -p /boot/kdump.image --initrd /boot/kdump.initrd \  
    --command-line="dasd=eb90 root=/dev/ram0 maxcpus=1"

Results

A kernel panic or PSW restart now triggers an automatic dump process with kdump.
What to do next

As a backup, you can set up a stand-alone dump tool in addition to kdump. See “The dumpconf service” on page 62 about how to run a backup tool automatically, if kdump fails.

How kdump is triggered

A kernel panic automatically triggers the dump process with kdump. When your Linux system does not respond and kdump is not triggered automatically, depending on your system environment, there are additional methods for triggering the dump process.

About this task

With kdump installed, a kernel panic or PSW restart trigger kdump rather than the shutdown actions defined in /sys/firmware. The definitions in /sys/firmware are used only if an integrity check for kdump fails (see also “Failure recovery and backup tools” on page 9 and “The dumpconf service” on page 62).

Procedure

Use one of the methods according to your environment:

- For Linux in LPAR mode: Run the PSW restart task on the HMC. See “HMC or SE” on page 49 for details.
- For Linux on z/VM: Run the z/VM CP system restart command. For example, issue this command from a 3270 terminal:
  
  # cp system restart

- For Linux on z/VM: Configure the z/VM watchdog to trigger kdump. Set system restart as the z/VM CP command to be issued if the watchdog detects that the Linux instance has failed. See Device Drivers, Features, and Commands, SC33-8411 about how to configure the z/VM watchdog.

Results

The dump process loads the kdump kernel from which you can access the dump.

What to do next

Because the dump is initially held in memory, you must process the dump before IPLing your production system. A new IPL clears the dump.

Accessing the dump

After the kdump kernel has started, the dump can be accessed and copied from memory to a file on persistent storage. Typically, this process is automated through tools in an initial RAM disk that is provided with your distribution.

Before you begin

The kdump user space is typically set up to automatically perform the following actions for you:

1. Reading the dump of the production system
2. Filtering and compressing the dump
3. Saving the dump to a file on persistent storage
4. Rebooting the production system

The steps that follow describe how to perform these tasks from the command line.

**About this task**

On the running kdump kernel, the dump can be accessed through two virtual files:

**/proc/vmcore**
- represents the dump in Executable and Linkable Format (ELF) core format and includes memory, CPU register, and vmcoreinfo information.

**/dev/oldmem**
- represents the dump in form of an unstructured linear memory.

The following description uses the more convenient ELF format at /proc/vmcore.

**Procedure**

1. Optional: Use `zgetdump` to display information about the dump.
   ```
   # zgetdump -i /proc/vmcore
   ```

2. Optional: Analyze the dump at `/proc/vmcore` with the `crash` tool, as usual. This means that you cannot IPL your production system until you have finished the analysis.

3. Copy the dump to persistent storage. The following examples illustrate some of the options:
   - This example copies the entire dump to a device that is available at `/dumps/dump.elf` in the Linux file system:
     ```
     # cp /proc/vmcore /dumps/dump.elf
     ```
   - This example uses `scp` to copy the entire dump to a file `/dumps/dump.elf` in the file system of another system, `dumpstore`:
     ```
     # scp /proc/vmcore user@dumpstore:/dumps/dump.elf
     ```
   - This example uses `makedumpfile` to copy a compressed and filtered version of the dump to a file `/dumps/dump.kdump` in the Linux file system:
     ```
     # makedumpfile -c -d 31 /proc/vmcore /dumps/dump.kdump
     ```
   - This example uses `makedumpfile` to copy a compressed and filtered version of the dump to a file `/dumps/dump.kdump` in the file system of another system, `dumpstore`:
     ```
     # makedumpfile -F -c -d 31 /proc/vmcore | ssh user@dumpstore "cat > /dumps/dump.kdump"
     ```

The `makedumpfile -c` option compresses the dump, the `-F` option converts it to the flat format required for transferring the file, and `-d` filters unwanted data from the dump. The number that follows `-d` must be in the range 0 through 31. The number represents a bit mask that specifies which page types to filter out. For more details, see the man page for `makedumpfile`. 

12 Using the Dump Tools - Kernel 4.0
4. Issue reboot, to start the production system again.

Results

You can now analyze the dump with crash.
Chapter 3. Using a DASD dump device

To use a DASD dump device, you need to install the stand-alone DASD dump tool and perform the dump process. Then, copy the dump to a file in a Linux file system.

DASD dumps are written directly to a DASD partition that is not formatted with a file system. The following DASD types are supported:

- ECKD DASDs
  - 3380
  - 3390
- FBA DASDs

Installing the DASD dump tool

Install the DASD dump tool on an unused DASD partition. Dumps are written to this partition.

Before you begin

You need an unused DASD partition with enough space (memory size + 10 MB) to hold the system memory. If the system memory exceeds the capacity of a single DASD partition, use the multi-volume dump tool, see Chapter 4, "Using DASD devices for multi-volume dump," on page 19.

About this task

The examples assume that /dev/dasdc is the dump device and that we want to dump to the first partition /dev/dasdc1.

The steps you need to perform for installing the DASD dump tool depend on your type of DASD, ECKD or FBA:

- If you are using an ECKD-type DASD, perform all three of the following steps.
- If you are using an FBA-type DASD, skip steps 1 and 2 and perform step 3 only.

Procedure

1. (ECKD only) Format your DASD with dasdfmt. Use a block size of 4 KB. For example:

   # dasdfmt -f /dev/dasdc -b 4096

2. (ECKD only) Create a partition with fdasd. The partition must be sufficiently large (the memory size + 10 MB). For example:

   # fdasd /dev/dasdc

3. Install the dump tool using the zipl command. You can specify the dump device on the command line or use a configuration file. Command line example:

   # zipl -d /dev/dasdc1
Configuration file example:

a. Edit /etc/zipl.conf to add the following lines:
   
   [dump_dasd]
   dump0=/dev/dasdc1

b. Issue:

   # zipl dump_dasd

Note: When using an ECKD-type DASD formatted with the traditional Linux
   disk layout ldl, the dump tool must be reinstalled using zipl after each dump.

Initiating a DASD dump

You can initiate a dump from a DASD device.

Procedure

To obtain a dump with the DASD dump tool, perform the following main steps:
1. Stop all CPUs.
2. Store status on the IPL CPU.
3. IPL the dump tool on the IPL CPU.

Note: Do not clear storage!

The dump process can take several minutes depending on the device type you
   are using and the amount of system memory. After the dump has completed,
   the IPL CPU should go into disabled wait.

The following PSW indicates that the dump process has completed successfully:

(64-bit) PSW: 00020000 80000000 00000000 00000000

Any other disabled wait PSW indicates an error.

After the dump tool is IPLed, messages that indicate the progress of the dump
   are written to the console:

   Dumping 64 bit OS
   00000032 / 00000256 MB
   00000064 / 00000256 MB
   00000096 / 00000256 MB
   00000128 / 00000256 MB
   00000160 / 00000256 MB
   00000192 / 00000256 MB
   00000224 / 00000256 MB
   00000256 / 00000256 MB
   Dump successful

Results

You can IPL Linux again.

See Appendix A, “Examples for initiating dumps,” on page 47 for more details.

Copying the dump from DASD with zgetdump

You can copy a DASD dump to a file system using the zgetdump tool.
About this task

By default, the zgetdump tool takes the dump device as input and writes its contents to standard output. To write the dump to a file system, you must redirect the output to a file.

Procedure

Assuming that the dump is on DASD device /dev/dasdc1 and you want to copy it to a file named dump.elf:

```
# zgetdump /dev/dasdc1 > dump.elf
```

What to do next

You can use zgetdump to display information about the dump. See “Checking whether a DASD dump is valid and printing the dump header” on page 61 for an example.

For general information about zgetdump, see “The zgetdump tool” on page 57 or the man page.
Chapter 4. Using DASD devices for multi-volume dump

You can handle large dumps, up to the combined size of 32 DASD partitions, by creating dumps across multiple volumes.

Before you begin

You need to prepare a set of ECKD DASD devices for a multivolume dump, install the stand-alone dump tool on each DASD device involved, perform the dump process, and copy the dump to a file in a Linux file system.

About this task

Multi-volume dumps are possible on 64-bit systems only.

You can specify up to 32 partitions on ECKD DASD volumes for a multivolume dump. The dump tool is installed on each volume involved. The volumes must be:

- In subchannel set 0.
- Formatted with the compatible disk layout (cdl, the default option when using the `dasdfmt` command.)

