

Howto Fix "sysstat Cannot open /var/log/sysstat/sa no such file or directory" on Debian / Ubuntu Linux

Author : admin



I really love **sysstat** and as a console maniac I tend to install it on every server however by default there is some **sysstat** tuning once installed to make it work, for those unfamiliar with *sysstat* I warmly recommend to check, it here is in short the package description:

server:~# apt-cache show sysstat|grep -i desc -A 15

Description: system performance tools for Linux

The sysstat package contains the following system performance tools:

- sar: collects and reports system activity information;
- iostat: reports CPU utilization and disk I/O statistics;
- mpstat: reports global and per-processor statistics;
- pidstat: reports statistics for Linux tasks (processes);
- sadf: displays data collected by sar in various formats;
- nfsiostat: reports I/O statistics for network filesystems;
- cfsiostat: reports I/O statistics for CIFS filesystems.

.

The statistics reported by sar deal with I/O transfer rates, paging activity, process-related activities, interrupts, network activity, memory and swap space utilization, CPU utilization, kernel activities and TTY statistics, among others. Both UP and SMP machines are fully supported.

Homepage: <http://pagesperso-orange.fr/sebastien.godard/>

If you happen to install **sysstat** on a Debian / Ubuntu server with:

```
server:~# apt-get install --yes sysstat
```

, and you try to get some statistics with **sar** command but you get some ugly error output from:

```
server:~# sar Cannot open /var/log/sysstat/sa20: No such file or directory
```

And you wonder how to resolve it and to be able to have the server log in text databases periodically the nice sar stats load avarages - **%idle**, **%iowait**, **%system**, **%nice**, **%user**, then to **FIX that Cannot open /var/log/sysstat/sa20: No such file or directory**

You need to:

```
server:~# vim /etc/default/sysstat
```

By Default value you will find out sysstat stats it is disabled, e.g.:

```
ENABLED="false"
```

Switch the value to "true"

ENABLED="true"

Then restart sysstat init script with:

server:~# /etc/init.d/sysstat restart

However for those who prefer to do things from menu Ncurses interfaces and are not familiar with **Vi Improved**, the easiest way is to *run dpkg reconfigure of the sysstat*:

server:~# dpkg --reconfigure

Package configuration

Configuring sysstat

If this option is enabled the sysstat package will collect (using the cron daemon and init.d script) binary data concerning system activities and store them in log files within /var/log/sysstat/ directory.

With this data the sar(1) command will be able to display day-long system statistics.

If you don't enable this option, the sar(1) command will show only the current statistics.

Do you want to activate sysstat's cron job?

<Yes> **<No>**

root@server:/# sar
Linux 2.6.32-5-amd64 (pcfreak) 15.02.2016 x86_64 (2 CPU)

0,00,01 CPU %user %nice %system %iowait %steal %idle
0,15,01 all 24,32 0,54 3,10 0,62 0,00 71,42
1,15,01 all 18,69 0,53 2,10 0,48 0,00 78,20
10,05,01 all 22,13 0,54 2,81 0,51 0,00 74,01
10,15,01 all 17,14 0,53 2,44 0,40 0,00 79,49
10,25,01 all 24,03 0,63 2,93 0,45 0,00 71,97
10,35,01 all 18,88 0,54 2,44 1,08 0,00 77,07
10,45,01 all 25,60 0,54 3,33 0,74 0,00 69,79
10,55,01 all 36,78 0,78 4,44 0,89 0,00 57,10
16,05,01 all 27,10 0,54 3,43 1,14 0,00 67,79

Well that's it now sysstat error resolved, text reporting stats data works again, Hooray! :)