# Exchange 2013/2016/2019 Logging - Clear out the Log files

 Table of Contents

 Diagnostic Logs

 ETL Files

 Registry Change

 IIS Log Files

 HTTP Proxy Logs

 Conclusion

 PowerShell Script

\*\* Have created a small script for Exchange 2010 to help clean out the IIS Log files, you can find the link to the gallery at the end of the article\*\*

#### \*\*Update\*\* Tested the script on Exchange Server 2019 Public Preview and it clears the logs without any error.

In your Exchange 2013/2016 and now Exchange 2019 Environment you may be wondering why the space on your C:\ drive where Exchange is installed is filling up so quickly.

This is due to the amount of logging Exchange 2013/2016/**2019** does by default. Microsoft turned this on to assist them with more rapid assistance to customers instead of waiting for logs.

From CU6 for Exchange 2013, .etl files were created. With the current build Exchange 2013 creates 50mb files at a time with a maximum of 100 files. For smaller business, this is not ideal.

The other feature that logs weekly and daily files is the Diagnostic logs (Health explorer). This will generate files up to 5GB over a week/month. Some of you might want that space because you are limited with the current hardware you have.

The other player here is IIS logs. These can generate quite a bit and at 500MB+ a log file you can run out of space rather quickly.

Lastly, another set of logs that could be filling up is the Http Proxy log. This log will fill up in most cases when you have issues and will create an hourly file from 4MB onwards.

In this article I will go through each of the following logs below and explain how you can maintain them or turn them off:

- Diagnostic logs (Health Manager)
- ETL Files
- IIS Logs

Lastly, A PowerShell script is available to run to clean up this without having to go into each folder.

#### **Diagnostic Logs**

Health Manager runs and collects information about the health of the system. If you have ample space this is fine but if you have an 80GB C:\ drive your drive is going to fill up in less than a few days. If you need to disable this feature you can do so as follows:

Open up Services.msc,

	Services					x
File Action View	/ Help					
	G 🕞 🛛 🖬 🕨 🔲 🖬					
Services (Local)	Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As	~
	🔍 Message Queuing	Provides a	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	Alicrosoft Account Sign-in Assistant	Enables use		Manual (Trig	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Antimalware Service	Helps prote	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Active Directory Topology	Provides Ac	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange Anti-spam Update	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Alicrosoft Exchange DAG Management	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange Diagnostics	Agent that		Manual	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange EdgeSync	Replicates c	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	C. Microsoft Exchange Frontend Transport	This service	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	_
	G Microsoft Exchange Health Manager	Manages Ex		Disabled	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange IMAP4	Provides Int		Manual	Local Syste	≡
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange IMAP4 Backend	Provides Int		Manual	Network S	
	🤹 Microsoft Exchange Information Store	Manages th	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Assistants	Performs ba	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Replication	Processes	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🍳 Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Transport Delivery	This service,	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	🌼 Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Transport Submission	This service,	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange POP3	Provides Po	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange POP3 Backend	Provides Po	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	G Microsoft Exchange Replication	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange RPC Client Access	Manages cli	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Search	Drives index	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Search Host Controller	This service	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Server Extension for Windows Serv	Enables Win		Manual	Local Syste	
	G Microsoft Exchange Service Host	Provides a h	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🌼 Microsoft Exchange Throttling	Limits the r	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange Transport	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	Alicrosoft Exchange Transport Log Search	Provides re	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	C Microsoft Evchange Unified Messaging	Enables Mic	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	~
	Extended Standard					

Locate the Microsoft Exchange Health Manager Service.Double click the service and change the startup to disabled.

• Stop the service if it is running.