You must specify block size 4096 for `dasdfmt`.

For example, Figure 3 shows three DASD volumes, `dasdb`, `dasdc`, and `dasdd`, with four partitions selected to contain the dump. To earmark the partition for dump, a dump signature is written to each partition.

![Diagram of DASD volumes](image)

**Legend:**
- Dump tool
- Earmarked for dump

*Figure 3. Three DASD volumes with four partitions for a multivolume dump*

The partitions need to be listed in a configuration file, for example:
You can define a maximum of three partitions on one DASD. All three volumes are prepared for IPL; regardless of which you use the result is the same.

The following sections will take you through the entire process of creating a multi-volume dump.

### Installing the multi-volume DASD dump tool

This example shows how to perform the dump process on two partitions, `/dev/dasdc1` and `/dev/dasdd1`, which reside on ECKD volumes `/dev/dasdc` and `/dev/dasdd`.

#### About this task

Assume that the corresponding bus IDs (as displayed by `lsslrd`) are 0.0.4711 and 0.0.4712, so the respective device numbers are 4711 and 4712.

#### Procedure

1. Format both dump volumes with `dasdfmt`. The command shown uses the default cdl (compatible disk layout) and specifies a block size of 4KB.

   ```
   # dasdfmt -f /dev/dasdc -b 4096
   # dasdfmt -f /dev/dasdd -b 4096
   ```

2. Create the partitions with `fdasd`. The sum of the partition sizes must be sufficiently large (the memory size + 10 MB):

   ```
   # fdasd /dev/dasdc
   # fdasd /dev/dasdd
   ```

3. Create a file named `mvdump.conf` containing the device nodes of the two partitions, separated by one or more line feed characters (0x0a). The file's contents are as follows:

   ```
   /dev/dasdc1
   /dev/dasdd1
   ```

4. Prepare the volumes using the `zipl` command. You can specify the dump list on the command line or use the zipl configuration file.

   **Command line example:**

   ```
   # zipl -M mvdump.conf
   ```

   Warning: All information on the following partitions will be lost!
   `/dev/dasdc1`  `/dev/dasdd1`

   Do you want to continue creating multi-volume dump partitions (y/n)?

   **zipl configuration file example:***

   a. Copy `mvdump.conf` to `/boot/mvdump.conf` and edit `/etc/zipl.conf` to add the following lines:
b. Issue:

```bash
# zipl multi_volume_dump
```

## Results

Now the two volumes `/dev/dasdc` and `/dev/dasdd` with device numbers 4711 and 4712 are prepared for a multi-volume dump. Use the `-device` option of `zgetdump` to display information about these volumes:

```bash
# zgetdump -d /dev/dasdc
Dump device info:
  Dump tool.........: Multi-volume DASD dump tool
  Version...........: 2
  Architecture.....: s390x (64 bit)
  Dump size limit..: none
  Force specified..: no
  Volume 0: 0.0.4711 (online/valid)
  Volume 1: 0.0.4712 (online/valid)
```

During `zipl` processing both partitions were earmarked for dump with a valid dump signature. The dump signature ceases to be valid when data other than dump data is written to the partition. For example, writing a file system to the partition overwrites the dump signature. Before writing memory to a partition, the dump tool checks the partition’s signature and exits if the signature is invalid. Thus any data inadvertently written to the partition is protected.

You can circumvent this protection, for example, if you want to use a swap space partition for dumping, by using the `zipl` command with the `--force` option. This option inhibits the dump signature check, and any data on the device is overwritten. Exercise great caution when using the force option.

The `zipl` command also takes a size specification, see Appendix B, “Obtaining a dump with limited size,” on page 55. For more details about the `zipl` command, see Device Drivers, Features, and Commands, SC33-8411.

### Initiating a multi-volume DASD dump

After preparing the DASD volumes, you can initiate a multi-volume dump by performing an IPL from one of the prepared volumes.

**Procedure**

To obtain a dump with the multivolume DASD dump tool, perform the following main steps:

1. Stop all CPUs.
2. Store status on the IPL CPU.
3. IPL the dump tool using one of the prepared volumes, either 4711 or 4712.

**Note:** Do not clear storage!
The dump process can take several minutes depending on each volume's block size and the amount of system memory. After the dump has completed, the IPL CPU should go into disabled wait.

The following PSW indicates that the dump process has completed successfully:

(64-bit) PSW: 00020000 80000000 00000000 00000000

Any other disabled wait PSW indicates an error.

After the dump tool is IPLed, messages that indicate the progress of the dump are written to the console:

```
Dumping 64 bit OS
Dumping to: 4711
00000128 / 00001024 MB
00000256 / 00001024 MB
00000384 / 00001024 MB
00000512 / 00001024 MB
Dumping to: 4712
00000640 / 00001024 MB
00000768 / 00001024 MB
00000896 / 00001024 MB
00001024 / 00001024 MB
Dump successful
```

4. You can IPL Linux again.

---

### Copying a multi-volume dump to a file

Use the `zgetdump` command to copy the multi-volume dump.

**About this task**

This example assumes that the two volumes `/dev/dasdc` and `/dev/dasdd` (with device numbers 4711 and 4712) contain the dump. Dump data is spread along partitions `/dev/dasdc1` and `/dev/dasdd1`.

**Procedure**

Use `zgetdump` without any options to copy the dump parts to a file:

```
# zgetdump /dev/dasdc > dump.elf
```

Format Info:
- Source: s390mv
- Target: elf

Copying dump:

```
00000000 / 00001024 MB
00000171 / 00001024 MB
00000341 / 00001024 MB
00000512 / 00001024 MB
00000683 / 00001024 MB
00000853 / 00001024 MB
00001024 / 00001024 MB
```

Success: Dump has been copied

If you want to only check the validity of the multivolume dump rather than copying it to a file, use the `-info` option with `zgetdump`. See "Checking whether a DASD dump is valid and printing the dump header" on page 61 for an example.
Chapter 5. Using a tape dump device

You can use a channel-attached tape as a dump device. To use a tape, you need to install the stand-alone tape dump tool and perform the dump process. Then, copy the dump to a file in a Linux file system.

The following tape devices are supported:

- 3480
- 3490
- 3590
- 3592

The following sections take you through the entire process of creating a dump on a tape device.

Installing the tape dump tool

Install the tape dump tool on the tape that is to hold the dump.

Before you begin

Have enough empty tapes ready to hold the system memory (memory size + 10 MB).

About this task

The examples assume that /dev/ntibm0 is the tape device you want to dump to.

Procedure

1. Insert an empty dump cartridge into your tape device.
2. Ensure that the tape is rewound.
3. Install the dump tool using the zipl command. Specify the dump device on the command line. For example:

   # zipl -d /dev/ntibm0

Initiating a tape dump

Initiate a tape dump by performing an IPL on the IPL CPU.

Procedure

To obtain a dump with the tape dump tool, perform the following main steps:

1. Ensure that the tape is rewound.
2. Stop all CPUs.
3. Store status on the IPL CPU.
4. IPL the dump tool on the IPL CPU.

Note: Do not clear storage!
The dump tool writes the number of dumped MB to the tape drive message display.

The dump process can take several minutes, depending on the device type you are using and the amount of system memory available. When the dump is complete, the message dump*end is displayed and the IPL CPU should go into disabled wait.

The following PSW indicates that the dump was taken successfully:

(64-bit) PSW: 00020000 80000000 00000000 00000000

Any other disabled wait PSW indicates an error.

After the dump tool is IPLed, messages that indicate the progress of the dump are written to the console:

Dumping 64 bit OS
00000032 / 00000256 MB
00000064 / 00000256 MB
00000096 / 00000256 MB
00000128 / 00000256 MB
00000160 / 00000256 MB
00000192 / 00000256 MB
00000224 / 00000256 MB
00000256 / 00000256 MB

Dump successful

5. You can IPL Linux again.

What to do next

See Appendix A, “Examples for initiating dumps,” on page 47 for more details.

Tape display messages

Messages might be shown on the tape display.

Messages

*number

The number of MB dumped.

dump*end

The dump process ended successfully.

Copying the dump from tape

You can copy a tape dump to a file system using the zgetdump tool.

Before you begin

You must have installed the mt utility.

Preparing the dump tape

You need to rewind the tape, and find the correct position on the tape to start copying from.

