

## M-11. using Linux logrotate utility

### 1.0 General Information

Redhat Linux systems, through Redhat Enterprise Workstation 3 and beyond, use the 'logrotate' package as their standard tool for rotating, compressing, and otherwise managing log files. 'logrotate' is included in Redhat's System Environment/Base application set. The logrotate utility is designed to simplify the administration of log files.

Logrotate implements log rotation better than we can do without significant duplicated effort. It manages compression of log files, easy specification of time or size between log rotations, and many other helpful features, such as postrotate scripts, which might be useful for other tasks.

For this task, the fact that no code needed to be written, and that no crontabs needed to be modified, made a simple logrotate configuration file an attractive option. Additionally, logrotate supports 'copytruncate' functionality, which breaks off logs without the need to restart the database daemons.

### 2.0 Example Config File

Listed below is the config file used to rotate a log file on the RAX system. For this example the logfile for the script purge\_files is used. The name of this example config file is test1.

```
# Created: 8/24/04
# Modified: 8/26/04
#
# File: /etc/logrotate.d/test1
#
# Detail: Logrotate config for purge_files log file

/rfc_arc/logs/purgefiles/logfile {

# If file grows over 10M, rotate it
size 10M

# keep 2 months worth of backlogs
rotate 1

# Truncate the original log file in place after creating a copy
copytruncate

# log files compressed
compress
}
```

### **3.0 How To**

Place the config file (test1 in the example) in the directory /etc/logrotate.d, Linux does the rest.

### **4.0 Troubleshooting Information**

Contact the RFC Support Group.