

```
log_file_path = syslog : /var/log/exim_%s
```

would log both to syslog (with facility “mail”) and to the files **exim_main**, **exim_reject**, and **exim_panic** in the **/var/log** directory. Exim submits the **main** log entries to syslog at priority info, the **reject** entries at priority notice, and the **panic** entries at priority alert.

The **main** log contains one line for the arrival and delivery of each message. It can be summarized by the Perl script **eximstats**, included in the Exim distribution.

The **reject** log records information on the messages that have been rejected for policy reasons: malware, spam, etc. It includes the summary line for the message from the **main** log and also the original headers of the message that was rejected. If you change your policies, check the **reject** log to make sure that all is still well.

The **panic** log is for serious errors in the software; **exim** writes here just before it gives up. The **panic** log should not exist in the absence of problems. Ask **cron** to check it for you and if it exists, fix the problem that caused the panic and then delete the file. **exim** will recreate it when the next panic-worthy situation arises.

When debugging, you can increase the amount and type of data logged with the `log_selector` option. For example:

```
log_selector = +smtp_connection +snmp_incomplete_transaction +...
```

The logging categories that can be included or excluded by the `log_selector` mechanism are listed in the Exim specification, in the section called “Log files” toward the end. There are about 35 possibilities, including `+all`, which will really fill your disks!

exim also keeps a temporary log for each message it handles. It is named with the message ID and lives in **/var/spool/exim/msglog**. If you are having trouble with a particular destination, you should check there.

Debugging

Exim has powerful debugging aids. You can configure the amount of information you want to see about each potential debugging topic. **exim -d** tells **exim** to go into debugging mode, in which it stays in the foreground and does not detach from the terminal. You can add specific debugging categories to **-d** with a `+` or `-` in front of them to verbosity or eliminate a category. For example, **-d+expand+acl** requests regular debugging output plus extra details regarding string expansions and ACL interpretation. (These two categories are common problem spots.) You can tune more than 30 categories of debugging information; see the man page for a list.

A common technique when debugging mail systems is to start the MTA on a non-standard port and then talk to it through **telnet**. For example, to start **exim** in daemon mode, listening on port 26, with debugging info turned on, use

```
$ sudo exim -d -oX 26 -bd
```