

logrotate

LOGROTATE(8)

System Administrator's Manual

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NAME

logrotate - rotates, compresses, and mails system logs

SYNOPSIS

logrotate [-dv] [-f|--force] [-s|--state *file*] *config_file*+

DESCRIPTION

logrotate is designed to ease administration of systems that generate large numbers of log files. It allows automatic rotation, compression, removal, and mailing of log files. Each log file may be handled daily, weekly, monthly, or when it grows too large.

Normally, **logrotate** is run as a daily cron job. It will not modify a log multiple times in one day unless the criterium for that log is based on the log's size and **logrotate** is being run multiple times each day, or unless the **-f** or **-force** option is used.

Any number of config files may be given on the command line. Later config files may override the options given in earlier files, so the order in which the **logrotate** config files are listed is important. Normally, a single config file which includes any other config files which are needed should be used. See below for more information on how to use the *include* directive to accomplish this. If a directory is given on the command line, every file in that directory is used as a config file.

If no command line arguments are given, **logrotate** will print version and copyright information, along with a short usage summary. If any errors occur while rotating logs, **logrotate** will exit with non-zero status.

OPTIONS

- v** Turn on verbose mode.
- d** Turns on debug mode and implies **-v**. In debug mode, no changes will be made to the logs or to the **logrotate** state file.

-f, --force

Tells **logrotate** to force the rotation, even if it doesn't think this is necessary. Sometimes this is useful after adding new entries to **logrotate**, or if old log files have been removed by hand, as the new files will be created, and logging will continue correctly.

-m, --mail <command>

Tells **logrotate** which command to use when mailing logs. This command should accept two arguments: 1) the subject of the message, and 2) the recipient. The command must then read a message on standard input and mail it to the recipient. The default mail command is **/bin/mail -s**.

-s, --state <statefile>

Tells **logrotate** to use an alternate state file. This is useful if **logrotate** is being run as a different user for various sets of log files. The default state file is **/var/lib/logrotate/status**.

--usage

Prints a short usage message.

CONFIGURATION FILE

logrotate reads everything about the log files it should be handling from the series of configuration files specified on the command line. Each configuration file can set global options (local definitions override global ones, and later definitions override earlier ones) and specify a logfile to rotate. A simple configuration file looks like this:

```
# sample logrotate configuration file
compress

/var/log/messages {
    rotate 5
    weekly
    postrotate
                                /sbin/killall -HUP syslogd
    endscript
}

"/var/log/httpd/access.log" /var/log/httpd/error.log {
    rotate 5
    mail www@my.org
    size=100k
    sharedscripts
    postrotate
                                /sbin/killall -HUP httpd
    endscript
}

/var/log/news/news.crit {
    monthly
    rotate 2
    olddir /var/log/news/old
    missingok
    postrotate
                                kill -HUP 'cat /var/run/inn.pid'
    endscript
    nocompress
}
```

```
}
```

The first few lines set global options; in the example, logs are compressed after they are rotated. Note that comments may appear anywhere in the config file as long as the first non-whitespace character on the line is a #.

The next section of the config files defined how to handle the log file `/var/log/messages`. The log will go through five weekly rotations before being removed. After the log file has been rotated (but before the old version of the log has been compressed), the command `/sbin/killall -HUP syslogd` will be executed.

The next section defines the parameters for both `/var/log/httpd/access.log` and `/var/log/httpd/error.log`. They are rotated whenever is grows over 100k is size, and the old logs files are mailed (uncompressed) to `www@my.org` after going through 5 rotations, rather than being removed. The **sharedscripts** means that the **postrotate** script will only be run once(after the old logs have been compressed), not once for each log which is rotated. Note that the double quotes around the first filename at the beginning of this section allows logrotate to rotate logs with spaces in the name. Normal shell quoting rules apply, with `'`, `"`, and `\` characters supported.

The last section defines the parameters for all of the files in `/var/log/news`. Each file is rotated on a monthly basis. This is considered a single rotation directive and if errors occur for more than one file, the log files are not compressed.

Please use wildcards with caution. If you specify `*`, **logrotate** will rotate all files, including previously rotated ones. A way around this is to use the **olddir** directive or a more exact wildcard (such as `*.log`).

Here is more information on the directives which may be included in a **logrotate** configuration file:

compress

Old versions of log files are compressed with **gzip** by default. See also **nocompress**.

compresscmd

Specifies which command to use to compress log files. The default is **gzip**. See also **compress**.

uncompresscmd

Specifies which command to use to uncompress log files. The default is **gunzip**.

compressext

Specifies which extension to use on compressed logfiles, if compression is enabled. The default follows that of the configured compression command.

compressoptions

Command line options may be passed to the compression program, if one is in use. The default, for **gzip**, is `"-9"` (maximum compression).

copy

Make a copy of the log file, but don't change the original at all. This option can be used, for instance, to make a snapshot of the current log file, or when some other utility needs to truncate or pare the file. When this option is used, the **create**

option will have no effect, as the old log file stays in place.

copytruncate

Truncate the original log file in place after creating a copy, instead of moving the old log file and optionally creating a new one. It can be used when some program can not be told to close its logfile and thus might continue writing (appending) to the previous log file forever. Note that there is a very small time slice between copying the file and truncating it, so some logging data might be lost. When this option is used, the **create** option will have no effect, as the old log file stays in place.

