

## log file size growing despite settings

|                             |           |                               |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Status:</b>              | Not a Bug | <b>Start date:</b>            |           |
| <b>Priority:</b>            | Normal    | <b>Due date:</b>              |           |
| <b>Assignee:</b>            |           | <b>% Done:</b>                | 0%        |
| <b>Category:</b>            | Logging   | <b>Estimated time:</b>        | 0.00 hour |
| <b>Target version:</b>      |           | <b>Affected Version:</b>      |           |
| <b>Plus Target Version:</b> |           | <b>Affected Architecture:</b> |           |
| <b>Release Notes:</b>       | Default   |                               |           |

Hi all

I have a problem with log file for firewall.  
Despite these settings, log file keeps growing and growing.  
What can be wrong?

These settings override the "General Logging Options" settings.

Forward/Reverse Display

☒ Forward

☐ Reverse

☐ General Logging Options Setting

(newest at bottom)

(newest at top)

Show log entries in forward or reverse order.

GUI Log Entries

This is the number of log entries displayed in the GUI. It does not affect how many entries are contained in the log.

Log Rotation Size (Bytes)

This field controls the size at which logs will be rotated. By default this is 500 KiB per log file, and there are nearly 20 such log files. Rotated log files consume additional disk space, which varies depending on compression and retention count.

NOTE: Log file sizes are checked once per minute to determine if rotation is necessary, so a very rapidly growing log file may exceed this value.

Log Retention Count

The number of log files to keep before the oldest copy is removed on rotation.

Formatted/Raw Display

☒ Formatted

☐ Raw

☐ General Logging Options Setting

-rw-----

1

root

wheel

3509

Sep 30

13:07

auth.log

-rw-----

1

root

wheel

1376

Sep 30

12:40

dhcpd.log

-rw-r--r--

1

root

wheel

8417

Sep 21

11:09

dmesg.boot

-rw-----

1

root

wheel

19948641

Sep 30

13:07

filter.log

-rw-----

1

root

wheel

9754

Sep 30

13:03

gateways.log

-rw-----

1

root

wheel

451952

Sep 30

13:07

ipsec.log

**#1 - 09/30/2024 11:10 AM - Tomas B.**

At one point, it was so big it filled the whole SSD and crashed the whole system.

**#2 - 09/30/2024 12:30 PM - Jim Pingle**

You have "Log Retention Count" set to 0, which might be the problem. Don't change it on the tab in your screenshot, change it in the main logging options under **Status > System Logs . Settings** tab.

0 doesn't mean keep an infinite number of logs, I suspect it's throwing off the rotation configuration and making it not rotate at all. Try changing that to the default (7) and see if it starts rotating again.

We may need to add validation to prevent that from being set to 0, or document that it disables retention.

**#3 - 09/30/2024 12:42 PM - Tomas B.**

- File clipboard-202409301442-17vog.png added

Hi Jim  
without my intervention its there. So it seems that the configuration did not accepted it.

Forward

Reverse

General Logging Options Setting

(newest at bottom)

(newest at top)

Show log entries in forward or reverse order.

GUI Log Entries

500

This is the number of log entries displayed in the GUI. It does not affect how many entries are contained in the log.

Log Rotation Size (Bytes)

8192000

This field controls the size at which logs will be rotated. By default this is 500 KiB per log file, and there are nearly 20 such log files. Rotated log files consume additional disk space, which varies depending on compression and retention count.

NOTE: Log file sizes are checked once per minute to determine if rotation is necessary, so a very rapidly growing log file may exceed this value.

Log Retention Count

7

The number of log files to keep before the oldest copy is removed on rotation.

#4 - 09/30/2024 12:50 PM - Jim Pingle

Maybe it's the way your theme or the browser is rendering those settings. There have been cases where the dark theme wasn't properly distinguishing enabled/disabled form elements.

Try typing a 7 in there and pressing Save, then check the settings on the other log tabs. If the others all show a 7 except filter, it may need to be manually set on the Filter tab, too. Or blank the field and press Save and see what happens.

#5 - 09/30/2024 01:05 PM - Tomas B.

OK. So i set the default system settings on 7. I can see it everywhere else. And I restarted logging service.

#6 - 09/30/2024 01:17 PM - Jim Pingle

- Status changed from New to Feedback

OK, let us know if that started it rotating again. And be sure to check the setting on the Firewall log tab as well to be sure it's showing 7 there.

Either way there is a little bug in the code handling the rotation, just a matter of figuring out specifically what it might be.

#7 - 09/30/2024 01:46 PM - Tomas B.

So the outcome was the same. I will do next round of testing. I will set rotation count manually to 7 in firewall subsettings, clear logs and restart the service.

#8 - 09/30/2024 02:31 PM - Tomas B.

Sadly, result was the same again.

#9 - 09/30/2024 02:35 PM - Jim Pingle

What version are you seeing this problem on?

I've been trying to replicate it on a lab system but I can't make it misbehave in the way you describe. If I set it to 0/empty it resets the setting to the system default. If I hand edit the config to have a value of 0, it sets the count to 0, but it still rotates by erasing the current log and restarting it. In no case does it fail to rotate.

I'll need to see a copy of /var/etc/newsyslog.conf.d/pfSense.conf and the <syslog> ... </syslog> section of your config.xml settings to determine what might be happening in your case.

#10 - 10/01/2024 07:21 AM - Tomas B.

