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View log files in Ubuntu Linux

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Q. Can you explain me log files in Ubuntu Linux and how do I view logs?

A. All logs are stored in /var/log directory under Ubuntu (and other Linux distro).

Linux Log files and usage

- => **/var/log/messages** : General log messages
- => **/var/log/boot** : System boot log
- => **/var/log/debug** : Debugging log messages
- => **/var/log/auth.log** : User login and authentication logs
- => **/var/log/daemon.log** : Running services such as squid, ntpd and others log message to this file
- => **/var/log/dmesg** : Linux kernel ring buffer log
- => **/var/log/dpkg.log** : All binary package log includes package installation and other information
- => **/var/log/faillog** : User failed login log file
- => **/var/log/kern.log** : Kernel log file
- => **/var/log/lpr.log** : Printer log file
- => **/var/log/mail.*** : All mail server message log files
- => **/var/log/mysql.*** : MySQL server log file
- => **/var/log/user.log** : All userlevel logs
- => **/var/log/xorg.0.log** : X.org log file
- => **/var/log/apache2/*** : Apache web server log files directory
- => **/var/log/lighttpd/*** : Lighttpd web server log files directory
- => **/var/log/fsck/*** : fsck command log
- => **/var/log/apport.log** : Application crash report / log file

To view log files at shell prompt

Use tail, more, less and grep command.

```
tail -f /var/log/apport.log
more /var/log/xorg.0.log
cat /var/log/mysql.err
less /var/log/messages
grep -i fail /var/log/boot
```

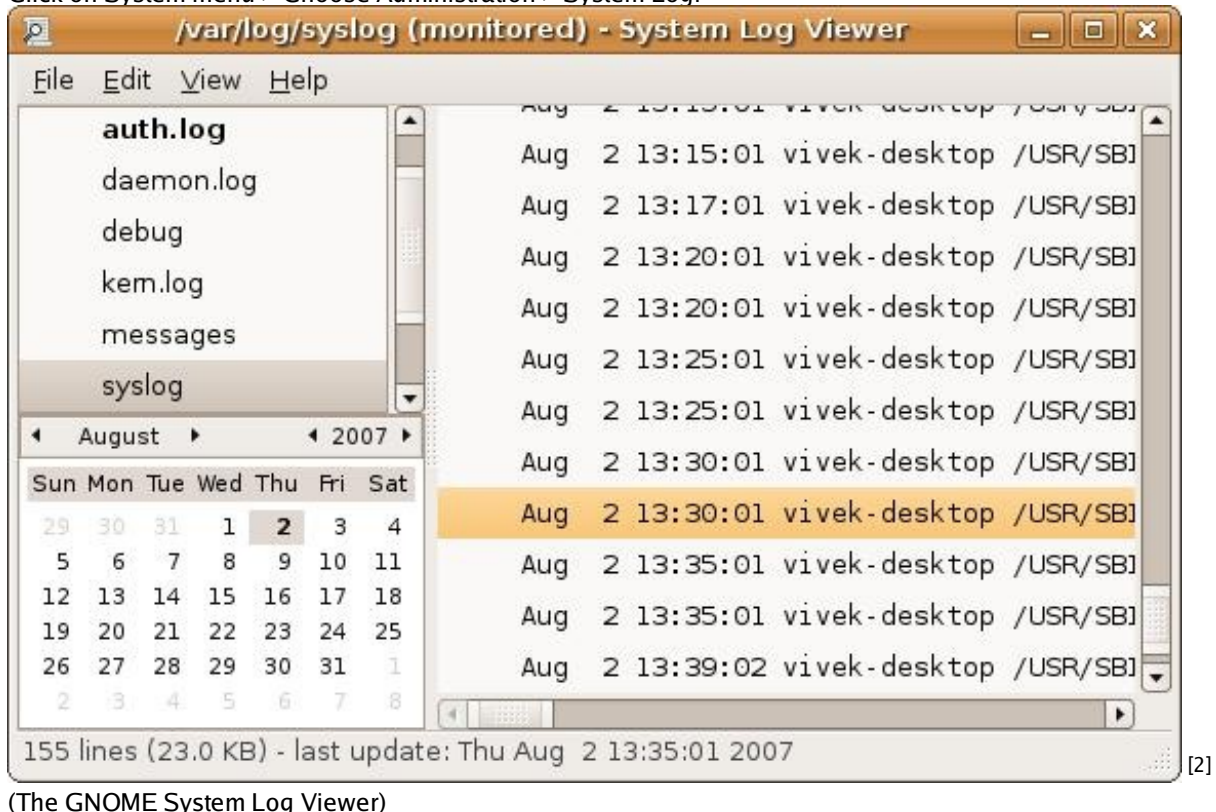
View log files using GUI tools using the GNOME System Log Viewer

System Log Viewer is a graphical, menu-driven viewer that you can use to view and monitor your system logs. System Log Viewer comes with a few functions that can help you manage your logs, including a calendar, log monitor and log statistics display. System Log Viewer is useful if you are new to system administration because it provides an easier,

more user-friendly display of your logs than a text display of the log file. It is also useful for more experienced administrators, as it contains a calendar to help you locate trends and track problems, as well as a monitor to enable you to continuously monitor crucial logs.

You can start System Log Viewer in the following ways:

Click on System menu > Choose Administration > System Log:



(The GNOME System Log Viewer)

Note you can start the GNOME System Log Viewer from a shell prompt, by entering the following command:

```
$ gnome-system-log &
```

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