



How to determine Mac shutdown causes

This guide will show you how to determine why...

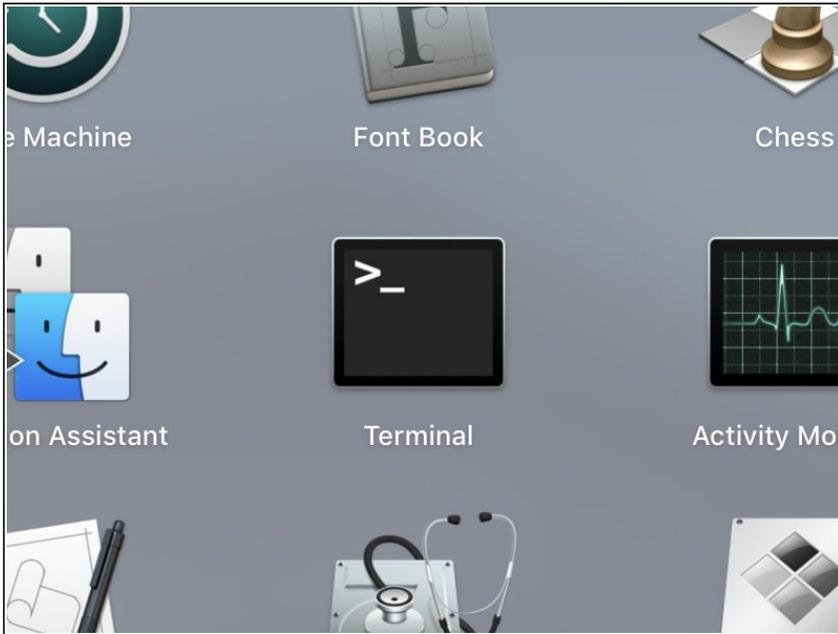
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INTRODUCTION

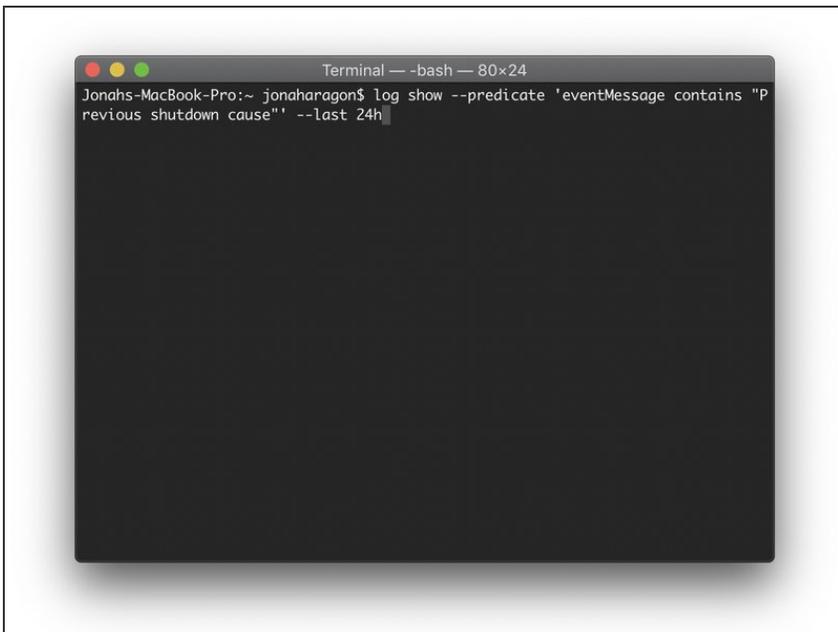
This guide will show you how to determine why exactly your Mac shut down or restarted using macOS's built-in logging.

Step 1 — Open Terminal.app



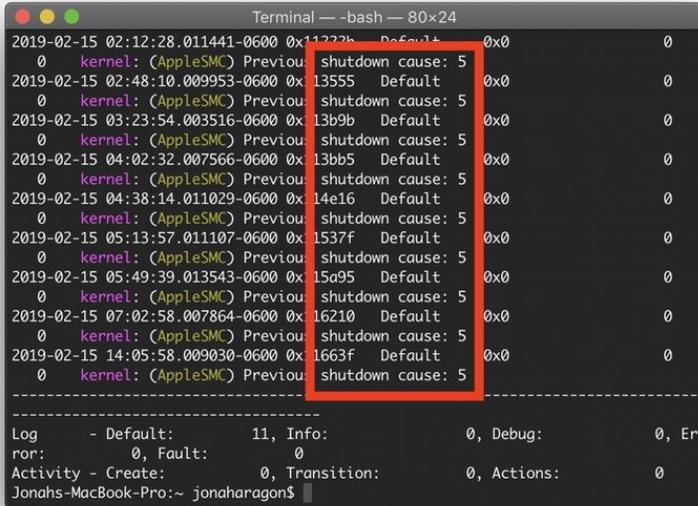
- Open **Terminal.app**

Step 2 — Listing previous shutdowns



- Copy and paste the following command in your Terminal window:
 - ① `log show --predicate 'eventMessage contains "Previous shutdown cause"' --last 24h`
 - ① The "24h" portion of the command can be changed to any number of hours, depending on how far back you need to see.

Step 3 — Determining Shutdown Causes

A terminal window showing a list of system logs. A red box highlights a column of shutdown causes, which are mostly '5'. The terminal output is as follows:

```
2019-02-15 02:12:28.011441-0600 0x1122b Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 02:48:10.009953-0600 0x13555 Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 03:23:54.003516-0600 0x13b9b Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 04:02:32.007566-0600 0x13bb5 Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 04:38:14.011029-0600 0x14e16 Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 05:13:57.011107-0600 0x1537f Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 05:49:39.013543-0600 0x15a95 Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 07:02:58.007864-0600 0x16210 Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5
2019-02-15 14:05:58.009030-0600 0x1663f Default 0x0
0 kernel: (AppleSMC) Previous shutdown cause: 5

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Log - Default: 11, Info: 0, Debug: 0, Er
ror: 0, Fault: 0
Activity - Create: 0, Transition: 0, Actions: 0
Jonahs-MacBook-Pro:~ jonaharagon$
```

- The previous shutdown causes in the timeframe you selected will appear as a list.
- ❗ Common shutdown causes include 5 which indicates a normal shutdown, 3 which indicates a hard shutdown (i.e. holding the power button), and 0 which indicates the power was disconnected.
- ❗ A list of shutdown causes can be found here: [Shutdown causes \(from George Garside blog\)](#)

Done! You should be able to use these codes to further troubleshoot random shutdowns or other strange events.

Hit the button below if this guide helped solve your issue :)