About this task

Use the mt tool to manipulate the tape.
**Procedure**

1. Rewind the tape.
   
   For example:
   
   ```bash
   # mt -f /dev/ntibm0 rewind
   ```

2. Skip the first file on the tape (this is the dump tool itself).
   
   For example:
   
   ```bash
   # mt -f /dev/ntibm0 fsf
   ```

**Using the zgetdump tool to copy the dump**

Use the `zgetdump` tools to copy the dump file from the tape to a file system.

**Before you begin**

The tape must be in the correct position (see "Preparing the dump tape" on page 24).

**About this task**

By default, the `zgetdump` tool takes the dump device as input and writes its contents to standard output. To write the dump to a file system you must redirect the output to a file.

The example assumes the dump is on tape device `/dev/ntibm0`

**Procedure**

Copy the dump from tape to a file named `dump.elf` in the file system:

```bash
# zgetdump /dev/ntibm0 > dump.elf
```

For general information on `zgetdump`, see "The zgetdump tool" on page 57 or the man page.

**Checking whether a dump is valid, and printing the dump header**

To check whether a dump is valid, use the `zgetdump` command with the `-i` option.

**Procedure**

1. Ensure that the volume is loaded.
2. Skip the first file on the tape (this is the dump tool itself):
   
   ```bash
   # mt -f /dev/ntibm0 fsf
   ```
3. Issue the `zgetdump` command with the `-i` option:
   
   ```bash
   # zgetdump -i /dev/ntibm0
   ```

   The `zgetdump` command goes through the dump until it reaches the end. See also "Using zgetdump to copy a tape dump" on page 60."
Chapter 6. Using a SCSI dump device

To use a SCSI dump device you need to install the stand-alone SCSI dump tool, perform the dump process, and copy the dump to a file in a Linux file system.

Installing the SCSI disk dump tool

You install the SCSI dump tool with the `zipl` command.

**Before you begin**

The dump partition needs enough free space (memory size + 10 MB) to hold the system memory.

**Example**

A partition on a SCSI device is used as dump partition.

**About this task**

This example assumes that `/dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0` is the dump device, and that you want to dump to the first partition, `/dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0-part1`. Always use multipath devices instead of single path SCSI disk device nodes, if possible.

**Procedure**

1. Create a partition with `fdisk` or `parted`, using the PC-BIOS or GPT layout.
   For example:
   ```
   # fdisk /dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0
   ```

2. Install the dump tool by using the `zipl` command. You can specify the dump device on the command line or use a configuration file.

   **Command line example:**
   ```
   # zipl -d /dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0-part1
   ```

   **Configuration file example:**
   a. Edit `/etc/zipl.conf` to add the following lines:
   ```
   [scsidump]
   dumpTo=/dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0-part1
   ```
   b. Issue `zipl`:
   ```
   # zipl scsidump
   ```

**Results**

When you perform an IPL from `/dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0` by using boot program selector 1 or 0 (default), the memory dump is written directly to partition 1 of `/dev/mapper/36005076303ff40100000000000020c0`. The
boot program selector is located on the load panel, see Figure 6 on page 52 for an example.

Initiating a SCSI dump

To initiate the dump, IPL the SCSI dump tool using the SCSI dump load type.

About this task

The dump process can take several minutes depending on the device type you are using and the amount of system memory. The dump progress and any error messages are reported on the operating system messages console.

Procedure

IPL the SCSI dump tool.
See Appendix A, “Examples for initiating dumps,” on page 47 for more details.

Results

The dump process copies the dump to the dump partition.

When the dump completes successfully, you can IPL Linux again.

You can now extract the dump from the dump partition into a file.

Copying the dump from SCSI disks with zgetdump

You can copy a SCSI dump to a file system using the zgetdump tool.

About this task

By default, the zgetdump tool takes the dump device as input and writes its contents to standard output. To write the dump to a file system, you must redirect the output to a file.

Procedure

Assuming that the dump is on SCSI device /dev/mapper/36005076303ff4d01000000000020c0-part1 and you want to copy it to a file named dump.elf:

```
# zgetdump /dev/mapper/36005076303ff4d01000000000020c0-part1 > dump.elf
```

What to do next

You can use zgetdump to display information about the dump. See "Checking whether a SCSI dump is valid and printing the dump header" on page 62 for an example. For general information about zgetdump, see "The zgetdump tool" on page 57 or the man page.

Printing the SCSI dump header

To print the dump file header, use zgetdump with the -i option.
Procedure

Specify the `zgetdump` command with the `-i` option:

```
# zgetdump -i /dev/mapper/36005076303ff64010000000000000002c0-part1
General dump info:
  Dump format.......: elf
  Version............: 1
  UTS node name......: mylnxsys
  UTS kernel release.: 3.3.0
  UTS kernel version.: #68 SMP PREEMPT Thu Mar 20 10:21:30 CET 2014
  System arch........: s390x (64 bit)
  CPU count (online)..: 3
  Dump memory range..: 768 MB

Memory map:
  0000000000000000 - 00000000000000000000 (768 MB)
```
Chapter 7. Creating dumps on z/VM with VMDUMP

Use VMDUMP to create dumps on z/VM systems, using the z/VM reader as the dump medium.

About this task

Do not use VMDUMP to dump large z/VM guests; the dump process is very slow. Dumping 1 GB of storage can take up to 15 minutes depending on the used storage server and z/VM version.

This section describes how to create a dump with VMDUMP, how to transfer the dump to Linux, and how to convert the z/VM dump to a convenient format.

VMDUMP does not need to be installed separately.

Initiating a dump with VMDUMP

Start the VMDUMP process with the CP VMDUMP command.

Procedure

Issue the following command from the 3270 console of the z/VM guest virtual machine:

```bash
#CP VMDUMP
```

Results

z/VM CP temporarily stops the z/VM guest virtual machine and creates a dump file. The dump file is stored in the reader of the z/VM guest virtual machine. After the dump is complete, the Linux on z/VM instance continues operating.

You can use the TO option of the VMDUMP command to direct the dump to the reader of another guest virtual machine of the same z/VM system.

Example

To write the dump to the reader of z/VM guest virtual machine linux02 issue:

```bash
#CP VMDUMP TO LINUX02
```

For more information about VMDUMP refer to z/VM CP Commands and Utilities Reference, SC24-6175.

Copying the dump to Linux

Copy the dump from the z/VM reader using the vmur command.

Procedure

1. Find the spool ID of the VMDUMP spool file in the output of the vmur li command:
In the example the required **VMDUMP** file spool ID is 463.

2. Copy the dump into your Linux file system using the `vmur receive` command. To convert the dump into a format that can be processed with the Linux dump analysis tool **crash**, convert the dump using the `--convert` option:

```
# vmur rec 463 -c myvmdump
vmdump information:
  architecture: 64 bit (big)
  storage.....: 256 MB
  date.........: Thu Feb  5 08:39:48 2009
  cpus.........: 1
  256 of  256 |###########################################################| 100%
```

### Results

The created file, named `myvmdump`, can now be used as input to **crash**.
Chapter 8. Creating live-system dumps with zgetdump

If you require a kernel dump of a Linux, but no downtime is acceptable, you can create a kernel dump from a live system without disruption.

Because the Linux system continues running while the dump is written, and kernel data structures are changing during the dump process, the resulting dump contains inconsistencies. The faster the dump process completes, the fewer inconsistencies the resulting live-system dump will contain. Therefore, run the dump process with the highest acceptable priority.

You can change the scheduling priority with the nice command. For example, use `nice -n -20` to set the highest possible priority.

Creating a kernel dump on a live system

You can create non-disruptive kernel dumps on a running Linux system with the zgetdump tool.

**Before you begin**

- A Linux kernel image that was compiled with the common code kernel configuration option CONFIG_STRICT_DEVMEM=n.
- The dump directory needs enough free space (memory size + 10 MB) to hold the system memory.
- Ensure that during the dump process no memory hotplug or CPU hotplug is performed.
- If applicable, stop the cpuplugd service by issuing the command: `service cpuplugd stop`.

**Procedure**

1. Optional: Use the `-i` option to print information for the currently running Linux image:

   ```
   # zgetdump -i /dev/mem
   General dump info:
   Dump format.......: devmem
   Dump method........: live
   UTS node name.....: mylnxsys
   UTS kernel release.: 3.3.0
   UTS kernel version.: #68 SMP PREEMPT Thu Mar 22 10:21:30 CET 2012
   System arch........: s390x (64 bit)
   Dump memory range..: 512 MB
   Memory map:
   0000000000000000 - 0000000000000000 (512 MB)
   ```

2. Create a dump from a live system by specifying `/dev/mem` as input dump and redirecting the output to a dump file. Run the dump process with a high priority.

