

How to remove linux kernel in Red Hat/CentOS/Fedora Core/Suse Linux

Before updating any of the linux components (modules, kernel etc.) make sure to do a bit of a research online first, check update version release notes, forums and blogs as sometimes updates can cause issues to your system. The worst problems are the ones that only appear after the servers restarts which could be days or weeks after the update has been done. One of those problems we had with CentOS 6.2 after a kernel update, server would not boot. The only way to get it up and running was to remove the new kernel and run of the old one until the new kernel update was released. Read bellow how to do it.

A. Linux Kernel and related files are stored in following locations:

=> /boot - Stores actual kernel and related file such system man and initrd images,

=> /etc or /boot/grub - Stores grub.conf file (most distro use /boot/grub these days).

=> /lib/modules/KERNEL-VERSION/* - Linux device drivers (modules)

If kernel is installed using binary package system such as rpm, yum, up2date, apt-get etc you can remove with following commands:

Rpm based distro - Red Hat/CentOS/Fedora Core/Suse Linux

First find out all installed kernel version with following command:

```
# rpm -qa | grep kernel-smp
```

or

```
# rpm -qa | grep kernel
```

Output:

```
kernel-smp-2.6.9-42.EL kernel-smp-2.6.9-42.0.3.EL kernel-  
smp-2.6.9-42.0.8.EL
```

I've total 3 different kernel installed. To remove kernel-smp-2.6.9-42.EL type command:

```
# rpm -e kernel-smp-2.6.9-42.EL
```

OR

```
# rpm -vv -e kernel-smp-2.6.9-42.EL
```