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## HP-UX UNIX: Start / Stop and Configure Cron Services

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**Q.** I need to run a backup and other stuff everyday. How do I check and start cron service under HP-UX UNIX operating system? How do I write cron jobs?

**A.** Cron service is required to run jobs and tasks such as backup.

You must login as the root to run following commands. Each user that is using the cron service must have a cron configuration file in the `/var/spool/cron/crontab` directory. Also users are permitted if their name appeared in `/var/adm/cron/cron.allow` file

[1]

### Task: Find out if cron is running under HP-UX

Type the following command at a shell prompt

```
# ps -ef | grep cron
```

Open `/etc/rc.config.d/cron` file

```
vi /etc/rc.config.d/cron
```

Set control variable to 1 to enable cron : `CRON=1`

Set control variable to 0 to disable : `CRON=0`

Close and save the file. To start or stop cron you can type the following command:

```
# /sbin/init.d/cron start <-- start cron
# /sbin/init.d/cron stop <-- stop cron
```

### Task: HP-UX Start cron service

If cron is not running, simply type:

```
# cron
```

### Task: Edit / create cron jobs

Type the following command to submit a cron job:

```
# crontab -e
```

List your cron file:

```
# crontab -l
```

Backup all your cron jobs:

```
# crontab -l > ~/backup.cron.jobs
```

Remove **ALL** cron job:

```
# crontab -r
```

### Task: Crontab file format

Cron file format is as follows:

MIN	HOUR	DATE	MONTH	DAY	/PATH/TO/COMMAND
0-59	0-23	1-31	1-12	0-6	/root/scripts/backup2tape.sh

Easy to remember crontab file format:

```
* * * * * command to be executed
- - - - -
| | | | |
| | | | - - - - Day of week (0 - 7) (Sunday=0 or 7)
| | | - - - - - Month (1 - 12)
| | - - - - - Day of month (1 - 31)
| - - - - - Hour (0 - 23)
- - - - - Minute (0 - 59)
```

To run /root/script/backup at 23:00, every day, enter:

```
# crontab -e
```

Append following

```
0 23 * * * /root/script/backup
```

Run foo job very weekday (MON-Fri) at 6am, enter:

```
0 6 * * 1-5 /root/script/backup
```

For more information refer to cron and crontab man pages.

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