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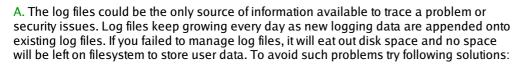
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How To Limit The Growth Of UNIX / Linux Log Files

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. My log files grow continuously. How do I limit the growth of UNIX log files stored in /usr/spool/ or /var/log/ directory?





Keep log files in a separate filesystem

Never ever store /var/log or /var/adm and all other location on a / (root) filesysem. Always store all log files on a separate filesystem to maintain the security, integrity and performance of the system.

Control the growth of system log files

There are varios approaches to control the growth of system log files.

Option # 1: Manually truncate log file

Use any one of the following command to truncate log file:

>/var/log/log.file

OR

cat /dev/null > /usr/adm/log.file

Option # 2: Automatically truncate log file

You need to keep several old versions of a log file in the system by periodically deleting the oldest one, renaming the current one, and then recreating it. This can be done by using a shell script or using automated tool such as <u>logrotate</u> ^[2].

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