Linux maintains various log files to help administrators track system activities and troubleshoot issues. Here are some common log files along with simple explanations:

1. */var/log/messages*

- *Explanation*: This is the primary log file that records a wide range of system events, including boot messages, service startup and shutdown, and general system errors.

```
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth rsyslogd(1083): [origin software="rsyslogd" swVersion="8.2310.0-4.el9" x-pid="1083" x-info="http
5://www.rsyslog.com"] rsyslogd was HUPed
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth gonoe-shell(2072): Received error from D-Bus search provider firefox.desktop: Gio.DBusError: GDB
Us.Erroriorg, freedesktop.DBus.Error.ServiceUnknown: The name is not activatable
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Created Sice Slice Japp/dbus-11.2-org, gnome.Calculator.SearchProvider.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Created Slice Slice Japp/dbus-12.org, gnome.ControlCenter.SearchProvider.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Created Slice Slice Japp/dbus-12.org, gnome.ControlCenter.SearchProvider.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started dbus-11.2-org, gnome.Calculator.SearchProvider@.Service.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started dbus-11.2-org, gnome.Calculator.SearchProvider@.Service.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started dbus-11.2-org, gnome.Characters.BackgroundService@0.service.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started Gbus-11.2-org, gnome.Characters.BackgroundService@0.service.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started Oround Service.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started OroundService GB Us.Erroriorg, freedesktop.Background Service.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started OroundService GB Us.Erroriorg, freedesktop.Background Service.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started Tracker file system data miner.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started Oracted Slice User Background Tasks Slice.
Nov 7 18:15:54 siddharrth systemd(1990): Started Oracted Slice User Supposed Service Supposed Service Supposed
```

2. */var/log/secure*

- *Explanation*: This log file keeps track of security-related events, such as authentication attempts (successful and failed), sudo usage, and other security related messages.

```
7 18:24:50 siddharrth su[3294]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by siddharrth(uid=1000)
7 18:27:26 linux polkitd[812]: Loading rules from directory /etc/polkit-1/rules.d
7 18:27:26 linux polkitd[812]: Loading rules from directory /usr/share/polkit-1/rules.d
7 18:27:26 linux polkitd[812]: Finished loading, compiling and executing 13 rules
7 18:27:26 linux polkitd[812]: Acquired the name org.freedesktop.PolicyKitl on the system bus
7 18:27:27 linux sshd[952]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.
7 18:27:27 linux sshd[952]: Server listening on :: port 22.
7 18:27:28 linux systemd[1184]: pam_unix(systemd-user:session): session opened for user gdm(uid=42) by gdm(uid=0)
7 18:27:29 linux gdm-launch-environment][1150]: pam_unix(gdm-launch-environment:session): session opened for user gdm(
=42) by (uid=0)
uid=42) by (uid=0)
Nov 7 18:27:32 linux polkitd[812]: Registered Authentication Agent for unix-session:c1 (system bus name :1.25 [/usr/bin/gn
ome-shell], object path /org/freedesktop/PolicyKitl/AuthenticationAgent, locale en_IN.UTF-8)
Nov 7 18:28:24 linux gdm-password][2141]: gkr-pam: unable to locate daemon control file
Nov 7 18:28:24 linux gdm-password][2141]: gkr-pam: stashed password to try later in open session
Nov 7 18:28:24 linux systemd[2167]: pam_unix(systemd-user:session): session opened for user siddharrth(uid=1000) by siddha
rrth(uid=0)
Nov 7 18:28:25 linux gdm-password][2141]: pam_unix(gdm-password:session): session opened for user siddharrth(uid=1000) by
Nov 7 18:28:25 linux gdm-password][2141]: gkr-pam: gnome-keyring-daemon started properly and unlocked keyring
Nov 7 18:28:27 linux polkitd[812]: Registered Authentication Agent for unix-session:2 (system bus name :1.70 [/usr/bin/gno
me-shell], object path /org/freedesktop/PolicyKit1/AuthenticationAgent, locale en_IN.UTF-8)
Nov 7 18:28:31 linux gdm-launch-environment][1150]: pam_unix(gdm-launch-environment:session): session closed for user gdm
Nov 7 18:28:32 linux polkitd[812]: Unregistered Authentication Agent for unix-session:c1 (system bus name :1.25, object pa
th /org/freedesktop/PolicyKit1/AuthenticationAgent, locale en_IN.UTF-8) (disconnected from bus)
Nov 7 18:47:24 linux gdm-password][3189]: gkr-pam: unlocked login keyring
Nov 7 18:47:32 linux su[3212]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by siddharrth(uid=1000)
         7 19:08:01 linux su[3212]: pam_unix(su:session): session closed for user root
7 19:20:16 linux gdm-password][3876]: gkr-pam: unlocked login keyring
7 20:09:52 linux su[4968]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by siddharrth(uid=1000)
          7 20:12:36 linux su[5066]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user kevin(uid=1002) by siddharrth(uid=0) 7 20:16:34 linux su[5066]: pam_unix(su:session): session closed for user kevin 7 20:16:37 linux su[4968]: pam_unix(su:session): session closed for user root
          7 20:16:45 linux su[5179]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user root(uid=0) by siddharrth(uid=1000)
7 20:17:08 linux useradd[5229]: new group: name=raina, GID=1025
7 20:17:08 linux useradd[5229]: new user: name=raina, UID=1019, GID=1025, home=/home/raina, shell=/bin/bash, from=/dev
/pts/0
          7 20:17:53 linux userdel[5253]: delete user 'raina'
         7 20:17:53 linux userdel[5253]: removed group 'raina' owned by 'raina'
7 20:17:53 linux userdel[5253]: removed shadow group 'raina' owned by 'raina'
          7 20:22:06 linux useradd[5284]: new user: name=raina, UID=1024, GID=1024, home=/home/RainaNewUser, shell=/bin/bash, fr
om=/dev/pts/0
Nov 7 20:23:33 linux passwd[5323]: pam_pwquality(passwd:chauthtok): user aborted password change
Nov 7 20:23:33 linux passwd[5323]: gkr-pam: couldn't update the login keyring password: no old password was entered
Nov 7 20:23:45 linux passwd[8555]: pam_unix(passwd:chauthtok): new password not acceptable
              20:23:45 linux passwd[8555]: gkr-pam: couldn't update the login keyring password: no old password was entered
```

