

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Whats the dumbest mistake that cost you hours \(or real money\)?](#)

leste0 - September 14, 2026, 12:34 pm

Hey HF,

We spend a lot of time on these boards discussing optimization, reverse engineering, and clean setups, but let's be real: everyone has at least one mind-numbingly stupid mistake that either melted their server, nuked a database, or cost them actual cash.

Mine happened recently while testing an event listener script with automated retries. I accidentally put an external pay-per-request API call inside a while-loop without an exponential backoff or ratelimit check. The network threw a 429 rate-limit error, my loop interpreted it as a connection drop, and it hammered the endpoint ~4,000 times a second on a multithreaded worker.

Woke up 5 hours later to a nice three-figure invoice and an automated account ban. The "fix" was literally adding two lines: a `[inline]time.Sleep()[/inline]` and an error break.

What's the most embarrassing blunder you've pulled? Locking yourself out of an offshore box by messing up firewall rules?

Running a script against production instead of staging?

Leaving an unmonitored cloud instance running for 3 months?

Drop your war stories below. Let's hear what went down.

Omniscient - September 14, 2026, 12:37 pm

NGL, I did an "rm -rf /" from HF's server root directory once.

It ran for about 3 seconds before I killed the execution but it was already too late. Had to spend many hours rebuilding the server from scratch. Nothing permanent was lost but HF had downtime. This must have been around 2008-2009.

And now the "rm -rf /" is a meme. I literally did the meme.

Of course now I have the "Are you sure" check on the rm command. Can't have that mistake happen ever again.

leste0 - September 14, 2026, 12:43 pm

(Sep 14, 2026 12:37 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) NGL, I did an "rm -rf /" from HF's server root directory once.

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The instant stomach drop right after hitting enter must've been brutal.

Honestly hilarious that HF history actually has a literal "rm -rf /" chapter in it. Good thing the backups held.

Omniscient - September 14, 2026, 12:52 pm

(Sep 14, 2026 12:43 PM)leste0 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The instant stomach drop right after hitting enter must've been brutal.

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I was running FreeBSD at the time too. We initially were on Shared Hosting Env but were growing fast so I colocated a server. We colocated for many years down in Dallas before it became reasonably cheaper to rent a server. Just adding some history.

leste0 - September 14, 2026, 12:55 pm

(Sep 14, 2026 12:52 PM)Omniscient Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I was running FreeBSD at the time too. We initially were on Shared Hosting Env but were growing fast so I colocated a server. We colocated for many years down in Dallas before it became reasonably cheaper to rent a server. Just adding some history.

Careful dropping lore like that, some degen is about to launch \$DALLAS_FREEBSD on pump.fun within 5 minutes lmao.

Always cool hearing how the early bare metal days looked though.

Deany - September 14, 2026, 2:30 pm

Real money , when I first got into reselling selling at a loss. No idea what I was doing lol.