

Linux Files Left On Disk After Logout

Type of File	Process	Why it is done	How to stop it
Auto-recover files	Open Office	Program is not all that stable	Turn off option
Browser Cache files	Web Browsers	Faster display	Disable, cache size 0, link to /dev/null
Swap file	Linux kernel	Support virtual memory	Kernel config – but usually can't be 0
System Log files (e.g. /var/log/syslog)	Linux kernel	Debugging problems	Turn off all logging, rotate frequently
Recently Opened lists	Various software	User convenience	Turn off (usually not an option), clear, set length to 0
Spool files	Printing	Printing may not be immediate – copies instead of locking files	Usually deleted after printing, complicated to bypass spooling
Good cookies	Web Browsers	Create sessions with a state-less interface	Write-protect cookie file/directory – makes them memory-only
Bad cookies	Web Browsers	Tracking	Don't accept cookies, cookie black-list
History file (e.g. ~/.bash_history)	Web Browsers, shells	Find previous page or command used	Turn off history, link file to /dev/null
Auto-entry forms	Web Browsers	Quick data entry for web page forms	Turn off option
/var/log/wtmp	Login	Keep track of logins	Don't log in ☺, rotate often (every minute?)
/var/log/sadc	Sadc (system activity data collector)	History of programs ran, who ran, and resources used	Rotate “often”
Core files	Any	Memory image to allow debugging	Remove before/at logout, limit coredumpsize 0
Default configuration files	Any	Program “needs” defaults	Delete before/at logout
/var/log/mail/*	SMTP and POP	Send, receive, check e-mail	Don't use mail