   ```
   # nice -n -20 zgetdump /dev/mem > dump.elf
   ```

3. Optional: Print information for the live-system dump. Use the `-i` option to print information for live-system dumps that are generated by `zgetdump`:
The value "live" in the **Dump method** field indicates that this is a dump from a live system.

**Example**

```bash
# nice -n -20 zgetdump /dev/mem > dump.elf
Format Info:
Source: devmem
Target: elf
Copying dump:
00000000 / 00000512 MB
00000110 / 00000512 MB
...
00000512 / 00000512 MB
Success: Dump has been copied
```

**What to do next**

After you create a dump from a live system, you can work with crash, see "Opening a live-system dump with the crash tool."

**Opening a live-system dump with the crash tool**

Inconsistencies in a kernel dump from a live system can cause some crash commands to fail.

**Procedure**

- Use the `crash` command to find information about whether a dump is from a live system. This information is displayed in the startup messages, or when you use the `sys` command:

  ```bash
  # crash dump.elf vmlinux vmlinux.debug
  ...
  KERNEL: /boot/vmlinux
  DUMPFILE: /mnt/dump.elf [LIVE DUMP]
  CPUS: 6
  ...
  crash> sys | grep DUMPFILE
  ...
  DUMPFILE: dump.elf [LIVE DUMP]
  ```

  The tag [LIVE DUMP] informs you that the dump contains inconsistencies.

- Detect whether a dump is from a live system by using the `help -p` command:
Use the --minimal option if the crash tool fails to start because of inconsistent data structures in the kernel dump. With this option, crash tolerates a degree of inconsistency. However, only a subset of crash commands is then available:

```bash
# crash --minimal dump.elf /linux /linux.debug
```

NOTE: minimal mode commands: log, dis, rd, sym, eval, set and exit
Chapter 9. Handling large dumps

Methods exist for handling memory dumps that are especially large (greater than 10 GB in size).

Before you begin

The preferred method for handling dumps of large production systems is to use kdump. With kdump, you do not need to set up a dedicated dump device with a dump tool for each individual system. Instead, set aside storage space to receive any dumps from across your installation. When you use kdump, the information here applies if you want to set up a backup dump method for a critical system with a large memory.

About this task

Large dumps present a challenge as they:

- Take up a large amount of disk space
- Take a long time when dumping
- Use considerable network bandwidth when being sent to the service organization.

Note: Sometimes you can re-create the problem on a test system with less memory, which makes the dump handling much easier. Take this option into account before creating a large dump.

Procedure

1. Choose a dump device. If you want to dump a system with a large memory footprint, you have to prepare a dump device that is large enough. You can use the following dump devices for large dumps:
   
   **Single-volume DASD**
   - 3390 model 9 (up to 45 GB)
   - 3390 model A (up to 180 GB)

   **Multi-volume DASD**
   - Up to 32 DASDs are possible.
   - 32 x 3390 model 9 (up to 1.4 TB)
   - 32 x 3390 model A (up to 5.7 TB)

   **z/VM emulated FBA device that represents a real SCSI device**
   FBA disks can be defined with the CP command SET EDEVICE. These disks can be used as single-volume DASD dump disks. The SCSI disk size depends on your storage server setup.

   **SCSI dump**
   The SCSI disk size depends on your storage server setup. For SCSI dump partitions greater than 2 TB, you must use the GPT disk layout.

   **Dump on 3592 channel-attached tape drive**
   Cartridges with up to 300 GB capacity.

   Do not use VMDUMP for large systems, because this dump method is very slow.

2. Estimate the dump time. The dump speed depends on your environment, for example your SAN setup and your storage server. Assuming about 100 MB per second dump speed on DASDs or SCSI disks and a system with 50 GB
memory, the dump takes about eight minutes. Do a test dump on your system to determine the dump speed for it. Then, you have an indication of how long a dump takes in case of emergency.

3. Reduce the dump size. For transferring dumps in a short amount of time to a service organization, it is often useful to reduce the dump size or split the dump into several parts for easier and faster transmission. To reduce the dump, choose one of these methods:

- "Compressing a dump using makedumpfile"
- "Compressing a dump using gzip and split" on page 39

4. Send the dump.

Compressing a dump using makedumpfile

Use the makedumpfile tool (version 1.3.7 or higher) can be used to compress s390 dumps and exclude memory pages that are not needed for analysis. Alternatively, you can use the gzip and split commands.

About this task

Compressing the dump substantially reduces the size of dump files and the amount of time needed to transmit them from one location to another. Because makedumpfile expects as input dump files in ELF format, you first have to transform your s390 format dump to ELF format. This is best done by mounting the dump using the zgetdump command.

Procedure

1. Mount the dump in ELF format by performing one of these steps:

- To mount a DASD dump from the partition /dev/dasdb1 to /mnt, issue:
  ```
  # zgetdump -m /dev/dasdb1 /mnt
  ```

- To mount a SCSI dump from the partition /dev/mapper/36005076303ff4010000000000020c0-part1 to /mnt, issue:
  ```
  # zgetdump -m /dev/mapper/36005076303ff4010000000000020c0-part1 /mnt
  ```

2. Create a file with a filtered and compressed version of the dump.

Use the makedumpfile -d (dump level) option to excludes pages that are typically not needed to analyze a kernel problem. For dump level 31, pages containing only zeroes, pages used to cache file contents (cache, cache private), pages belonging to user-space processes, and free pages are all excluded.

See the man page for makedumpfile for a description of the dump level and other options of makedumpfile.

The following command accesses a dump at /mnt/dump.elf filters it with dump level 31, compresses it, and writes it to a file /dumps/dump.kdump:

```
# makedumpfile -c -d 31 /mnt/dump.elf /dumps/dump.kdump
```

You might want to retain a copy of the original dump file until the problem is resolved. This reserves the option to create further copies at different dump levels should any of the excluded pages be required for problem determination.

3. Optional: For initial problem analysis, you can also extract the kernel log with makedumpfile, and send it to your service organization:
# makedumpfile --dump-dmesg /mnt/dump.elf /dumps/kernel.log

What to do next

After you have used `makedumpfile`, you can unmount the dump:

```
# zgetdump -u /mnt
```

## Compressing a dump using gzip and split

Use the `gzip` and `split` commands to compress the dump and split it into parts. Alternatively, you can use the `makedumpfile` command.

### Procedure

1. Compress the dump and split it into parts of one GB using the `gzip` and `split` commands.
   - For a DASD dump:
     ```
     # zgetdump /dev/dasdd1 | gzip | split -b 1G
     ```
   - For a tape dump:
     ```
     # mt -f /dev/ntibm0 rewind
     # mt -f /dev/ntibm0 fsf
     # zgetdump /dev/ntibm0 | gzip | split -b 1G
     ```
   - For a SCSI dump:
     ```
     # cat /mnt/dump.0 | gzip | split -b 1G
     ```

   This will create several compressed files in your current directory:
   ```
   # ls
   # xaa xab xac xad xae
   ```

2. Create md5 sums of parts:
   ```
   # md5sum * > dump.md5
   ```

3. Upload the parts together with the MD5 information to the service organization.

4. The receiver (the service organization) must do the following:
   a. Verify md5 sums:
      ```
      # cd dumpdir
      # md5sum -c dump.md5
      xaa: OK
      xab: OK
      ...
      ```
   b. Merge parts and uncompress the dump:
      ```
      # cat x* | gunzip -c > dump
      ```
Chapter 10. Sharing dump devices

For reasons of economy, you might want to share dump devices rather than setting up a dedicated dump device for each Linux instance.

This section applies to sharing dump devices that have been set up with stand-alone dump tools.

With kdump, you can transmit the dump through a network and use existing mechanisms to prevent conflicts when concurrently writing multiple dumps to a shared persistent storage space. VMDUMP uses z/VM resources to hold the initial dump and the integrity of each dump is handled by the z/VM system.

Serialization and device locking

To share devices, some kind of serialization is needed to prevent two systems from dumping at the same time and thus corrupting the dumps.

Either the involved operators must prevent concurrent dumps manually, or, in some cases, available system mechanisms can be used to prevent this. It is possible in many cases to use a pool of devices for sharing. For the sake of simplicity, most of the following examples use only one dump device.

