

NAME

checkerr – check for serious errors encountered by smail

SYNOPSIS

/usr/lib/smail/checkerr

DESCRIPTION

Checkerr reads through the spool area used by *smail*(8) and looks for serious processing errors detected by smail. Whenever new errors are detected, a summary is mailed to “Postmaster,” which is assumed to be an address for the user who is responsible for maintaining the smail software and configuration. In addition to this, a number of cleanup operations are performed.

Checkerr should be run periodically from *cron*(8). Once per day should be sufficient. Make certain that *checkerr* is executed under a user and group ID that can write to the directories in the smail spool areas.

The *checkerr* detects message spool files under the smail *error* directory. If any files have appeared since the last time *checkerr* was executed, a summary is mailed to the Postmaster. A quick check is made to determine if mail to “Postmaster” will actually succeed. If not, the error summary is left in the file *.check-error* in the *error* directory.

The error summary mailed to the Postmaster will include any logged information pertaining to the failed messages. The per-message transaction log, the smail transaction log and the panic log are all used as sources of this information.

FILES

<i>/etc/smail/config</i>	The main smail configuration file. A second smail configuration file can also be specified in <i>config</i> .
<i>/usr/sbin/smail</i>	The default executable used for attempting to deliver error summaries to the postmaster.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/logfile</i>	The default name for the transaction log file. This can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD /logfile.0</i>	Archived version of the transaction log file. The directory “ <i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD</i> ” is changed to be under the directory where the log-file resides, and thus can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD /logfile.1.gz</i>	Previous compressed archive version of the transaction log file. The directory “ <i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD</i> ” is changed to be under the directory where the log-file resides, and thus can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/paniclog</i>	The default name for the panic log file. This can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD /paniclog.0</i>	Archive for the panic log file. This can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail/log/OLD /paniclog.1.gz</i>	Previous compressed archive for the panic log file. This can be changed in the smail config file.
<i>/var/spool/smail</i>	The top of the default smail spool directory tree.
<i>/var/spool/smail/input</i>	The directory into which incoming messages are spooled. Each file in this directory has a unique 14 character name derived from the message ID used internally by the <i>smail</i> program. Delivery is attempted at intervals for each of these files.

/var/spool/imap/lock A directory containing lock files. On systems which do not have an efficient file locking primitive, files are created under this directory to prevent simultaneous processing of messages by concurrent invocations of the *smail* program.

/var/spool/imap/msglog A directory containing per-message transaction logs. *Smail* maintains these log-files to keep track of which recipients have received a particular mail message, and what errors have so far been found while delivering. These files are removed automatically by *smail* processing of a message has completed.

/var/spool/imap/error If a mail messages fails for a reason that requires attendance by the site administrator, it is moved into this directory to prevent *smail* from continuing to attempt delivery.

SEE ALSO

cron(8), *smail(5)* and *smail(8)*.

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