0	Services	0			_ 0	x
File Action View	Help					
	à 🕞 🛛 🖬 🕨 💷 🕪					
Services (Local)	Name	Description	Status	Startup Type	Log On As	^
	🔐 Message Queuing	Provides a	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	端 Microsoft Account Sign-in Assistant	Enables use		Manual (Trig	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Antimalware Service	Helps prote	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Active Directory Topology	Provides Ac	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange Anti-spam Update	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange DAG Management	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🍓 Microsoft Exchange Diagnostics	Agent that		Manual	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange EdgeSync	Replicates c	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Frontend Transport	This service	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🛸 Microsoft Exchange Health Manager	Manages Ex		Disabled	Local Syste	100
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange IMAP4	Provides Int		Manual	Local Syste	=
	🔍 Microsoft Exchange IMAP4 Backend	Provides Int		Manual	Network S	
	Kicrosoft Exchange Information Store	Manages th	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Assistants	Performs ba	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Aircosoft Exchange Mailbox Replication	Processes	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	🌼 Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Transport Delivery	This service,	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	🖓 Microsoft Exchange Mailbox Transport Submission	This service,	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange POP3	Provides Po	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange POP3 Backend	Provides Po	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	Microsoft Exchange Replication	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange RPC Client Access	Manages cli	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	端 Microsoft Exchange Search	Drives index	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Search Host Controller	This service	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Server Extension for Windows Serv	Enables Win		Manual	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Service Host	Provides a h	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Exchange Throttling	Limits the r	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	Microsoft Exchange Transport	The Micros	Running	Automatic	Network S	
	Microsoft Exchange Transport Log Search	Provides re	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	
	Microsoft Evchange Unified Messaging	Enables Mic	Running	Automatic	Local Syste	~
	\Extended ∖ Standard /			10		

• The next service to locate is the Microsoft Exchange Diagnostics Service.

• Follow the same steps as above to stop and disable the service.

The next thing to stop/disable is the Task that runs. Open up Task Scheduler.



- In Task Scheduler, expand Microsoft -> Windows and then click on PLA.
- You will see 2 tasks, first, stop them if they running and then disable them.

The next step is to clear out the logs created by Diagnostics. Open up, Explorer.

🌡   🕞 🗓 = I	Diagnost	ics		_	D X
File Home Shar	e View				~ <b>?</b>
🔄 💿 🔻 🕇 🚺 « I	Exchange Server 🔸 V15 🔸 Logging 🕨 Diagnosti	ics	C Search Dia	gnostics	Q
🛠 Favorites	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size	
Desktop	퉬 AnalyzerLogs	2015-05-19 07:05	File folder		
📕 Downloads	DertificateLogs	2015-05-19 07:05	File folder		
🖳 Recent places	\mu CosmosLog	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		
	DailyPerformanceLogs	2015-05-18 03:34	File folder		
🖳 This PC	🍌 Dumps	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		-
	EtwTraces	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		
📬 Network	PerformanceLogsToBeProcessed	2015-05-18 03:35	File folder		
	🌗 Poison	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		_
	ServiceLogs	2015-05-19 07:05	File folder		
	퉬 Store	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		
	TraceArchive	2015-05-09 04:22	File folder		
	🐌 Watermarks	2015-05-09 07:07	File folder		
12 items 2 items select	ed				

Navigate to C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Logging\Diagnostic.

- In there you will have to folders, one called DailyPerformanceLogs and the other PerformanceLogsToBeProcessed.
- You can delete all the log files located in these 2. The logs to be processed will contain 20MB files while the daily logs will be +- 1GB.

#### **ETL Files**

These files are generated almost every hour and are about 50MB in size. The default registry entry for this is to keep 100 files. I will show you how to adjust this value further down.

To locate these files go to the following location:

• C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Bin\Search\Ceres\Diagnostics\ETLTraces

👪 l 🕞 🚺 = l	ETLTrac	es		_ 0	x
File Home Share	View				~ O
🔄 🍥 🔻 🕈 <u></u> Mic	rosoft\Exchange Server\V15\Bin\Search\Ceres\D	iagnostics\ETLTraces 🗸	🖒 Search ET	LTraces	P
🔆 Favorites	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size	^
🛄 Desktop	DocumentProcessingTrace_24.etl	2015-05-21 06:11	ETL File	51 712 KB	
🐌 Downloads	DocumentProcessingTrace_25.etl	2015-05-21 06:11	ETL File	0 KB	
🕮 Recent places	DocumentProcessingTrace_23.etl	2015-05-21 05:22	ETL File	51 968 KB	=
	DocumentProcessingTrace_22.etl	2015-05-21 04:47	ETL File	52 224 KB	
🌉 This PC	DocumentProcessingTrace_21.etl	2015-05-21 03:57	ETL File	51 456 KB	
10007-00 - NO	DocumentProcessingTrace_20.etl	2015-05-21 02:53	ETL File	52 992 KB	
📬 Network	DocumentProcessingTrace_19.etl	2015-05-21 01:42	ETL File	51 968 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_18.etl	2015-05-21 12:14	ETL File	52 224 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_17.etl	2015-05-21 11:30	ETL File	51 712 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_16.etl	2015-05-21 10:41	ETL File	51 456 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_15.etl	2015-05-21 09:28	ETL File	52 480 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_14.etl	2015-05-21 08:54	ETL File	51 968 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_13.etl	2015-05-21 08:09	ETL File	51 968 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTr Type: ETL File		ETL File	51 456 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTr Size: 50,7 MB	015-05-21 08:09 AM	ETL File	52 480 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_10.eti	2015-05-21 05:05	ETL File	51 456 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_9.etl	2015-05-21 01:14	ETL File	51 968 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_8.etl	2015-05-20 10:55	ETL File	51 456 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_7.etl	2015-05-20 09:24	ETL File	51 712 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_6.etl	2015-05-20 08:22	ETL File	51 712 KB	
	DocumentProcessingTrace_5.etl	2015-05-20 07:50	ETL File	51 456 KB	~
63 items 1 item selected	50,2 MB				

