

# Recovering Linux after catastrophic deletion

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A recurring Linux joke / horror story is running the command `rm -rf /`. Imagine if it actually happened? What would or could you do to recover?

Linux specialist Kyle Kelley recently decided to see what happened if he launched a new Linux server and ran `rm -rf /` as root.

This command is the remove (delete) command, with the flags `-rf` indicating to run recursively down all folders and subfolders, and to force deletion even if the file is ordinarily read-only. The `/` indicates the command is to run from the top-most root directory in Linux.

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[GNU Linux HowTos](#)

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Source URL: <http://www.tuxmachines.org/node/66594>

## Links:

[1] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/144>

[2] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/63>

[3] <http://www.tuxmachines.org/taxonomy/term/98>

[4] <http://www.itwire.com/opinion-and-analysis/the-linux-distillery/64425-recovering-linux-after-catastrophic-deletion>