

MacOS Files Left On Disk After Logout

Type of File	Process	Why it is done	How to stop it
Browser Cache files	Web Browsers	Faster display	Disable, cache size 0, link to /dev/null
Chat logs	iChat	Your convenience	Prefs, delete, ln /dev/null
Preference files	Most software	Your convenience	Delete, ln /tmp
Core files (crash logs)	Any application	Debugging	limit coredumpsize 0, delete old in crontab
Kernel panic	OSX	Debug	Turn off option, direct to filesystem w/o space
History file	Shells	History command	limit history, ln /dev/null
Autorecover file	MS Word, vi	User convenience, app crashes too often	Preferences, manual deletion
Firewall logs	SW firewall	Forensics/security	Don't run, turn off / min logging, manual deletion
Sync logs	Palm, iPod	What files were copied or deleted	Turn off logging, manual deletion
Sync database	Palm, iPod, any backup sw	Incremental backups	Don't use incremental – always full backup/copy
Disk Util file	Norton	Reconstruct disk	?? – don't use
.DS_Store	Finder	GUI info	Don't use GUI, delete
Good cookies	Web browsers	Create sessions with a state-less interface	Write-protect cookie file – makes them read-only
Bad cookies	Web browsers	Tracking	Don't accept, black-list
System log files (e.g. /var/tmp/console.log)	OSX	System admin	Don't do anything logged (sleep/wake is logged)
Log.rtf	SETI@home	Install/updates	delete