3. */var/log/cron*

- *Explanation*: Logs generated by the cron daemon, which schedules and executes periodic tasks, are recorded here.

```
Nov 7 18:27:28 linux crond[1107]: (CRON) STARTUP (1.5.7)
Nov 7 18:27:28 linux crond[1107]: (CRON) INFO (Syslog will be used instead of sendmail.)
Nov 7 18:27:28 linux crond[1107]: (CRON) INFO (RANDOM_DELAY will be scaled with factor 23% if used.)
Nov 7 18:27:28 linux crond[1107]: (CRON) INFO (running with inotify support)
Nov 7 19:01:01 linux CROND[3571]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
                7 19:01:01 linux run-parts[3574]: (/etc/cron.hourly) starting Oanacron
 Nov
                7 19:01:01 linux anacron[3584]: Mill run job `cron.weekly' in 44 min.
7 19:01:01 linux anacron[3584]: Will run job `cron.weekly' in 44 min.
7 19:01:01 linux anacron[3584]: Will run job `cron.monthly' in 64 min.
7 19:01:01 linux anacron[3584]: Will run job `cron.monthly' in 64 min.
 Nov
 Nov
                7 19:01:01 linux anacron[3584]: Jobs will be executed sequentially 7 19:01:01 linux run-parts[3586]: (/etc/cron.hourly) finished @anacron
Nov
 Nov
               7 19:01:01 Linux run-parts[3386]: (/etc/cron.nourly) finished danacron 7 19:01:01 Linux CROND[3570]: (root) CMDEND (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly) 7 19:25:01 Linux anacron[3584]: Job `cron.daily' started 7 19:45:01 Linux anacron[3584]: Job `cron.weekly' started 7 19:45:01 Linux anacron[3584]: Job `cron.weekly' terminated
 Nov
Nov
 Nov
                7 19.43.01 tinux CROND[4889]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
7 20:01:01 linux run-parts[4892]: (/etc/cron.hourly) starting Oanacron
7 20:01:01 linux run-parts[4898]: (/etc/cron.hourly) finished Oanacron
 Nov
 Nov
               7 20:01:01 linux CROND[4888]: (root) CMDEND (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
7 20:05:01 linux anacron[3584]: Job `cron.monthly' started
7 20:05:01 linux anacron[3584]: Job `cron.monthly' terminated
7 20:05:01 linux anacron[3584]: Normal exit (3 jobs run)
 Nov
 Nov
               7 22:01:01 linux CROND[37139]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
7 22:01:01 linux run-parts[37142]: (/etc/cron.hourly) starting @anacron
7 22:01:01 linux run-parts[37148]: (/etc/cron.hourly) finished @anacron
7 22:01:01 linux CROND[37138]: (root) CMDEND (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
7 23:01:01 linux CROND[37270]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
 Nov
 Nov
 Nov
             7 23:01:01 Linux CROND[3/2/0]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
7 23:01:01 Linux run-parts[37273]: (/etc/cron.hourly) starting Oanacron
7 23:01:02 Linux run-parts[37279]: (/etc/cron.hourly) finished Oanacron
7 23:01:02 Linux CROND[37269]: (root) CMDEMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
8 00:01:01 Linux CROND[37762]: (root) CMD (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
8 00:01:01 Linux run-parts[37765]: (/etc/cron.hourly) starting Oanacron
8 00:01:01 Linux anacron[37775]: Anacron started on 2024-11-08
Nov
 Nov
Nov
                8 00:01:01 linux anacron[37775]: Normal exit (0 jobs run)
              8 00:01:01 linux run-parts[37777]: (/etc/cron.hourly) finished 0anacron
8 00:01:01 linux CROND[37761]: (root) CMDEND (run-parts /etc/cron.hourly)
```

