

Log files How long should they be kept?

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Sysadmin client/user conversation

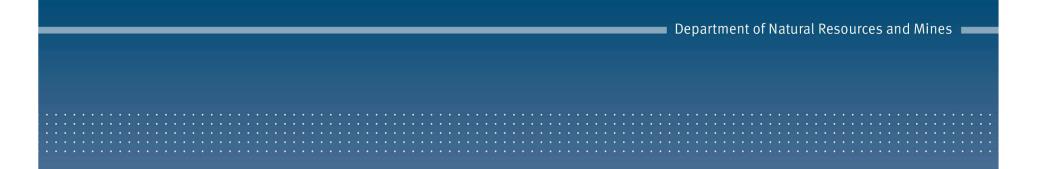
- Client/user
- "My file is corrupt/broken/failing/in error"
- "My program is crashing whenever I open xyz" Sysadmin
- "It is unlikely to be the DMF copies, the file was probably corrupt(ed) before it was copied to the DMF server or during the copy (NFS)."



A tape drive example

Tape drives of same type with different microcode/firmware (on just one drive)
Errors reading tapes written by one drive
Find all tapes written in that drive over a few months





Faulty files

How do you determine how or when a file copy may have been damaged/corrupted?

- Log files
- DMF database record timestamps



Logs /var/log/messages console logs ts logs TMF (or openvault) logs DMF (dmdlog, msplog, autolog, moverlog) **ACSLS** logs Tape library event logs





DMF manual – log retention

Chapter 14 DMF maintenance and recovery

"These log files should be retained for a period of some months. Log files more than a year old are probably not very useful."



DMF manual – setting controlling retention

define daemon_tasks RUN_TASK \$ADMINDIR/run_remove_logs.sh every \ day at 1:00 LOG_RETENTION 4w





Saving logs for a long period

Consider using a DMF managed filesystem

- Over 10 years at 2 gigabytes a day
- Consumes 7.3 terabytes



Benefits of long term log retention

- Possibility you may be able to get some information about a fault or problem and then possibly rectify it
- Historic information on DMF behaviour
- If you find you need the logs and don't have them

