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Linux View / display a logfile in real time on screen

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I'd like to see my php or apache web server log files in real time. How do I see log file in real time including all incoming logs?

A. You need to use tail command which output the last part of files in real time including all incoming logs to a file.



tail -f file-name command

If your log file name is /var/log/lighttpd/access.log, enter:

tail -f /var/log/lighttpd/access.log

If your php log file name is /var/log/lighttpd/scripts.log, enter

tail -f /var/log/lighttpd/scripts.log

You will get a scrolling view of the /var/log/lighttpd/scripts.log for all incoming entries on screen. To stop simply hit CTRL+C. Please note that you may need to login as root user to view log files.

Updated for accuracy.

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