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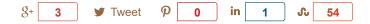HOME   POST INDEX   CONTACT US!   PRIVACY POLICY

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Ultimate guide to configure logrotate utility

January 22, 2017 By **admin** — **Leave a Comment**

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Generally speaking Logs are very much important part of any troubleshooting activity, However these logs grows in size with time. In this case we need to perform log cleanup manually in order to reclaim the space and its tedious task to administer these logs. To overcome this we can configure logrotate utility available in Linux which automatically does rotation, compression , removal and mailing of logfile.

We can configure logrotate utility so that each log file may be handled daily, weekly, monthly,or when it grows too large.

How logrotate utility works:

By default, the logrotate command runs as a cron job once a day from /etc/cron.daily, and it helps you set a policy where log-files that grow beyond a certain age or size are rotated.

Command: /usr/sbin/logrotate

Configuration File : /etc/logrotate.conf

Read less

This is a configuration file for logrotate utility. The logrotate configuration files are also stored for

Make sure below code exists in /etc/logrotate.conf for reading out service specific log rotation configuration.

```
1 include /etc/logrotate.d
```

...ate utility options:

```
 1  compress             --> Compresses all noncurrent versions of the log file
 2  daily,weekly,monthly -->Rotating log files on the specified schedule
 3  delaycompress        -->Compresses all versions but current and next-most-recent
 4  endscript            --> Marks the end of a prerotate or postrotate script
 5  errors "emailid"     --> Email error notification to specified emailaddr
 6  missingok            --> Do not complain if log file is missing
 7  notifempty           -->  Does not rotate the log file if it is empty
 8  olddir "dir"         --> Specifies that older verions of the log file be placed in "dir"
 9  postrotate           --> Introduce a script to be run after log has been rotated
10  prerotate            -->Introduce a script to be run before any changes are made
11  rotate 'n'           -->Include 'n' versions of the log in the rotation scheme
12  sharedscripts        -->Runs scripts only once for the entire log group
13  size='logsize'       -->Rotates if log file size > 'logsize (eg 100K, 4M)
```

Let's configure logrotate utility for our own sample log file "/tmp/sample_output.log".

Step1: Add below lines of code in the "/etc/logrotate.conf" file.

```
1 /tmp/sample_output.log {
2 size 1k
3 create 700 root root
4 rotate 4
5 compress
6 }
```

In the above configuration code:

- **size 1k** – logrotate runs only if the file size is equal to (or greater than) this size.
- **create** – rotate the original file and create the new file with specified permission, user and group.
- **rotate** – limits the number of log file rotation. So, this would keep only the recent 4 rotated log files.
- **compress**– This will compress the file.

Step 2: Normally, you would have to wait a day until logrotate is started from /etc/cron.daily. As an alternative, you can run it from the command line using the following command:

```
1 /usr/sbin/logrotate /etc/logrotate.conf
```

```
1  [root@rhel1 tmp]#  ls -l /tmp/
2  total 28
3  -rw------- 1 root rpot 20000 Jan 1 05:23 sample_output.log
```

```
1  [root@rhel1 tmp]# ls -l /tmp
2  total 12
3  -rwx------. 1 root root 0 Jan 1 05:24 sample_output.log
4  -rw-------. 1 root root 599 Jan 1 05:24 sample_output.log-20170101.gz
5  [root@rhel1 tmp]#
```

So this confirms successful implementation of logrotate utility.

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