• As shown above, there are a lot of files logged. You can highlight all of them and delete them without a problem. this will free up a few GB.

Within the Diagnostics folder, there is another folder that is logging. Here is the location:

• C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Bin\Search\Ceres\Diagnostics\Logs

👪 l 💽 🔟 = l	Logs	;		_ 🗆 🗙
File Home Shar	re View			× 0
ⓒ ⊚ ▾ ↑ 🚺 🖬	es\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Bin\Search\C	eres\Diagnostics\Logs 🗸	C Search Logs	٩
☆ Favorites	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
E Desktop	VR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1545	2015-05-09 04:15	Text Document	2 087 KB
📜 Downloads	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1615	2015-05-09 04:45	Text Document	461 KB
📃 Recent places	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1645	2015-05-09 05:15	Text Document	460 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1715	2015-05-09 05:45	Text Document	511 KB
🖳 This PC	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1745	2015-05-09 06:15	Text Document	506 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1815	2015-05-09 06:45	Text Document	542 KB
👊 Network	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1845	2015-05-09 07:06	Text Document	374 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1907	2015-05-09 07:37	Text Document	3 553 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-1937	2015-05-09 08:07	Text Document	7 272 KB
	VR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2007	2015-05-09 08:37	Text Document	4 317 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2037	2015-05-09 09:07	Text Document	1 763 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2107	2015-05-09 09:37	Text Document	2 762 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2137	2015-05-09 10:07	Text Document	2 072 KB
	VR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2207	2015-05-09 10:37	Text Document	2 912 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2237	2015-05-09 11:07	Text Document	3 038 KB
	VR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2307	2015-05-09 11:37	Text Document	2 096 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150509-2337	2015-05-10 12:07	Text Document	2 125 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150510-0007	2015-05-10 12:37	Text Document	2 130 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150510-0037	2015-05-10 01:07	Text Document	2 101 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150510-0107	2015-05-10 01:37	Text Document	2 553 KB
	WR-HO-EXH-MB03-20150510-0137	2015-05-10 02:07	Text Document	2 123 KB
585 items	1016			

• As you can see above, a lot of log files, you can delete these text files.

# **Registry Change**

You can change the default value of 100 files to a number you want by changing the following registry key:

- Key: MaxTraceFileCount
- Registry Key: HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office Server\16.0\Search\Diagnostics\Tracing

# **IIS Log Files**

IIS Log files write to the C:\inetpub directory by default, you can change this to another drive etc. These files can be 200mb+ and overtime will use up space on the drive. To delete them open up the following location:

C:\inetpub\logs\LogFiles

🔊   💽 🛐 =	L	ogFiles		_	D X
File Home Share	View				~ 🕐
🔄 🏵 👻 🕆 🚺 🕨 TH	nis PC → Local Disk (C:) → inetpub → I	logs ► LogFiles ∨	C Search Log	gFiles	Q
🔆 Favorites	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size	
Desktop	35VC1	2015-05-21 06:55	File folder		
Downloads	W3SVC2	2015-05-21 06:55	File folder		
🕍 Kecent places					
🖳 This PC					
Network					
2 items					

• Inside this folder, you will have 2 other folders namely W3SVC1 and W3SVC2. Inside these are log files you can delete as well.

You can also look in the following folder for the same set of folders: C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Logging\RpcHttp



• Here you can also delete these files.

# **HTTP Proxy Logs**

The last place you can look as well for log files is in this location:

• C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange Server\V15\Logging\HttpProxy

Located in each of the folders some files can be 10MB in size and generate quite a few. These logs will tell you if you have errors in your environment especially the RpcHttp folder.