Possible serialization mechanisms:

External
Operators must find an external way to ensure serialization manually.

Link
Exclusive write for minidisk is used as a locking mechanism (see “Sharing DASD devices under z/VM” on page 42).

Attach
Attach and detach is used as locking mechanism (see “Sharing DASD devices under z/VM” on page 42).

vmcmd
Use the vmcmd panic action (see “DASD (vmcmd panic action)” on page 43).

Alternatively, use no serialization and take the risk that dumps are overwritten, see “DASD (dump or dump_reipl panic action)” on page 43.

Table 4 shows the serialization methods available for different system configurations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disk type</th>
<th>DASD</th>
<th>SCSI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>z/VM</td>
<td>LPAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manual dump</td>
<td>link, attach, external</td>
<td>attach, external</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic dump</td>
<td>overwrite, vmcmd</td>
<td>overwrite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sharing devices when dumping manually

In the following, it is assumed that you start the dump process manually, without using automatic dump on panic.

Sharing DASD devices on LPARs

Configure your IOCDS so that all LPARs that want to share the dump device can access the DASD device. There is no system mechanism available for serialization. Exclusive access must be ensured manually by the involved system operators.

Sharing DASD devices under z/VM

Under z/VM, DASD devices can be shared if they are defined as shareable minidisks for a NOLOG user.

About this task

Exclusive access can be guaranteed by the link CP command using the exclusive write mode option. With this mode only one DASD can be linked to one z/VM guest virtual machine at the same time. Therefore, the dump device is excluded from other systems until it is detached.

Procedure

To create a dump after a system crash, perform these steps:
1. To link the dump device, issue a command of the form:

   `#cp link <disk owner> <vdev1> <vdev2> EW`

   where
   • `<disk owner>` is the user ID in the system directory whose entry is to be searched for device `<vdev1>`.
   • `<vdev1>` is the specified user's virtual device number.
   • `<vdev2>` is the virtual device number that is to be assigned to the device for your virtual machine configuration.

2. Create the dump with device `<vdev2>`
3. Reboot your Linux system.
4. On your Linux system, set dump device `<vdev2>` online.
5. On your Linux system, copy the dump using the zgetdump.
6. On your Linux system, set dump device `<vdev2>` offline.
7. Detach the dump device:

   `#cp detach <vdev2>`

Results

The dump DASD is free again and can be used by other systems.

Sharing SCSI devices

You can share SCSI devices for dumping from multiple Linux systems.
You can share FCP-attached SCSI disks for dump. The disks must be accessible through your SAN on all Linux systems that want to use the dump device. The involved operators must ensure manually that two dumps are not taking place at the same time. If multiple Linux systems write to the shared dump device at the same time, you might corrupt the dump.

**Using attach and detach as locking mechanism under z/VM**

For your shared dump devices, you can use attach and detach as a locking mechanism.

At any time, only one z/VM guest virtual machine can attach a device. A Linux instance that runs as a guest of a class B z/VM guest virtual machine can lock a shared dump device by attaching it. If you use one single FCP adapter for dumps on all systems, attach and detach can also be used as locking mechanism for SCSI dump.

**Sharing devices when dumping automatically**

You can configure a memory dump to be created automatically if a kernel panic occurs.

**About this task**

The automatic dump on panic can be configured in `/etc/sysconfig/dumpconf` (see "The dumpconf service" on page 62).

**DASD (dump or dump_reipl panic action)**

It is possible to share DASD devices for automatic dump on panic, but there is no serialization mechanism available.

**About this task**

As there is no serialization mechanism available, two systems that dump at the same time might corrupt the memory dumps. Normally, system crashes are rare and therefore the chance of corrupted dumps is low, but you must consider carefully if this risk is acceptable. Such a dump setup is a trade-off between reliability and resource expenses. You must consider the likelihood of two concurrent system crashes and the business impact of losing a dump.

**Procedure**

To share DASDs under z/VM, you must use minidisks that are linked in access mode multiple-write (MW) to all systems where you want to configure dump on panic.

**DASD (vmcmd panic action)**

You can specify up to eight CP commands in a configuration file. These commands run if a kernel panic occurs.

**Before you begin**

Define minidisks 4e1 and 4e2 with disk owner user SHARDISK and prepare them as dump DASDs.
**About this task**

With z/VM, you can use the panic action `vmcmd` in `/etc/sysconfig/dumpconf` to specify up to eight commands that are run in case of a kernel panic. You can use this mechanism to implement locking through the exclusive link or attach method.

In this example, assume that we want to link either 4e1 or 4e2 as device number 5000 and then create the dump using device 5000. The first free DASD is linked. If both devices are already linked to other z/VM guest virtual machines, the system stops without creating a dump.

**Procedure**

The corresponding configuration for `/etc/sysconfig/dumpconf` looks like this:

```
ON_PANIC=vmcmd
VMCMD_1="LINK SHARDISK 4E1 5000 EW"
VMCMD_2="LINK SHARDISK 4E2 5000 EW"
VMCMD_3="STORE STATUS"
VMCMD_4="IPL 5000"
```

**Results**

After the dump process has finished, you must perform an IPL on the Linux system manually, copy the dump, and detach disk 5000.

Compared to "DASD (dump or dump_reipl panic action)" on page 43, this option has the advantage that you cannot get corrupted dumps, and you can use more than one dump device. It has the disadvantage that automatic re-IPL is not possible.

**FCP-attached SCSI devices**

Device sharing for automatic dumps is risky when using FCP-attached devices.

If multiple Linux systems write to the shared dump device at the same time, you might corrupt the dump partition.

**Sharing dump devices between different versions of Linux**

Do not share dump devices between Linux installations with different major releases.

For example, do not share dump devices between SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12, or between Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.

You can share dump devices between Linux installations with different service levels. Prepare the dump device with the `zipl` tool from the lowest service level. For example, if you have systems with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP1 and SP2, prepare your dump device with the `zipl` tool from the SP1 system. Newer tools such as `zgetdump` or dump analysis tools such as `crash` can always process dumps that were created with older `zipl` versions. The other way around might work, but it is not guaranteed.

**Sharing dump resources with VMDUMP**

With z/VM, you can use `VMDUMP` concurrently on different guest virtual machines.
The dump speed is slow, and therefore is best for very small systems. The shared resource here is the z/VM spool space. You must ensure that it has enough space to hold multiple dumps created by `VMDUMP`.
Appendix A. Examples for initiating dumps

You can initiate dumps from different control points, such as the z/VM 3270 console or the HMC.

z/VM

You can initiate dumps from z/VM using kdump, a DASD device, tape, a SCSI device, or VMDUMP.

About this task

The following examples assume the 64-bit mode. Corresponding 31-bit examples would have a different PSW but be the same otherwise.

Using kdump

With kdump, you do not need a dump device to initiate the dump.

Before you begin

Your Linux instance must have been set up for kdump as described in “Setting up kdump” on page 9.

Procedure

Issue the system restart z/VM CP command, for example from a 3270 terminal emulation for the Linux instance to be dumped:

```
#cp system restart
```

Boot messages for the kdump kernel indicate that the dump process has started.

Using DASD

You can initiate a dump from a DASD device.

Example

If 193 is the dump device:

```
#cp cpu all stop
#cp store status
#cp i 193
```

On z/VM, a three-processor machine in this example, you will see messages about the disabled wait:

```
01: The virtual machine is placed in CP mode due to a SIGP stop from CPU 00.
02: The virtual machine is placed in CP mode due to a SIGP stop from CPU 00.
"CP entered; disabled wait PSW 00020000 80000000 00000000 00000000"
```

You can now IPL your Linux instance and resume operations.
Using tape

You can initiate a dump under z/VM using tape.

Example

If 193 is the tape device:

```bash
# cp rewind 193
# cp cpu all stop
# cp store status
# cp i 193
```

On z/VM, a three-processor machine in this example, you will see messages about the disabled wait:

```bash
01: The virtual machine is placed in CP mode due to a SIGP stop from CPU 00.
02: The virtual machine is placed in CP mode due to a SIGP stop from CPU 00.
"CP entered; disabled wait PSW 00020000 80000000 00000000 00000000"
```

You can now IPL your Linux instance and resume operations.

Using SCSI

You can initiate a dump using a SCSI disk.

About this task

Assume your SCSI dump disk has the following parameters:

- WWPN: 4712076300ce93a7
- LUN: 4712000000000000
- FCP adapter device number: 4711

Results

Messages on the operating system console will show when the dump process is finished.

