

How to Remove a Swap File?

written by sysadmin | 23 April 2025

[The previous article](#) explained how to create a swap file on the Linux server. This article will explain how to remove a swap file, whether your filesystem uses [ext4 or xfs](#), or [btrfs](#).

Problem

How to remove a swap file?

Solution

Check whether the Linux server you have has a swap or not by using the command below:

```
cat /proc/swaps
```

Then use the command below:

```
sudo swapoff /swapfile
```

```
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ cat /proc/swaps
Filename                                Type              Size              Used              Priority
/swapfile                              file              2097148           0                 -2
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ sudo swapoff /swapfile
[sudo] password for cloud_user:
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ cat /proc/swaps
Filename                                Type              Size              Used              Priority
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
```

Delete the swap file

After that, delete the entry for the swap file or swap partition in **/etc/fstab**:

```
sudo sed -i '/\/swapfile/d' /etc/fstab
```

```
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ cat /etc/fstab
LABEL=cloudimg-rootfs / ext4 discard,errors=remount-ro 0 1
LABEL=UEFI /boot/efi vfat umask=0077 0 1
/swapfile none swap sw 0 0
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ sudo sed -i '/\s/swapfile/d' /etc/fstab
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ cat /etc/fstab
LABEL=cloudimg-rootfs / ext4 discard,errors=remount-ro 0 1
LABEL=UEFI /boot/efi vfat umask=0077 0 1
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
```

Delete the swap script from the fstab file

You can delete the swap file using the command below:

```
sudo rm -f /swapfile
```

And the hard disk size on your Linux server will increase by 2 GB.

```
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/root        20G   5.9G   14G   31% /
tmpfs            969M     0  969M    0% /dev/shm
tmpfs            388M   864K  387M    1% /run
tmpfs            5.0M     0   5.0M    0% /run/lock
/dev/nvme0n1p15  105M   6.1M   99M    6% /boot/efi
tmpfs            194M   4.0K  194M    1% /run/user/1001
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ sudo rm -f /swapfile
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$ df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
/dev/root        20G   3.9G   16G   20% /
tmpfs            969M     0  969M    0% /dev/shm
tmpfs            388M   864K  387M    1% /run
tmpfs            5.0M     0   5.0M    0% /run/lock
/dev/nvme0n1p15  105M   6.1M   99M    6% /boot/efi
tmpfs            194M   4.0K  194M    1% /run/user/1001
cloud_user@415764cc7e1c:~$
```

Check the hard disk

Note

If you want to change the swap size, you must first delete

the existing swap files using with steps in this article and then create a new swap file with a larger or smaller size using [this article](#).

References

docs.oracle.com
docs.rackspace.com
docs.redhat.com
askubuntu.com