

# Logrotate

From <https://github.com/logrotate/logrotate>:

*The logrotate utility is designed to simplify the administration of log files on a system which generates a lot of log files. Logrotate allows for the automatic rotation compression, removal and mailing of log files. Logrotate can be set to handle a log file daily, weekly, monthly or when the log file gets to a certain size.*

## Related articles

**Cron**

**systemd/Timers**

By default, logrotate's *rotation* consists of renaming existing log files with a numerical suffix, then recreating the original *empty* log file. For example, `/var/log/syslog.log` is renamed `/var/log/syslog.log.1`. If `/var/log/syslog.log.1` already exists from a previous rotation, it is first renamed `/var/log/syslog.log.2`. (The number of backlogs to keep can be configured.)

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## Installation

Logrotate can be installed with the **logrotate** (<https://www.archlinux.org/packages/?name=logrotate>) package. It is installed by default as it is member of the **base** ([https://www.archlinux.org/groups/x86\\_64/base/](https://www.archlinux.org/groups/x86_64/base/)) group.

By default, logrotate runs daily using a **systemd timer**: `logrotate.timer`.

## Configuration

The primary configuration file for logrotate which sets default parameters is `/etc/logrotate.conf`; additional application-specific configuration files are included from the `/etc/logrotate.d` directory. Values set in application-specific configuration files

override those same parameters in the primary configuration file. See [logrotate.conf\(5\)](https://jlk.fjfi.cvut.cz/arch/manpages/man/logrotate.conf.5) (<https://jlk.fjfi.cvut.cz/arch/manpages/man/logrotate.conf.5>) for configuration examples and a reference of available directives.

To verify if logrotate works correctly run the following command which will produce debug output:

```
logrotate -d
```

## Usage

logrotate is usually run through **Cron** jobs.

To run logrotate manually:

```
logrotate /etc/logrotate.conf
```

To rotate a single log file:

```
logrotate /etc/logrotate.d/mylog
```

To simulate running your configuration file (*dry run*):

```
logrotate -d /etc/logrotate.d/mylog
```

To force running rotations even when conditions are not met, run

```
logrotate -vf /etc/logrotate.d/mylog
```

See **logrotate(8)** (<https://jlk.fjfi.cvut.cz/arch/manpages/man/logrotate.8>) for more details.

## Troubleshooting

### exim log not rotated

If you have set the `olddir` variable in `/etc/logrotate.conf`, you will get a message such as:

```
error: failed to rename /var/log/exim/mainlog to /var/log/old/mainlog.1:
Permission denied
```

To fix this, add the user `exim` to the group `log`. Then change the group of the `olddir`, usually `/var/log/old`, to `log` instead of the default `root`.

### Check logrotate status

Logrotate rotations are usually logged to `/var/lib/logrotate.status` (the `-s` option allows you to specify another state file):

```
/var/lib/logrotate.status

"/var/log/mysql/query.log" 2016-3-20-5:0:0
"/var/log/samba/samba-smbd.log" 2016-3-21-5:0:0
"/var/log/httpd/access_log" 2016-3-20-5:0:0
...
```

## Skipping log because parent directory has insecure permission

Set in the config which user and which group has to job `/etc/logrotate.d/job` to be run with:

```
file-to-be-rotated {
    su user group
    rotate 4
}
```

## See also

- **Logrotate on Gentoo Linux Wiki** (<http://wiki.gentoo.org/wiki/Logrotate>)
- **logrotate(8)** (<https://jlk.fjfi.cvut.cz/arch/manpages/man/logrotate.8>) manual page

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