## Conclusion

You should be able to free up a few GB's of space.

## **PowerShell Script**

I created a script which you can use in conjunction with Task Scheduler to clear files when you need to, you can find the script here:

https://gallery.technet.microsoft.com/Clear-Exchange-2013-Log-71abba44 descention of the second s

#### Exchange 2010 Log File PowerShell Script:

For those that would like to see how to do the Task Scheduler I have put together some screenshots as there have been a number of requests for it:

G	Create Task	x
General Trig	gers Actions Conditions Settings	
Name:	Clear Logs	
Location:	X	
Author:		
Description:		
Security op When runr	tions ing the task, use the following user account:	
	Change User or Group	
O Run on	y when user is logged on	
Run wh	ether user is logged on or not	
Do	not store password. The task will only have access to local computer resources.	
🖌 Run wit	h highest privileges	
🗌 Hidden	Configure for: Windows Server 2012 R2	3
	OK Cancel	

Open up Task Scheduler and Select New Task. The above window will show. Enter the following:

- Name
- You can change the User to one that has full Exchange access or leave it with the user currently logged in if it has rights.
- Run whether the user is logged on or not
- Run with the highest privileges (tick the box)
- Configure for:- Windows Server 2012 R2

٩	1			Cr	eate Tas	k				x
General	Triggers	Actions	Conditions	Settings						
When	ou create	a task, you	ı can specify	the condit	ions that v	vill trigger t	he task.			
Trigg	er	Det	ails						Status	
										1
2 Ne	w	Edit	Dele	te						
_										
_		_						OK		Cancel

Next step, click on the Triggers Tab as shown above and then click New...

New Trigger
Begin the task: On a schedule v Settings
One time       Start:       8/31/2017       ▼       6:14:39 PM       □       Synchronize across time zones         ● Daily       Weekly       Recur every:       □       days         ● Monthly       Honthly       Image: Start of the second secon
Advanced settings
Delay task for up to (random delay): 1 hour  Repeat task every: 1 hour  for a duration of: 1 day
Stop task if it runs longer than:
Enabled
OK Cancel

The above window will show, choose your schedule and then click OK.

)	1			Create	Task			
General	Triggers	Actions	Conditions	Settings				
When y	ou create	a task, you	u can specify	the conditions	that will trigg	jer the task		
Trigge	er	Det	ails				1	Status
Daily		At	6:14 PM every	day				Enabled
Nev	N	Edit	Delet	e		Γ	OK	Cancel
						L	U.S.	Current

Once you have created the Trigger, it will show as above.

				Create T	ask			
General	Triggers	Actions	Conditions	Settings				
When	you create	a task, you	u must specif	fy the action that (	vill occur whe	n your task st	arts.	
Actio	n	Det	ails					
								-
								-
	_							
Ne	w	Edit	Delet	e				
						C	Ж	Cancel

Next step is to click on the Actions Tab and then on the New... Button.

New Action
Year ust specify what action this task will perform.
Action: Start a program
Settings
Program/script:
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powers Browse
Add arguments (optional): 5\Scripts\Clearlogs.ps1"
Start in (optional):
OK Cancel

The window above will show, here you will configure the following:

- Action Start a program
- Program/ script:- You can paste the below in or browse to the directory listed and choose Powershell.exe:

## $\label{eq:c:Windows} C: Windows \ System 32 \ Windows \ Power \ Shell \ v1.0 \ power \ shell. exe$

• In the Add arguments (Optional) section, enter in the following:

# -NonInteractive -WindowStyle Hidden -command "& 'C:\Program Files\Microsoft\Exchange\V15\Scripts\Clearlogs.ps1'"

I put the script in the Scripts folder where Exchange is installed if you have it in another location then just change the path.

When you have done, click the OK button.

)				Create Tas	k		
General	Triggers	Actions	Conditions	Settings			
When	you create	a task, yo	ou must speci	y the action that wil	l occur when y	our task starts.	
Action		De	Details				
Start a program		C:\	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -NonInte				
	Ĩ						•
<				Ш			>
Ne	w	Edit	Delet	2			
						ОК	Cancel

Once complete you will see the action as shown above. Click the OK button to finish.

	Task Scheduler		?	x
<b>R</b>		A	P	
Enter user account ir User name: Password:	formation for running	this ta	sk.	
	ОК		Cano	el

A window will pop up confirming the Task, enter in the credentials of the user specified in the beginning.