Crontab as fast as possible!

In this post, I will talk about the only crontab commands you will ever need if you are managing a web server. Crontab stands for cron table which is a list of commands that would automatically run at a scheduled interval of time.

For instance, I run a bash file that prerenders all the routes from the CodeWithHarry blog. This saves me the time for manually doing the same when new blogs are added. You might want to update your sitemap, update your blog index or take backups every 24 hours, every week or every month.

List all the cronjobs scheduled by the current user

```
crontab -l
```

```
harry@ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-intel-blr1-01:~$ crontab -l
no crontab for harry
```

Add a new cron job

```
crontab -e
```

```
harry@ubuntu-s-1vcpu-1gb-intel-blr1-01:~$ crontab -e
no crontab for harry - using an empty one

Select an editor.  To change later, run 'select-editor'.
  1. /bin/nano        <---- easiest
  2. /usr/bin/vim.basic
  3. /usr/bin/vim.tiny
  4. /bin/ed

Choose 1-4 [1]: 1
```

The following window will then open once you choose your editor by pressing 1 followed by enter:

```
  GNU nano 4.8                          /tmp/crontab.M6eBqB/crontab
# Edit this file to introduce tasks to be run by cron.
#
# Each task to run has to be defined through a single line
# indicating with different fields when the task will be run
# and what command to run for the task
#
# To define the time you can provide concrete values for
# minute (m), hour (h), day of month (dom), month (mon),
# and day of week (dow) or use '*' in these fields (for 'any').
#
# Notice that tasks will be started based on the cron's system
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.
#
# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).
#
# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts
# at 5 a.m every week with:
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/
#
# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)
#
# m h  dom mon dow   command
@hourly /home/harry/backup.sh
* * * * * /home/harry/backup.sh
```

Following are some of the ways you can add cronjobs to a Linux machine using the following command

```
 MIN HOUR DOM MON DOW CMD
```

Field	Description	Allowed Value
MIN	Minute field	0 to 59
HOUR	Hour field	0 to 23
DOM	Day of Month	1-31
MON	Month field	1-12
DOW	Day Of Week	0-6
CMD	Command	Any command to be executed.

Following will run the command /home/harry/backup.sh on 11:34 AM 17th May of every year:

```
 34 11 17 05 * bash /home/harry/backup.sh
```

Some other cron special Keywords

Following keywords makes the job of a programmer easy by providing keywords for quick job runs

Keyword	Equivalent
@yearly	0 0 1 1 *
@daily	0 0 * * *
@hourly	0 * * * *
@reboot	Run at startup.

1. The following command will execute the backup.sh file daily:

```
 @daily bash /home/harry/backup.sh
```

2. The following command will execute the backup.sh file monthly:

```
@monthly bash /home/harry/backup.sh
```

3. The following command will execute the backup.sh file yearly:

```
@yearly bash /home/harry/backup.sh
```

For anything more than this, you can always refer to the [Linux Manpage for Cron](#)

Hope this article helps. Happy Coding!

You need to be logged in to post a comment!

Comments

lakshitk14 `Jul 19, 2021`
www.educationeducation.in

amarnath `Jul 16, 2021`
hello sir my name is Amaranth
I am a web developer student....... I am a beginner in freelancer I provide
some services..... pls check my gig it will help me a lot
https://www.fiverr.com/share/YdqQLl

snrz `Jul 16, 2021`
Php and js ki cheatsheet bhi lao harry bhai

Ojes `Jul 16, 2021`
Please make a playlist of android projects

__Sanket__ `Jul 16, 2021`

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15EycjMdyvS9N0Cuo4yh2VD7yEO5nSs-y/view?usp=drivesdk

Harry bhai plzz check this

blueedgetechno `Jul 14, 2021`

I made Windows 11 in React, http://win11.blueedge.me

Show 3 replies

kaustavjain207 `Jul 14, 2021`

When PHP Full course with notes in coming
Please send it i need

maz03 `Jul 14, 2021`

Please made some courses like C#, Flutter etc along with these topics. It will be more beneficial. You may go for the course video one day, and a video of any random topic the other day.

mnsp123 `Jul 13, 2021`

Plz also make a video on complete freelancer's guide

Show 1 replies

mnsp123 `Jul 13, 2021`

Plz make a video on how to make backup of your website with crontab