

11.1.9 logrotate Facts

This lesson covers the following topics:

- How logrotate works
- Commands used with logrotate

How logrotate Works

Linux distributions include the logrotate utility to automatically manage, compress, rename, and delete log files based on specific criteria, such as size or date. On most distributions, logrotate:

- Automatically runs each week as a cron job to periodically maintain system logs. Old logs are renamed with a numbered extension, and logs are deleted after 4 weeks.
- Uses `/etc/logrotate.conf` as the main configuration file. It contains entries that apply to the whole system.
- Uses scripts in `/etc/logrotate.d` to overwrite the settings in `/etc/logrotate.conf`.

Commands Used with logrotate

The following table describes the commands found in `/etc/logrotate.conf` or scripts in `/etc/logrotate.d`:

Command	Function	Examples
compress	Compresses old log files using gzip .	
maxage	Removes rotated logs that are older than the specified number of days.	maxage 180 deletes every rotated log older than 180 days.
dateext	Uses a daily extension on archived files using file.YYYYMMDD format.	Uses a daily extension on archived files using a <i>file.YYYYMMDD</i> format.
rotate	Specifies the number of times to rotate the log before deleting it.	rotate 5 rotates the log file five times and then removes it.
size	Rotates or remove log files based on file size as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• size k specifies the size in kilobytes.• size M specifies the size in megabytes.	size 100M deletes or rotates files larger than 100 megabytes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• size G specifies the size in gigabytes.	
notifempty	Prohibits empty logs from being rotated.	
missingok	Prevents errors from being displayed for missing log files.	
create	Creates a log file with a name identical to the one just rotated. The command specifies the mode (permissions) of the file as well as the owner and group for the file.	create 744 root root creates a file with read, write, and execute permissions for the owner and read permission for the group and everyone, specifies root as the file owner, and specifies root as the group.
postrotate	Indicates the start of script commands to be executed after log files are rotated. The term endscript must be used to indicate the end of the script.	

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