

Creating a scheduled task in linux

To create a scheduled task in linux, we will use the **crontab** command.

To create a scheduled task, use the crontab command using sudo:

sudo crontab -e

After running the command (I suggest you use the default editor, nano), a file will have opened with instructions on how crontab works, and how to create a schedule. This may appear somewhat cryptic initially, but in actual fact it is quite simple. At the end of this document, you should see the following text:

```
# m h dom mon dow  command
```

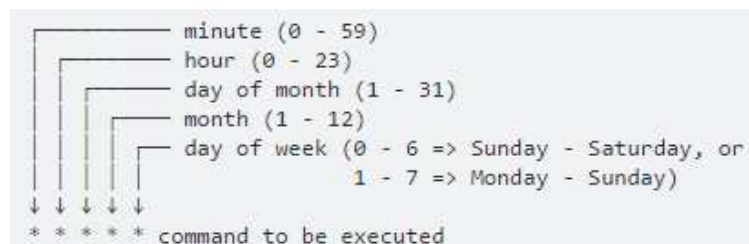
Note that in this file, any line that begins with a “#” means that it has been commented out and will not be executed.

The format for adding a schedule is as shown:

m h dom mon dow command

What this equates to is:

“minute” “hour” “day of month” “month” “day of week” “command”



A diagram illustrating the crontab field syntax. It shows a sequence of five asterisks (*) representing the fields: minute, hour, day of month, month, and day of week. Arrows point from each asterisk to its corresponding field name and range. The ranges are: minute (0 - 59), hour (0 - 23), day of month (1 - 31), month (1 - 12), and day of week (0 - 6 => Sunday - Saturday, or 1 - 7 => Monday - Sunday). Below the asterisks, the text "command to be executed" is shown.

So if you wanted to create a task that runs a the shell script that you created in the previous step (In my case /home/mike/test.sh), that runs every Monday at noon, then the following line would be entered (Note that wildcard “*” is used when you want to skip or include all)

0 12 * * 1 /home/mike/mike.sh

More information is available here:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cron>

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/18919151/crontab-day-of-the-week-syntax>

Note that you may need to apply **execute** permissions to your shell script to work properly. To do this for the example shown above, the following command would be run:

chmod +x /home/mike/mike.sh

There is useful information on cron jobs here:

<http://askubuntu.com/questions/93313/cron-job-not-running>