Install Promtail Binary and Start as a Service

Download and Install Promtail Binary

Now we will create the Promtail service that will act as the collector for Loki.

```
cd /usr/local/bin
```

```
sudo curl -fSL -o promtail.gz
"https://github.com/grafana/loki/releases/download/v0.4.0/promtail-linux-amd64.gz"
```

```
sudo gunzip promtail.gz
```

And allow the execute permission on the Promtail binary

```
sudo chmod a+x promtail
```

Create the Promtail config

Now we will create the Promtail config file.

```
sudo nano config-promtail.yml
```

And add this script,

```
server:
  http_listen_port: 9080
  grpc_listen_port: 0

positions:
  filename: /tmp/positions.yaml

clients:
  - url: http://127.0.0.1:3100/loki/api/v1/push

scrape_configs:
  - job_name: journal
    journal:
      max_age: 12h
```

```
        path: /var/log/journal
        labels:
          job: systemd-journal
    relabel_configs:
      - source_labels: ['__journal__systemd_unit']
        target_label: 'unit'
```

Test Promtail Works,

You can now test Promtail by running

```
sudo promtail -config.file /usr/local/bin/config-promtail.yml
```

Open a browser and visit,

http://[Your Server Domain or IP]:9080

After having a good look around to verify it works, stop the Promtail server by pressing **CTRL-C**.

Configure Firewall

When your Promtail server is running, it will be accessible remotely. If you only want localhost to be able to connect, then type

```
iptables -A INPUT -p tcp -s localhost --dport 9080 -j ACCEPT
iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 9080 -j DROP
iptables -L
```

Configure Promtail as a Service

Now we will configure Promtail as a service so that we can keep it running in the background.

Create a file called *promtail.service*

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/promtail.service
```

And add this script,

```
[Unit]
Description=Promtail service
After=network.target

[Service]
Type=simple
ExecStart=/usr/local/bin/promtail -config.file /usr/local/bin/config-promtail.yml
```

```
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Now start and check the service is running.

```
sudo service promtail start
sudo service promtail status
```

We can now leave the new Promtail service running.

If you ever need to stop the new Promtail service, then type

```
sudo service promtail stop
sudo service promtail status
```