Linux Add a Swap File - Howto

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Procedure To Add a Swap File Under Linux

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Step #1 Login as the Root User

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```
$ su -
Password:
#
```

Step #2 Create Swap File

Type the following command to create 512MB swap file (1024 * 512MB = 524288 block size):

```
# dd if /dev/zero of /swapfile bs 1024 count 524288
```

Output:

```
524288+0 records in
524288+0 records out
```

Mkswap:

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Type the following command to set up a Linux swap area in a file:

```
# mkswap /swapfile
```

Output:

```
Setup swapspace version 1, size = 536870912 bytes
```

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Step #3 Enable the swap file

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Type the following command to enable swap file:

```
# swapon /swapfile
```

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Step #4 Update /etc/fstab file

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Edit /etc/fstab file to add swap file:

```
# vi /etc/fstab
```

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Step #5 Update /etc/sysctl.conf file

Linux's additional swap space is managed by Linux's unremarkable kernel performance. Most do-it-yourself swap file creation is done using command-line utilities, and the process is very simple.

Edit /etc/sysctl.conf file to add swap file:

```
# vi /etc/sysctl.conf
```

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How do I verify swap file is enabled or not?

Linux's additional swap space is managed by Linux's unremarkable kernel performance. Most do-it-yourself swap file creation is done using command-line utilities, and the process is very simple.

Type the following command:

```
# free -m
```

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How can I display swap usage summary on Linux?

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Type the following command:

```
# swapon -s
```

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Output:

```
Filename Type Size Used Priority
/dev/hda2 partition 1052248 0 -1
/swapfile file 524288 0 -2
```

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How do I set swappiness on a Linux server?

Linux's additional swap space is managed by Linux's unremarkable kernel performance. Most do-it-yourself swap file creation is done using command-line utilities, and the process is very simple.

Type the following command:

```
# cat /proc/sys/vm/swappiness
```

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Output:

```
60
```

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Type the following command:

```
# sysctl -w vm.swappiness=60
```

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Output:

```
vm.swappiness = 60
```

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Type the following command:

```
# swapoff -a
```

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Output:

```
swapoff: /swapfile: swapoff failed: Cannot allocate memory
```

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Type the following command:

```
# swapon -a
```

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Output:

```
swapon: /swapfile: warning: mkswap signature is old.
```

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Type the following command:

```
# free -m
```

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Output:

```
total used free shared buffers cached
Mem: 1035 1031 4 0 0 1000
-/+ buffers/cache: 30 1005
Swap: 1024 0 1024
```

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