NAME

savecore – save a core dump of the operating system

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/savecore [**–v**] *directory* [*system-name*]

DESCRIPTION

savecore saves a core dump of the kernel (assuming that one was made) and writes a reboot message in the shutdown log. It is meant to be called near the end of the **/etc/init.d/sysetup** file after the system boots. However, it is not normally run by default; you must edit that file to enable it.

savecore checks the core dump to be certain it corresponds with the version of the operating system currently running. If it does, **savecore** saves the core image in the file *directory*/**vmcore.***n* and the kernel's namelist in *directory*/**unix.***n*. The trailing **.***n* in the pathnames is replaced by a number which grows every time **savecore** is run in that directory.

Before **savecore** writes out a core image, it reads a number from the file *directory*/**minfree**. This is the minimum number of kilobytes that must remain free on the file system containing *directory*. If there is less free space on the file system containing *directory* than the number of kilobytes specified in **minfree**, the core dump is not saved. If the **minfree** file does not exist, **savecore** always writes out the core file (assuming that a core dump was taken).

savecore also logs a reboot message using facility **LOG_AUTH** (see **syslog**(3)). If the system crashed as a result of a panic, **savecore** logs the panic string too.

If the core dump corresponds to a namelist other than the currently running kernel (represented by **/dev/ksyms**) that namelist must be supplied as *system-name*.

OPTIONS

–v Verbose. Enable verbose error messages from **savecore**.

FILES

directory/**vmcore.***n*	
directory/**unix.***n*	
directory/**bounds**	
directory/**minfree**	
/dev/ksyms	the kernel namelist
/etc/init.d/sysetup	
/var/crash/'uname –n'	normal core image directory

SEE ALSO

compress(1), **crash**(1M), **syslog**(3)

BUGS

savecore can be fooled into thinking a core dump is the wrong size.

You must run **savecore** very soon after booting — before the swap space containing the crash dump is overwritten by programs currently running.

Core images produced by SPARCstation1 systems, and from machines with discontiguous physical memory, are sparse and contain holes. For example, a core image of an 8 megabyte SPARCstation 1 might contain 3 to 4 megabytes of useful information, and thus only occupy 3 to 4 megabytes of disk space, yet contain enough holes to appear to be 36 megabytes in size. However, copying the core image will manifest the holes, so that this copy will require 36 megabytes of disk space. If it is necessary to move a core image, it is strongly recommended that the core image be compressed with **compress**(1) before the transfer. The compressed image may later be uncompressed on a system with sufficient disk space.