Example

```bash
# cp set dumpdev portname 47120763 00ce93a7 lun 47120000 00000000
# cp ipl 4711 dump
```

What to do next

You can now IPL your Linux instance and resume operations.

Using VMDUMP

You can initiate a dump under z/VM by using VMDUMP.

Procedure

To initialize a dump with VMDUMP, issue this command from the console of your z/VM guest virtual machine:
Results

Dumping does not force you to perform an IPL. If the Linux instance ran as required before dumping, it continues running after the dump is completed.

Dumping NSSs

You can create dumps from NSSs with VMDUMP. As of z/VM 6.3 you can also use stand-alone dump with the \texttt{nssdata} IPL option to dump NSSs.

Procedure

- To initiate a DASD or tape dump for NSS, issue this command from the console of your z/VM guest virtual machine:
  
  \texttt{#cp i <devno> nssdata}

  where \texttt{<devno>} is the device number for the dump device.

- To initiate a SCSI dump for NSS, issue this command from the console of your z/VM guest virtual machine:
  
  \texttt{#cp i <devno> dump nssdata}

  where \texttt{<devno>} is the FCP adapter device number.

HMC or SE

You can initiate a dump process on an LPAR from an HMC (Hardware Management Console) or SE (Support Element).

About this task

The following description refers to an HMC, but the steps also apply to an SE. The steps are similar for DASD, tape, and SCSI. Differences are noted where applicable. You cannot initiate a dump with \texttt{VMDUMP} from the HMC or SE.

Procedure

1. In the navigation pane of the HMC, expand Systems Management and Servers and select the mainframe system you want to work with. A table of LPARs is displayed in the content area.
2. Select the LPAR for which you want to initiate the dump.
3. In the Tasks area, expand Recovery. Proceed according to your dump tool or device:
   - If you are using kdump, click \texttt{PSW restart}. This initiates the dump process. Skip the remaining procedure, no further steps are required.
   - If you are dumping to DASD or tape, click \texttt{Stop all} in the Recovery list to stop all CPUs. Confirm when you are prompted to do so.
   - If you are dumping to a SCSI disk, skip this step and proceed with step 4 on page 50.
Figure 4 shows an example of an HMC with a selected mainframe system and LPAR. The **Load**, **PSW restart**, and **Stop all** tasks can be seen in the expanded **Recovery** list.

4. Click **Load** in the **Recovery** list to display the Load panel.

   For a dump to DASD or tape:
   a. Select **Load type** “Normal”.
   b. Select the **Store status** check box.
   c. Type the device number of the dump device into the **Load address** field.

   [Figure 5 on page 51](#) shows a Load panel with all entries and selections required to start the dump process for a DASD or tape dump device.
For a dump to SCSI disk:

a. Select **Load type** "SCSI dump".

b. Type the device number of the FCP adapter for the SCSI disk into the **Load address** field.

c. Type the World Wide Port name of the SCSI disk into the **World wide port name** field.

d. Type the Logical Unit Number of the SCSI disk into the **Logical unit number** field.

e. Type 0 in the **Boot program selector** field.

f. Accept the defaults for the remaining fields.

Figure 6 on page 52 shows a Load panel with all entries and selections required to start the SCSI dump process.
5. Click OK to start the dump process.
6. Wait until the dump process completes. Click the Operating System Messages icon for progress and error information.

Results

When the dump has completed successfully for a stand-alone dump tool, you can IPL Linux again. When using kdump, process the dump from the now running kdump kernel before the next IPL.

Triggering a dump remotely

You can trigger HMC or SE activities remotely by using the snipl command.

Before you begin

As of snipl version 2.1.9 the snipl command can be used for dump handling. The required setup for snipl usage and further details are described in Device Drivers, Features, and Commands, SC33-8411. You can dump to a DASD device or a SCSI device.

About this task

For example, assume that you have a snipl configuration file /etc/snpl.conf containing the following:
Further assume that you have prepared a dump DASD (in this example with device number 5199) with the zipl tool.

**Procedure**

Use the following `snipl` commands to write a memory dump of LPARLNX1 to the prepared DASD:

1. Stop the CPUs:

   ```
   # snipl LPARLNX1 --stop
   Server myse9.example.com from config file /etc/snipl.conf is used
                  processing......
                      LPARLNX1: acknowledged.
   ```

2. IPL the dump tool on DASD 5199, prepared with the dump tool:

   ```
   # snipl LPARLNX1 --load -A 5199 --storestatus
   Server myse9.example.com from config file /etc/snipl.conf is used
                  processing......
                      LPARLNX1: acknowledged.
   ```

3. Monitor the dump progress:

   ```
   # snipl LPARLNX1 --dialog
   LPARLNX1: acknowledged.
   Starting operating system messages interaction for
   partition  LPARLNX1 (Ctrl-D to abort):
   00000128 / 00001024 MB
   ...
   00000000 / 00001024 MB
   00001024 / 00001024 MB
   Dump successful
   ```

**Results**

The corresponding `snipl` command to write a memory dump to a SCSI disk with WWPN 500507630303c562, LUN 4010404900000000, and FCP adapter 5000 is:

```
# snipl LPRLNX05 --scsidump -A 5000 --wwpn_scsiload 500507630303c562 --lun_scsiload 4010404900000000
Server myse5.example.com from config file /etc/snipl.conf is used
                  processing...
                      LPRLNX05: acknowledged.
```

**Testing automatic dump-on-panic**

Cause a kernel panic to confirm that your dump configuration is set up to automatically create a dump if a kernel panic occurs.

**Before you begin**

You need a Linux instance with active magic sysrequest functions.
**Procedure**

Crash the kernel with a forced kernel panic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your method for triggering the magic sysrequest function is:</th>
<th>Enter:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A command on the 3270 terminal or line-mode terminal on the HMC</td>
<td>(^-c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A command on the hvc0 terminal device</td>
<td>Ctrl+o c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing to procfs</td>
<td>echo c &gt; /proc/sysrq-trigger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Ctrl+o means pressing o while holding down the control key. See *Device Drivers, Features, and Commands*, SC33-8411 for more details about the magic sysrequest functions.

**Results**

The production system crashes. If kdmp is set up correctly, the kdmp kernel is booted and the dump can be accessed through */proc/vmcore*. 
Appendix B. Obtaining a dump with limited size

The `mem` kernel parameter can make Linux use less memory than is available to it. A dump of a Linux system like this does not need to include the unused memory. You can use the `zipl` size option to limit the amount of memory that is dumped.

About this task

This section does not apply to kdump.

The `size` option is available for all `zipl` based dumps except SCSI: DASD and tape, in command line mode, or in configuration file mode. The `size` option is appended to the dump device specification with a comma as separator.

The value is a decimal number that can optionally be suffixed with K for kilobytes, M for megabytes, or G for gigabytes. Values specified in byte or kilobyte are rounded to the next megabyte boundary.

Be sure not to make the dump size smaller than the amount of memory actually used by the system to be dumped. Limiting the dump size to less than the amount of used memory results in an incomplete dump.

Example

The following command prepares a DASD dump device for a dump that is limited to 100 megabyte:

```
# zipl -d /dev/dasdc1,100M
```

An equivalent section in a configuration file could look like this:

```
[dump1]
dumpto=/dev/dasdc1,100M
```
Appendix C. Command summary

The descriptions of the commands contain only the relevant options and parameters, for a full description refer to the man pages.

- **The zgetdump tool**
- **The dumpconf service**
- **The crash tool**
- **The vmconvert tool**
- **The vmur tool” on page 66**

The zgetdump tool

The *zgetdump* tool copies a source dump into a target dump with a configurable dump format. The source dump can be located either on a dump device or on a file system. The source dump content is written to standard output, unless you redirect it to a specific file. You can also mount the dump content, print dump information, check whether a DASD device contains a valid dump tool, or create a non-disruptive kernel dump on a live system.

**Before you begin:** Mounting is implemented with fuse (file system in user space). Therefore the fuse kernel module must to be loaded before you can use the `-m` option.

