

Downtimed

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1 Introduction

`downtimed` is a software tool designed for monitoring and recording operating system downtime, uptime, shutdowns, and crashes.

The `downtimed` daemon initiates at system startup, logging information about the operating system's last downtime to a log destination and a database. This data is accessible using the `downtimes` command.

Once initialized, `downtimed` operates in the background, periodically updating a time-stamp file on the disk. This time-stamp helps estimate the last active period of the system. During a proper system shutdown, `downtimed` records a separate time-stamp. These records are utilized for reporting in subsequent daemon starts.

`downtimes` is a command-line interface for reviewing downtime history stored in the database.

The software is compatible with GNU/Linux, FreeBSD, NetBSD, OpenBSD, Mac OS X, and Solaris operating systems and can be adapted for other UNIX-like systems. `downtimed` is distributed under the Simplified BSD license.

2 Installation

To install `downtimed`, use the following command:

```
aptitude install downtimed
```

This command installs the following components:

- Documentation (changelogs, README files)
- System service configuration for `systemd` and `init.d`
- Database storage location
- Executable and man page

The following files are part of the package:

```
1 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/changelog.gz
2 /lib/systemd/system/downtimed.service
3 /etc/init.d/downtimed
4 /etc/default/downtimed
5 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/README.Debian
6 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/README.md.gz
7 /var/lib/downtimed
8 /usr/sbin/downtimed
9 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/copyright
10 /usr/share/man/man8/downtimed.8.gz
11 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/changelog.Debian.gz
12 /usr/share/doc/downtimed/TODO
13 /usr/share/doc/downtimed
```

To check the status of the `downtimed` service, use:

```
systemctl status downtimed.service
• downtimed.service - Downtime record keeper
  Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/downtimed.service; enabled;
  preset: \
  enabled)
  Active: active (running) since Mon 2024-03-11 12:40:45 CET; 3min 24s
  ago
  Process: 12849 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/downtimed $DOWNTIMED_OPTS \
  (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
```

```
Main PID: 12850 (downtimed)
  Tasks: 1 (limit: 9402)
  Memory: 192.0K
  CPU: 4ms
  CGroup: /system.slice/downtimed.service
          └─12850 /usr/sbin/downtimed
```

3 Usage

Initially, if the system has not experienced downtime, attempts to query downtime records using `downtime` or `downtimes` will result in error messages indicating the absence of the downtime database file.

```
downtime
downtime: can not open /var/lib/downtimed/downtimedb: No such file or
↳ directory

downtimes
downtimes: can not open /var/lib/downtimed/downtimedb: No such file or
↳ directory
```

After a reboot 31s of downtime can be seen.

```
downtime
down 2024-03-11 13:05:01 -> up 2024-03-11 13:05:32 = 00:00:31 (31 s)
```

Both commands have equal output. However after a second reboot `downtime` and `downtimes` differ.

```
downtime
down 2024-03-11 13:07:41 -> up 2024-03-11 13:08:11 = 00:00:30 (30 s)

downtimes
down 2024-03-11 13:05:01 -> up 2024-03-11 13:05:32 = 00:00:31 (31 s)
down 2024-03-11 13:07:41 -> up 2024-03-11 13:08:11 = 00:00:30 (30 s)
```

4 Links

- Official website: <https://dist.epipe.com/downtimed/>
- Source code repository: <https://github.com/snabb/downtimed>

5 History

Version	Date	Notes
0.1.1	2024-03-11	Release to GitHub, add usage section
0.1.0	2021-02-16	Initial release

6 Disclaimer of Warranty

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