Docker Desktop System Logs

An overview of where Docker Desktop logs are stored and how long they are retained

Docker Desktop Logging:

Docker Desktop logs are comprised of 3 components:

1. Docker Engine
2. Electron
3. Docker Desktop

Docker Engine Logging

- Docker Engine logs are configurable

- The defaults for Docker Engine logging are as follows:

    - Max file size of 20MiB
    - Maxmium retained files of 5
    - Compressed rotated log files is enabled

Changing Docker Engine Defaults

- Example change to daemon.json to deviate from default retention. For more options see logging driver options and daemon.json configuration

    ```
    {
        "log-driver": "local",
        "log-opts": {
            "max-size": "10m"
        }
    }
    ```

- Windows daemon.json path

    ```
    %ProgramData%\docker\config\daemon.json
    ```

- macOS daemon.json path

    ```
    /System/Volumes/Data/Users/kiener/.docker/daemon.json
    ```

Location of Log Files

- Windows

```
%LOCALAPPDATA%\Docker\log\vm\
%LOCALAPPDATA%\Docker\log\host\
```

- macOS

```
~/Library/Containers/com.docker.docker/Data/log/vm/
~/Library/Containers/com.docker.docker/Data/log/host/
```

Docker Desktop Logging

- Docker Desktop logging is currently non-configurable

- The defaults for Docker Desktop logging are as follows

  - Maximum single log file size of 1MiB per component
  - Maximum log file space per component of 10MiB
  - There are fifteen components in Docker Desktop

Electron

- Electron logging is currently non-configurable

- The defaults for Electron logging are as follows

  - Maximum of 14 days of log files
  - Maximum single log file size of 20MiB

Space Utilization in Aggregate

- Theoritical Maximum of 750MiB
- Real-world power users generally see 150MiB as a high water mark

Citations and Helpful Files

- [Local Log File Driver](#)
- [Daemon Logs](#)