

**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 (II)* 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 512 bytes of the core image are 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 remainder represents the actual contents of the user’s core area when the core image was written. At the moment, if the text segment is write-protected and shared, it is not dumped; otherwise the entire address space is dumped.

The actual format of the information in the first 512 bytes is complicated. A guru will have to be consulted if enlightenment is required. In general the debugger *db (I)* should be used to deal with core images.

**SEE ALSO**

db(I), signal(II)