**zgetdump syntax**

```
-zgetdump

<dump> [ -f elf ] [ -s <system> ] [ -f s390 ] [ > <dump_file> ]

-m <dump> [ -f elf ] [ -s <system> ] [ -f s390 ] [ > <dir> ]

-i <dump> [ -f elf ] [ -s <system> ] [ -f s390 ]

d <dumpdevice>
-u <dir>
-h
-v
```

**Parameters**

- **<dump>**
  
is the file, DASD device or partition, tape device, or live system device node where the source dump is located:
  
  - Regular dump file (for example /testdir/dump.0)
  - DASD partition device node (for example /dev/dasdc1)
  - DASD device node for multivolume dump (for example /dev/dasdc)
- Tape device node (for example /dev/ntibm0)
- Device node for live system (/dev/mem)

**Note:** For a DASD multivolume dump it is sufficient to specify only one of the multivolume DASDs as `<dump>`.

**<dump_file>**
Is the file to which the output is redirected. The default is standard output.

**<dumpdevice>**
Specifies the dump device for the -d option. The device node of the DASD device, for example /dev/dasdb.

**-s <system> or --select <system>**
for dumps that capture two systems, selects the system of interest. This option is mandatory when accessing the dump of a crashed kdump instance, but returns an error if applied to a regular dump.

A dump can contain data for a crashed production system and for a crashed kdump system. A dump like this is created if a stand-alone dump tool is used to create a dump for a kdump instance that crashed while creating a dump for a previously crashed production system. `<system>` can be:

**prod**
to select the data for the crashed production system.

**kdump**
to select the data for the kdump instance that crashed while creating a dump for the previously crashed production system.

**all**
to select the data for both prod and kdump.

**-m <dump> <dir> or --mount <dump> <dir>**
Mounts the source dump `<dump>` to mount point `<dir>` and generates a virtual target dump file instead of writing the content to standard output. The virtual dump file is named `<dump>.<FMT>`, where `<FMT>` is the name of the specified dump format (see the --fmt option).

**-u <dir> or --umount <dir>**
Unmounts the dump that is mounted at mount point `<dir>`. You can specify the dump itself instead of the directory, for example /dev/dasdd1. This option is a wrapper for fusermount -u.

**-i <dump> or --info <dump>**
Displays the dump header information from the dump and performs a validity check.

**-d <dumpdevice> or --device <dumpdevice>**
Checks whether the specified ECKD or FBA device contains a valid dump tool and prints information about it.

**-f <format> or --fmt <format>**
Uses the specified target dump format `<format>` when writing or mounting the dump. The following target dump formats are supported:

**elf**
Executable and Linking Format core dump (default for 64-bit, 64-bit only)

**s390**
S/390® dump (default for 31-bit)

**-h or --help**
Displays the help information for the command.
-v or --version
Displays the version information for the command.

Using zgetdump to copy a dump

Assuming that the dump is on DASD partition /dev/dasdb1 and that you want to copy it to a file named dump.elf:

```
# zgetdump /dev/dasdb1 > dump.elf
```

Using zgetdump to transfer a dump with ssh

Assuming that the dump is on DASD partition /dev/dasdd1 and that you want to transfer it to a file on another system with ssh:

```
# zgetdump /dev/dasdd1 | ssh user@host "cat > dump.elf"
```

Using zgetdump to transfer a dump with FTP

Assuming that you want to use FTP to transfer a dump to a file, dump.elf, on another system:

1. Establish an FTP session with the target host and log in.
2. To transfer a file in binary mode, enter the FTP binary command:

```
ftp> binary
```
3. To send the dump file to the FTP host issue:

```
ftp> put "zgetdump /dev/dasdb1" dump.elf
```

Using zgetdump to copy a multi-volume dump

Assuming that the dump is on DASD devices /dev/dasdc and /dev/dasdd spread along partitions /dev/dasdc1 and /dev/dasdd1, and that you want to copy it to a file named dump.elf:

```
# zgetdump /dev/dasdc > dump.elf
```

For an example of the output from this command, see Chapter 4, “Using DASD devices for multi-volume dump,” on page 19.
Using zgetdump to copy a tape dump

Assuming that the tape device is /dev/ntibm0:

```bash
# zgetdump /dev/ntibm0 > dump.elf
Format Info:
   Source: s390tape
   Target: elf

Copying dump:
  00000000 / 00001024 MB
  000000171 / 00001024 MB
  000000341 / 00001024 MB
  000000512 / 00001024 MB
  000000683 / 00001024 MB
  000000853 / 00001024 MB
  000001024 / 00001024 MB

Success: Dump has been copied
```

Using zgetdump to create a dump from a live system

To store an ELF-format dump from a live system in a file called dump.elf issue:

```bash
# nice -n -20 zgetdump /dev/mem > dump.elf
```

For an example of the output from this command, see "Creating a kernel dump on a live system" on page 33.

Checking whether a tape dump is valid, and printing the dump header

Assuming that the tape device is /dev/ntibm0:

```bash
# zgetdump -i /dev/ntibm0
Checking tape, this can take a while...
General dump info:
   Dump format........: s390tape
   Version............: 5
   Dump created.......: Mon, 10 May 2010 17:26:46 +0200
   Dump ended.........: Mon, 10 May 2010 17:27:58 +0200
   Dump CPU ID........: ff00012320948000
   Build arch.........: s390x (64 bit)
   System arch........: s390x (64 bit)
   CPU count (online)..: 2
   CPU count (real)...: 2
   Dump memory range..: 1024 MB
   Real memory range..: 1024 MB

Memory map:
  0000000000000000 - 000000003ffffff (1024 MB)
```
Checking whether a DASD dump is valid and printing the dump header

Assuming that the dump is on a partition, part1, of a DASD device /dev/dasdb1:

```
# zgetdump -i /dev/dasdb1
General dump info:
  Dump format........: s390
  Version............: 5
  Dump created.......: Thu, 15 Dec 2011 11:14:33 +0100
  Dump ended.........: Thu, 15 Dec 2011 11:14:46 +0100
  Dump CPU ID........: ff00012320978000
  UTS node name......: h4245049
  UTS kernel release.: 3.1.0
  UTS kernel version.: #216 SMP Wed Dec 14 10:38:19 CET 2011
  Build arch.........: s390x (64 bit)
  System arch........: s390x (64 bit)
  CPU count (online): 3
  CPU count (real) ...: 3
  Dump memory range..: 1024 MB
  Real memory range..: 1024 MB
Memory map:
  0000000000000000 - 000000003fffffff (1024 MB)
```

Checking whether a device contains a valid dump record

Checking DASD device /dev/dasda, which is a valid dump device:

```
# zgetdump -d /dev/dasdb
Dump device info:
  Dump tool.........: Single-volume DASD dump tool
  Version...........: 2
  Architecture......: s390x (64 bit)
  DASD type.........: ECKD
  Dump size limit...: none
```

Checking DASD device /dev/dasdc, which is not a valid dump device:

```
# zgetdump -d /dev/dasdc
zgetdump: No dump tool found on "/dev/dasdc"
```

Using the mount option

Mounting is useful for multivolume DASD dumps. After a multivolume dump has been mounted, it is shown as a single dump file that can be accessed directly with dump processing tools such as crash.

The following example mounts a multivolume source DASD dump as an ELF dump, processes it with crash, and unmounts it with zgetdump:

```
# zgetdump -m /dev/dasdx /dumps
# crash vmlinux /dumps/dump.elf
# zgetdump -u /dumps
```

Mounting can also be useful when you want to process the dump with a tool that cannot read the original dump format. Use the --fmt option to mount the dump with a format other then the default format.
Selecting data from a dump that includes a crashed kdump

The following example mounts dump data for a crashed production system from a DASD backup dump for a failed kdump (see “Failure recovery and backup tools” on page 9 for details).

```bash
# zgetdump -s prod -m /dev/dasdb1 /mnt
```

Checking whether a SCSI dump is valid and printing the dump header

Assuming that the dump is on the first partition of a SCSI device, for example /devmapper/36005076303fffd40100000000000020c0-part1:

```bash
# zgetdump -i /dev/mapper/36005076303fffd40100000000000020c0-part1
General dump info:
   Dump format........: elf
   Version............: 1
   UTS node name......: r3545010
   UTS kernel release.: 3.12.25-2-default
   UTS kernel version.: #1 SMP Mon Jul 28 12:18:48 UTC 2014
   System arch........: s390x (64 bit)
   CPU count (online)..: 3
   Dump memory range..: 1024 MB

Memory map:  
0000000000000000 - 000000003fffffff (1024 MB)
```

The dumpconf service

The `dumpconf` service configures the action to be taken if a kernel panic or PSW restart occur.

The command can be installed as service script under `/etc/init.d/dumpconf` or can be called manually. It reads the configuration file `/etc/sysconfig/dumpconf`.