4. */var/log/dmesg*

- *Explanation*: Contains kernel ring buffer messages, which are low-level system messages useful for diagnosing hardware and driver issues.

```
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth rsyslogd [1883]: [origin software="rsyslogd" swVersion="8.2310.0-4.el9" x-pid="1883" x-info="http s://www.rsyslog.com"] rsyslogd was #UPed
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth gnome-shell[2072]: Received error from D-Bus search provider firefox.desktop: Gio.DBusError: GDB
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Created slice Slice /app/dbus=1.2-org, gnome.chardters, BackgroundService.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Created slice Slice /app/dbus=1.2-org, gnome.chardters, BackgroundService.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Created slice Slice /app/dbus=1.2-org, gnome.chardters, BackgroundService.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Created slice Slice /app/dbus=1.2-org, gnome.chardters, BackgroundService.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome.chardters.BackgroundService0.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:51 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started dbus=1:1-org, gnome. Chardters.Backgroundride.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started MolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:52 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:54 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:54 siddharrth systemd[1909]: Started RolME Terminal Server.
Nov 7 18:15:54 siddharrth systemd[1909]: St
```

5. */var/log/boot.log*

- *Explanation*: Captures messages related to system boot processes, including the startup of various services.



6. */var/log/yum.log*

- *Explanation*: Tracks package installation, updates, and removal activities performed using the YUM package manager.

LOGS

7. */var/log/audit/audit.log*

- *Explanation*: Stores audit logs generated by the Linux Auditing System, which is used for security auditing and monitoring.

```
DAEMON_START msg=audit(1727681270.072:7393): op=start ver=3.0.7 format=enriched kernel=5.14.0-142.el9.x86_64 auid=429
967295 pid=798 uid=0 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:auditd_t:s0 res=success^1_AUID="unset" UID="root"
type=SERVICE_START msg=audit(1727681270.074:5): pid=1 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:init_t:s0
msg='unit=systemd-journal-catalog-update comm="systemd" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=su
ccess'<mark>^]</mark>UID="root" AUID="unset"
type=CONFIG_CHANGE msg=audit(1727681270.092:6): op=set audit_backlog_limit=8192 old=64 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=
system_u:system_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 res=1^1AUID="unset"
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1727681270.092:6): arch=c000003e syscall=44 success=yes exit=60 a0=3 a1=7fffb112a450 a2=3c a3=0 item
s=0 ppid=803 pid=813 auid=4294967295 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0 sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) ses=4294967295 comm ="auditctl" exe="/usr/sbin/auditctl" subj=system_u:system_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 key=(null) | ARCH=x86_64 SYSCALL=sendto | AUID="unset" UID="root" GID="root" EVID="root" SGID="root" FSGID="root"
type=PROCTITLE msg=audit(1727681270.092:6): proctitle=2F7362696E2F617564697463746C002D52002F6574632F61756469742F61756469742
type=CONFIG_CHANGE msg=audit(1727681270.092:7): op=set audit_failure=1 old=1 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:s
ystem_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 res=1<mark>^]</mark>AUID="unset"
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1727681270.092:7): arch=c000003e syscall=44 success=yes exit=60 a0=3 a1=7fffb112a450 a2=3c a3=0 item
s=0 ppid=803 pid=813 auid=4294967295 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0 sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) ses=4294967295 comm ="auditctl" exe="/usr/sbin/auditctl" subj=system_u:system_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 key=(null) | ARCH=x86_64 SYSCALL=sendto | AUID="unset" UID="root" GID="root" EVID="root" SGID="root" FSGID="root"
type=PROCTITLE msg=audit(1727681270.092:7): proctitle=2F7362696E2F617564697463746C002D52002F6574632F61756469742F61756469742
type=CONFIG_CHANGE msg=audit(1727681270.092:8): op=set audit_backlog_wait_time=60000 old=60000 auid=4294967295 ses=42949672
95 subj=system_u:system_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 res=1<mark>^]</mark>AUID="unset"
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1727681270.092:8): arch=c000003e syscall=44 success=yes exit=60 a0=3 a1=7fffb112a450 a2=3c a3=0 item
se ppid=803 pid=813 auid=4294967295 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0 sgid=0 fsgid=0 tty=(none) ses=4294967295 comm
="auditctl" exe="/usr/sbin/auditctl" subj=system_u:system_r:unconfined_service_t:s0 key=(null)||ARCH=x86_64 SYSCALL=sendto
| AUID="unset" UID="root" GID="root" EUID="root" SUID="root" FSUID="root" EGID="root" SGID="root" FSGID="root"
type=PROCTITLE msg=audit(1727681270.092:8): proctitle=2F7362696E2F617564697463746C002D52002F6574632F61756469742F61756469742
E72756C6573
type=SERVICE_START msg=audit(1727681270.093:9): pid=1 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:init_t:s0 msg='unit=auditd comm="systemd" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=success'^]UID="root" AUID=
type=SYSTEM_BOOT msg=audit(1727681270.098:10): pid=820 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:init_t:s
0 msg=' comm="systemd-update-utmp" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd-update-utmp" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=success'^]UI
D="root" AUID="unset"
type=SERVICE_START msg=audit(1727681270.101:11): pid=1 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:init_
0 msg='unit=systemd-update-utmp comm="systemd" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=success'^]UI
D="root" AUID="unset"
type=SERVICE_START msg=audit(1727681270.210:12): pid=1 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:sy<u>s</u>tem_r:init_t:s
oʻmsg='unit=ldconfig comm="systemd" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=success'^]UID="root" AU
type=SERVICE_START msg=audit(1727681270.217:13): pid=1 uid=0 auid=4294967295 ses=4294967295 subj=system_u:system_r:init
0 msg='unit=systemd-update-done comm="systemd" exe="/usr/lib/systemd/systemd" hostname=? addr=? terminal=? res=success'aluɪ
D="root" AUID="unset"
type=BPF msg=audit(1727681270.221:14): prog-id=28 op=LOAD
```