create *mode owner group*

Immediately after rotation (before the **postrotate** script is run) the log file is created (with the same name as the log file just rotated). *mode* specifies the mode for the log file in octal (the same as **chmod(2)**), *owner* specifies the user name who will own the log file, and *group* specifies the group the log file will belong to. Any of the log file attributes may be omitted, in which case those attributes for the new file will use the same values as the original log file for the omitted attributes. This option can be disabled using the **ncreate** option.

daily Log files are rotated every day.

delaycompress

Postpone compression of the previous log file to the next rotation cycle. This has only effect when used in combination with **compress**. It can be used when some program can not be told to close its logfile and thus might continue writing to the previous log file for some time.

extension *ext*

Log files are given the final extension *ext* after rotation. If compression is used, the compression extension (normally **.gz**) appears after *ext*.

ifempty

Rotate the log file even if it is empty, overriding the **notifempty** option (ifempty is the default).

include *file_or_directory*

Reads the file given as an argument as if it was included inline where the **include** directive appears. If a directory is given, most of the files in that directory are read in alphabetic order before processing of the including file continues. The only files which are ignored are files which are not regular files (such as directories and named pipes) and files whose names end with one of the taboo extensions, as specified by the **tabooext** directive. The **include** directive may not appear inside of a log file definition.

mail *address*

When a log is rotated out-of-existence, it is mailed to *address*. If no mail should be generated by a particular log, the **nomail** directive may be used.

mailfirst

When using the **mail** command, mail the just-rotated file, instead of the about-to-expire file.

maillast

When using the **mail** command, mail the about-to-expire file, instead of the just-rotated file (this is the default).

missingok

If the log file is missing, go on to the next one without issuing an error message. See also **nomissingok**.

monthly

Log files are rotated the first time **logrotate** is run in a month (this is normally on the first day of the month).

nocompress

Old versions of log files are not compressed with **gzip**. See also **compress**.

nocopy Do not copy the original log file and leave it in place. (this overrides the **copy** option).

nocopytruncate

Do not truncate the original log file in place after creating a copy (this overrides the **copytruncate** option).

nocreate

New log files are not created (this overrides the **create** option).

nodelaycompress

Do not postpone compression of the previous log file to the next rotation cycle (this overrides the **delaycompress** option).

nomail Don't mail old log files to any address.

nomissingok

If a log file does not exist, issue an error. This is the default.

noolddir

Logs are rotated in the same directory the log normally resides in (this overrides the **olddir** option).

nosharedscripts

Run **prerotate** and **postrotate** scripts for every script which is rotated (this is the default, and overrides the **sharedscripts** option).

notifempty

Do not rotate the log if it is empty (this overrides the **ifempty** option).

olddir *directory*

Logs are moved into *directory* for rotation. The *directory* must be on the same physical device as the log file being rotated, and is assumed to be relative to the directory holding the log

file unless an absolute path name is specified. When this option is used all old versions of the log end up in *directory*. This option may be overridden by the **noolddir** option.

postrotate/endscript

The lines between **postrotate** and **endscript** (both of which must appear on lines by themselves) are executed after the log file is rotated. These directives may only appear inside of a log file definition. See **prerotate** as well.

prerotate/endscript

The lines between **prerotate** and **endscript** (both of which must appear on lines by themselves) are executed before the log file is rotated and only if the log will actually be rotated. These directives may only appear inside of a log file definition. See **postrotate** as well.

firstaction/endscript

The lines between **firstaction** and **endscript** (both of which must appear on lines by themselves) are executed once before all log files that match the wildcarded pattern are rotated, before prerotate script is run and only if at least one log will actually be rotated. These directives may only appear inside of a log file definition. See **lastaction** as well.

lastaction/endscript

The lines between **lastaction** and **endscript** (both of which must appear on lines by themselves) are executed once after all log files that match the wildcarded pattern are rotated, after postrotate script is run and only if at least one log is rotated. These directives may only appear inside of a log file definition. See **lastaction** as well.

rotate *count*

Log files are rotated <count> times before being removed or mailed to the address specified in a **mail** directive. If *count* is 0, old versions are removed rather than rotated.

size *size*

Log files are rotated when they grow bigger than *size* bytes. If *size* is followed by *M*, the size is assumed to be in megabytes. If the *k* is used, the size is in kilobytes. So **size 100**, **size 100k**, and **size 100M** are all valid.

sharedscripts

Normally, **prescript** and **postscript** scripts are run for each log which is rotated, meaning that a single script may be run multiple times for log file entries which match multiple files (such as the `/var/log/news/*` example). If **sharedscript** is specified, the scripts are only run once, no matter how many logs match the wildcarded pattern. However, if none of the logs in the pattern require rotating, the scripts will not be run at all. This option overrides the **nosharedscripts** option and implies **create** option.

start *count*

This is the number to use as the base for rotation. For example, if you specify 0, the logs will be created with a `.0` extension as they are rotated from the original log files. If you specify 9, log files will be created with a `.9`, skipping 0-8. Files will still be rotated the number of times specified with the

count directive.

tabooext *[+] list*

The current taboo extension list is changed (see the **include** directive for information on the taboo extensions). If a + precedes the list of extensions, the current taboo extension list is augmented, otherwise it is replaced. At startup, the taboo extension list contains .rpmorig, .rpmsave, ,v, .swp, .rpmnew, and ~.

weekly Log files are rotated if the current weekday is less than the weekday of the last rotation or if more than a week has passed since the last rotation. This is normally the same as rotating logs on the first day of the week, but it works better if *logrotate* is not run every night.

FILES

<i>/var/lib/logrotate.status</i>	Default state file.
<i>/etc/logrotate.conf</i>	Configuration options.

SEE ALSO

gzip(1)

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