

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