

## FreeBSD Administration - Support #580

### Rotating Log Files With Logrotate and Rotatelogs on FreeBSD

03/08/2015 09:40 PM - Daniel Curtis

<b>Status:</b>	Closed	<b>Start date:</b>	03/08/2015
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Daniel Curtis	<b>% Done:</b>	100%
<b>Category:</b>	Logging Server	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.50 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	FreeBSD 9	<b>Spent time:</b>	1.00 hour

#### Description

This is a simple guide for setting up logrotate and rotatelogs on FreeBSD 9.2-RELEASE.

- Update the system and ports tree:

```
pkg update && pkg upgrade
portsnap fetch extract
```

#### Rotating With Logrotate

- Install logrotate:

```
pkg install logrotate
```

- Edit the logrotate config file:

```
vi /usr/local/etc/logrotate.conf
```

- Add/modify the following:

```
/var/log/httpd-access_log {
daily
size 1024k
rotate 30
copytruncate
compress
notifempty
missingok
}
/var/log/httpd-error_log {
daily
size 1024k
rotate 30
copytruncate
compress
notifempty
missingok
}
```

- Test logrotate:

```
logrotate -d /usr/local/etc/logrotate.conf
```

- Setup a cronjob to run logrotate:

```
crontab -e
```

- And add the following:

```
## Logrotate at 1 AM in the morning
0 01 * * * root /usr/local/sbin/logrotate /usr/local/etc/logrotate.conf > /dev/null 2>&1
```

- Restart cron:

```
service cron restart
```

## Rotating With Rotatelog

Rotate logs is a tool provided by Apache for use in conjunction with Apache's piped logfile feature. It supports rotation based on a time interval or maximum size of the log.

- This creates the files `/var/logs/logfile.nnnn` where `nnnn` is the system time at which the log nominally starts (this time will always be a multiple of the rotation time, so you can synchronize cron scripts with it). At the end of each rotation time (here after 24 hours) a new log is started.

```
CustomLog "|bin/rotatelog /var/logs/logfile 86400" common
```

- This creates the files `/var/logs/logfile.yyyy.mm.dd` where `yyyy` is the year, `mm` is the month, and `dd` is the day of the month. Logging will switch to a new file every day at midnight, local time.

```
CustomLog "|bin/rotatelog -l /var/logs/logfile.%Y.%m.%d 86400" common
```

- This configuration will rotate the logfile whenever it reaches a size of 5 megabytes.

```
CustomLog "|bin/rotatelog /var/logs/logfile 5M" common
```

- This configuration will rotate the error logfile whenever it reaches a size of 5 megabytes, and the suffix to the logfile name will be created of the form `errorlog.YYYY-mm-dd-HH_MM_SS`.

```
ErrorLog "|bin/rotatelog /var/logs/errorlog.%Y-%m-%d-%H_%M_%S 5M"
```

## Resources

- <https://www.freebsd.org/cgi/man.cgi?query=logrotate&manpath=SuSE+Linux/i386+11.3>
- <https://teklimbu.wordpress.com/2007/10/16/managing-your-linuxunix-log-files-using-logrotate/>
- <http://www.thegeekstuff.com/2010/07/logrotate-examples/>
- <http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/programs/rotatelog.html>

## History

#1 - 03/08/2015 09:44 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 50

#2 - 03/09/2015 05:12 PM - Daniel Curtis

- *Description updated*
- *Status changed from In Progress to Resolved*
- *% Done changed from 50 to 100*

**#3 - 03/10/2015 08:16 PM - Daniel Curtis**

- *Subject changed from Rotating Log Files With Logrotate on FreeBSD to Rotating Log Files With Logrotate and Rotatelogs on FreeBSD*
- *Description updated*

**#4 - 03/18/2015 09:31 AM - Daniel Curtis**

- *Status changed from Resolved to Closed*