Journal log size Opimization

/var/log/journal is too high

You can quickly clear space by running `sudo journalctl --vacuum-size=100M` to limit the size of your system logs. [1]
Immediate Cleanup

- **Check current size:** Run `journalctl --disk-usage` to see how much space the logs take.
- **Reduce by size:** Run `sudo journalctl --vacuum-size=500M` to shrink the logs down to 500 megabytes (or another size like `1G`).
- **Reduce by time:** Run `sudo journalctl --vacuum-time=2weeks` to delete logs older than a specific timeframe. [1, 2, 3]

Permanent Fix

- **Open config file:** Edit `/etc/systemd/journald.conf` using a text editor with root privileges (like `sudo nano /etc/systemd/journald.conf`).
- **Set maximum limits:** Find and uncomment (remove the `#` at the start of) lines like `SystemMaxUse=500M` or `SystemMaxFileSize=50M` to

- Linux Mint

  SOLVED: var/log is large and keeps growing
  ... /var/log/lightdm 4.0K /var/log/mintsystem.log 4.0K /var/

- Debian forums

  [Solved] How to manage the size of /var/log/journal
  My system runs headless and I have only 782 packages install...

- SiteLint

  How do I clear a big /var/log/journal folder? - SiteLint
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Show all

How big is reasonable size for journal ?

For most personal computers and standard servers, a reasonable size for the systemd journal is between **500MB and 4GB**.

Recommended Settings By System Type

- **Desktop / Personal PC (500MB – 1GB):** Enough for daily troubleshooting without wasting SSD space.
- **Standard Web/App Server (1GB – 2GB):** Retains weeks of operational history for debugging.
- **Production / High-Traffic Server (4GB – 10GB):** Necessary if you log heavy application traffic locally.
- **Containers / Microservices (50MB – 100MB):** Keep it minimal since logs should stream to an external aggregator.

Factors to Consider

- **Disk Capacity:** A safe rule of thumb is to limit your journal to **10% of your total partition size** (systemd's default behavior) or caps at **4GB**, whichever is smaller.
- **Log Rotation Frequency:** If your system generates 500MB of logs a day, a 1GB limit only gives you 2 days of history.
- **External Forwarding:** If you send logs to a central server (like Elasticsearch or Datadog), you can safely set the local journal size much lower.

If you want to fine-tune this, let me know:

- Is this for a **personal PC** or a **server**?
- What is the **total storage capacity** of your drive?

I can help you calculate the exact configuration values to use.

AI responses may include mistakes. Learn more

For a personal server with an i5 processor and 8GB of RAM, a reasonable journal size is **1GB to 2GB**. This provides months of troubleshooting history without wasting valuable disk space.
Recommended Configuration
To set this up permanently, open your configuration file:
`sudo nano /etc/systemd/journald.conf`
Uncomment and update the following lines to these recommended values:

- `SystemMaxUse=2G` (Caps total disk space used by logs)
- `SystemMaxFileSize=200M` (Splits logs into smaller, easier-to-read files)
- `RuntimeMaxUse=200M` (Caps log memory usage to protect your 8GB RAM)

Save the file and apply the changes instantly by running:
`sudo systemctl restart systemd-journald`

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