- File clipboard-202410010919-ea5w6.png added

- File clipboard-202410010919-hxfwh.png added

- File clipboard-202410010921-xovdc.png added

Hello.  
Providing the info you asked for:

Version

24.03-RELEASE (amd64)  
built on Mon May 13 14:17:00 CEST 2024  
FreeBSD 15.0-CURRENT

The system is on the latest version.

Version information updated at Tue Oct 1 9:18:58 CEST 2024

|                       |            |     |   |      |   |    |
|-----------------------|------------|-----|---|------|---|----|
| /var/log/userlog      | root:wheel | 600 | 3 | 2048 | * | B  |
| /var/log/utx.log      | root:wheel | 644 | 3 | 2048 | * | B  |
| /var/log/system.log   | root:wheel | 600 | 2 | 500  | * | JC |
| /var/log/filter.log   | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 8000 | * | JC |
| /var/log/dhcpd.log    | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/vpn.log      | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/poes.log     | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/l2tps.log    | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/openvpn.log  | root:wheel | 600 | 2 | 4000 | * | JC |
| /var/log/portauth.log | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/ipsec.log    | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/ppp.log      | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/wireless.log | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/nginx.log    | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/ntpd.log     | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/gateways.log | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/resolver.log | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |
| /var/log/routing.log  | root:wheel | 600 | 2 | 500  | * | JC |
| /var/log/auth.log     | root:wheel | 600 | 7 | 2048 | * | JC |

```

▼<syslog>
  <filterdescriptions>1</filterdescriptions>
  <nentries>500</nentries>
  <sourceip/>
  <ipproto>ipv4</ipproto>
  <reverse/>
  <nologbogons/>
  <nologprivatenets/>
  ▼<ipsec_settings>
    <cronorder>reverse</cronorder>
  </ipsec_settings>
  <logfilesize>2097152</logfilesize>
  <logcompressiontype>bzip2</logcompressiontype>
  <format>rfc3164</format>
  <rotatecount>7</rotatecount>
  <remoteserver/>
  <remoteserver2/>
  <remoteserver3/>
  <logconfigchanges>enabled</logconfigchanges>
  ▼<routing_settings>
    <logfilesize>512000</logfilesize>
    <rotatecount>2</rotatecount>
  </routing_settings>
  ▼<system_settings>
    <logfilesize>512000</logfilesize>
    <rotatecount>2</rotatecount>
  </system_settings>
  <nologdefaultblock/>
  ▼<openvpn_settings>
    <logfilesize>4096000</logfilesize>
    <rotatecount>2</rotatecount>
  </openvpn_settings>
  ▼<filter_settings>
    <cronorder>reverse</cronorder>
    <logfilesize>8192000</logfilesize>
    <rotatecount>7</rotatecount>
  </filter_settings>
</syslog>

```

I should point out that the configuration was imported form version 2.x

#11 - 10/01/2024 05:45 PM - Jim Pingle

Nothing there looks out of sorts.

Check in /etc/crontab and see if you have a line there for newsyslog. It should look like this:

```
*/1 * * * * root /usr/sbin/newsyslog
```

If you don't, then that may be the problem. It might be something happened when importing your old configuration and the cron job to handle log rotation didn't get added.

#12 - 10/03/2024 06:46 AM - Tomas B.

- File clipboard-202410030846-hynuo.png added

Hi  
this is what it contains.

```
#
# pfSense specific crontab entries
# Created: October 2, 2024, 8:13 am
#
SHELL=/bin/sh
PATH=/sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin

1,31 0-5 * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 adjkerntz -a
1 3 1 * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /etc/rc.update_bogons.sh
*/60 * * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /usr/local/sbin/expiretable -v -t 3600 sshguard
*/60 * * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /usr/local/sbin/expiretable -v -t 3600 webConfiguratorlockout
1 1 * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /etc/rc.dyndns.update
*/60 * * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /usr/local/sbin/expiretable -v -t 3600 virusprot
30 12 * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /etc/rc.update_urltables
1 0 * * * root /usr/bin/nice -n20 /etc/rc.update_pkg_metadata
#
# DO NOT EDIT THIS FILE MANUALLY!
# Use the cron package or create files in /etc/cron.d/.
#
```

#13 - 10/03/2024 12:54 PM - Jim Pingle

- Status changed from Feedback to Not a Bug

OK, there does not appear to be a bug in how the settings themselves are handled. Your configuration is broken. Either it wasn't restored properly or the configuration upgrade failed somehow, but it's missing several important cron jobs and who knows what else.

This isn't the place to diagnose what happened there, however. For assistance in correcting your configuration file contents, please post on the [Netgate Forum](#)

#14 - 10/03/2024 01:03 PM - Tomas B.

I understand. Thank you for your effort.

Files

|                                  |         |            |          |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| clipboard-202409301308-jvqdm.png | 53.6 KB | 09/30/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202409301308-0pm0i.png | 8.56 KB | 09/30/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202409301442-17vog.png | 40.9 KB | 09/30/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202410010919-ea5w6.png | 12.4 KB | 10/01/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202410010919-hxfwh.png | 37.4 KB | 10/01/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202410010921-xovdc.png | 32.3 KB | 10/01/2024 | Tomas B. |
| clipboard-202410030846-hynuo.png | 34.5 KB | 10/03/2024 | Tomas B. |