8. */var/log/httpd/*

- *Explanation*: Directory containing log files for the Apache web server, including access logs and error logs.

9. */var/log/maillog*

- *Explanation*: Logs related to the mail server, including messages sent and received, errors, and other mail server activities.

```
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/maillog
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/maillog-20241016
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/maillog-20241008
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/maillog-20241107
```

10. */var/log/lastlog*

Explanation: Records the last login time of each user. It is not a regular text file but can be viewed using the lastlog command.

```
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/lastlog
-gpts/09�,gtty1�&ftty1� gpts/0��,gpts/0��,gpts/00��fpts/0��&fpts/0��fpts/0&��fpts/0��gpts/1C��fpts/0� gpts/0[root@linux ~]
#
```

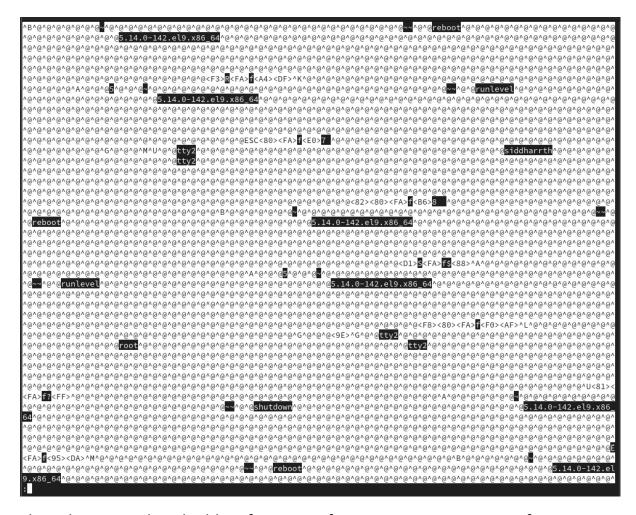
11. */var/log/btmp*

- *Explanation*: Records failed login attempts. Like lastlog, this is a binary file and can be viewed using the lastb command.

```
"
[root@linux ~]# cat /var/log/btmp
��pts/00mahendraB�,g�X
��pts/00mahendra_�,gǿYpts/00raina-g�/
```

12. */var/log/wtmp*

- *Explanation*: Records login and logout events. This binary file can be viewed using the last command.



These logs provide valuable information for monitoring system performance, identifying issues, and ensuring security. Regularly reviewing these logs can help maintain the health and security of a CentOS Linux system.