

NAME

core — format of core image file

DESCRIPTION

UNIX writes out a core image of a terminated process when any of various errors occur. See *signal(2)* for the list of reasons; the most common are memory violations, illegal instructions, bus errors, and user-generated quit signals. The core image is called **core** and is written in the process's working directory (provided it can be; normal access controls apply).

The first section of the core image is a copy of the system's per-user data for the process, including the registers as they were at the time of the fault. The size of this section depends on the parameter *usize*, which is defined in */usr/include/sys/param.h*. The remainder represents the actual contents of the user's core area when the core image was written. If the text segment is read-only and shared, or separated from data space, it is not dumped. Attached *maus(2)* segments are not dumped.

The format of the information in the first section is described by the *user* structure of the system, defined in */usr/include/sys/user.h*. The important stuff not detailed therein is the locations of the registers, which are outlined in */usr/include/sys/reg.h*.

In general, the debugger *adb(1)* is sufficient to deal with core images.

SEE ALSO

adb(1), *signal(2)*