**Note:** kdump does not depend on `dumpconf` and can neither be enabled nor disabled with `dumpconf`. If kdump has been set up for your production system, dump tools as configured with `dumpconf` are used only if the integrity check for kdump fails. With kdump set up, you can use `dumpconf` to enable or disable backup dump tools. See also “Failure recovery and backup tools” on page 9.

**dumpconf syntax**

```
dumpconf start
    stop
    status
```

**Parameters**

- `start`
  - Enable configuration defined in `/etc/sysconfig/dumpconf`.

- `stop`
  - Disable `dumpconf`.
status
Show current configuration status of\texttt{dumpconf}.

\texttt{-h} or \texttt{--help}
Display short usage text on console. To view the man page, enter \texttt{man dumpconf}.

\texttt{-v} or \texttt{--version}
Display version number on console and exit.

**Keywords for the configuration file**

\texttt{ON\_PANIC}
Shutdown action to be taken if a kernel panic or PSW restart occur.
Possible values are:
\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{dump} Dump Linux and stop system.
  \item \texttt{reipl} Reboot Linux.
  \item \texttt{dump\_reipl} Dump Linux and reboot system.
  \item \texttt{vmcmd} Execute specified CP commands and stop system.
  \item \texttt{stop} Stop Linux (default).
\end{itemize}

\texttt{DELAY\_MINUTES}
The number of minutes that the activation of \texttt{dumpconf} is to be delayed.
The default is zero.
Using \texttt{reipl} or \texttt{dump\_reipl} actions with \texttt{ON\_PANIC} can lead to the system looping with alternating IPLs and crashes. Use \texttt{DELAY\_MINUTES} to prevent such a loop. \texttt{DELAY\_MINUTES} delays activating the specified panic action for a newly started system. When the specified time has elapsed, \texttt{dumpconf} activates the specified panic action. This action is taken should the system subsequently crash. If the system crashes before the time has elapsed, the previously defined action is taken. If no previous action has been defined, the default action (STOP) is performed.

\texttt{VMCMD\_<X>}
Specifies a CP command, \texttt{<X>} is a number from one to eight. You can specify up to eight CP commands that are executed in case of a kernel panic or PSW restart. z/VM commands, device addresses, and names of z/VM guest virtual machines must be uppercase.

\texttt{DUMP\_TYPE}
Type of dump device. Possible values are \texttt{ccw} and \texttt{fcp}.

\texttt{DEVICE}
Device number of dump device.

\texttt{WWPN}
WWPN for SCSI dump device.

\texttt{LUN}
LUN for SCSI dump device.

\texttt{BOOTPROG}
Boot program selector.

\texttt{BR\_LBA}
Boot record logical block address.
Example configuration files for the dumpconf service

- Example configuration for a CCW dump device (DASD) using reipl after dump and DELAY_MINUTES:

```bash
ON_PANIC=dump_reipl
DUMP_TYPE=ccw
DEVICE=0.0.4714
DELAY_MINUTES=5
```

- Example configuration for FCP dump device (SCSI disk):

```bash
ON_PANIC=dump
DUMP_TYPE=fcp
DEVICE=0.0.4711
WWPN=0x5005076303004712
LUN=0x4713000000000000
BOOTPROG=0
BR_LBA=0
```

- Example configuration for re-IPL if a kernel panic or PSW restart occurs:

```bash
ON_PANIC=reipl
```

- Example of sending a message to the z/VM guest virtual machine "MASTER", executing a CP VMDUMP command, and rebooting from device 4711 if a kernel panic or PSW restart occurs:

```bash
ON_PANIC=vmcmd
VMCMD_1="MSG MASTER Starting VMDUMP"
VMCMD_2="VMDUMP"
VMCMD_3="IPL 4711"
```

z/VM commands, device addresses, and names of z/VM guest virtual machines must be uppercase.

Examples for using the dumpconf service

Use **dumpconf** to enable and disable the configuration.

- To enable the configuration:

  ```bash
  # dumpconf start
  ccw dump device configured. "dump" on panic configured.
  ```

- To display the status:

  ```bash
  # dumpconf status
  type....: ccw
device..: 0.0.4714
  on_panic: dump
  ```

- To disable dump on panic or PSW restart:

  ```bash
  # dumpconf stop
  Dump on panic is disabled now
  ```

- To display the status again and check that the status is now stopped.

  ```bash
  # dumpconf status
  type....: no dump device configured
  on_panic: stop
  ```
If the dumpconf script is installed under /etc/init.d, dumpconf can be called with the service utility. For example, service dumpconf start.

The crash tool

The crash tool is a GPL-licensed tool maintained by Red Hat. For more details see the tool online help.

The vmconvert tool

The vmconvert tool converts a dump that was created with VMDUMP into a file that can be analyzed with crash.

vmconvert syntax

```
  vmconvert [options] <vmdump_file> [-o <output_file>]
```

Parameters

- `<vmdump_file>` or `-f <vmdump_file>` or `--file <vmdump_file>`
  Specifies the VMDUMP created dump file to be converted.

- `<output_file>` or `-o <output_file>` or `--output <output_file>`
  Specifies the name of the dump file to be created. The default is dump.lkcd.

- `-v` or `--version`
  Displays the tool version.

- `-h` or `--help`
  Displays the help information for the command.

Example

To convert a VMDUMP-created dump file vmdump1 into a dump file dump1.lkcd that can be processed with crash issue:

```
  # vmconvert -f vmdump1 -o dump1.lkcd
```

You can also use positional parameters:

```
  # vmconvert vm.dump lkcd.dump
  vmdump information:
  architecture: 32 bit
date.........: Fri Feb 18 11:06:45 2005
storage......: 16 MB
cpus.........: 6
  16 of 16 [##################################################] 100%
  'lkcd.dump' has been written successfully.
```
The `vmur` tool

The `vmur` command can receive a VMDUMP file from the z/VM reader and convert it into a file that can be analyzed with `crash`.

Issue a command of the following form:

```
# vmur receive -c <spool ID> <dump file name>
```

**Parameters**

- `<spool ID>`
  - Specifies the VMDUMP file spool ID.
- `<dump file name>`
  - Specifies the name of the output file to receive the data of the reader spool file.

For more details, see the `vmur` man page and *Device Drivers, Features, and Commands*, SC33-8411.

**Example**

To receive and convert a VMDUMP spool file with spool ID 463 to a file named `dump.lkcd` on the Linux file system in the current working directory:

```
# vmur rec -c 463 dump.lkcd
```
Appendix D. How to detect guest relocation

Information about guest relocations are stored in the s390 debug feature (s390dbf). You can access this information in a kernel dump or from a running Linux instance.

About this task

You can detect if a Linux instance has been moved to another guest virtual machine or LPAR. One available mechanism for guest relocation is z/VM Single System Image (SSI).

You can access the s390 debug feature lgr from a live system or with the crash tool from a kernel dump. When the debug feature contains only one entry, no relocation has been detected and the entry identifies the boot virtual guest machine. For each detected relocation one additional entry is written.

Procedure

Choose the method that suits your purpose:

- Use the crash tool to read from a kernel dump. Issue a command of this form:

  ```
  # crash <vmlinux files> <dump file>
  crash> s390dbf lgr hex_ascii
  ```

- Use the cat command on a live system to read the debugfs entry for lgr. Issue a command of this form:

  ```
  # cat /sys/kernel/debug/s390dbf/lgr/hex_ascii
  ```

Example

Assume that one relocation of the guest virtual machine ZVMGUEST has been detected from a z/VM in LPAR VM000A to a z/VM in LPAR VM000B. You can see this in the kernel dump:

```
# crash vmlinux dump
crash> s390dbf lgr hex_ascii
00 0131781606:277332 3 - 00 ... IBM28170000000000EAA1402 ... VM000A ... ZVMGUEST
00 0131786606:277332 3 - 00 ... IBM28170000000000EAA1402 ... VM000B ... ZVMGUEST
```

Alternatively, you can see such a relocation from a running system:

```
# cat /sys/kernel/debug/s390dbf/lgr/hex_ascii
00 0131781606:277332 3 - 00 ... IBM28170000000000EAA1402 ... VM000A ... ZVMGUEST
00 0131786606:277332 3 - 00 ... IBM28170000000000EAA1402 ... VM000B ... ZVMGUEST
```

For more information about the complete s390dbf record, see the struct os_info definition in the Linux kernel source code.
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