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CentOS / RHEL Configure Yum Automatic Update Retrieval and Installation

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The yum command line tool is used to install and update software packages under RHEL / CentOS Linux server. I know how to apply updates using [yum update command](#) line, but I'd like to use cron to manually update packages where appropriate. How do I configure yum to install software patches / updates automatically with [cron](#) ^[2]?



You can use yum-updatesd service provided with CentOS / RHEL servers. However, this service provides a few overheads. You can create daily or weekly updates with the following shell script. Create

- `/etc/cron.daily/yumupdate.sh` to apply updates one a day.
- `/etc/cron.weekly/yumupdate.sh` to apply updates once a week.

Sample shell script to update system

A shell script that instructs yum to update any packages it finds via [cron](#) ^[2]:

```
#!/bin/bash
YUM=/usr/bin/yum
$YUM -y -R 120 -d 0 -e 0 update yum
$YUM -y -R 10 -e 0 -d 0 update
```

(Code listing -01: `/etc/cron.daily/yumupdate.sh`)

Where,

1. First command will update yum itself and next will apply system updates.
2. `-R 120` : Sets the maximum amount of time yum will wait before performing a command
3. `-e 0` : Sets the error level to 0 (range 0 - 10). 0 means print only critical errors about which you must be told.
4. `-d 0` : Sets the debugging level to 0 - turns up or down the amount of things that are printed. (range: 0 - 10).
5. `-y` : Assume yes; assume that the answer to any question which would be asked is yes.

Make sure you setup executable permission:

```
# chmod +x /etc/cron.daily/yumupdate.sh
```

Recommend readings:

1. yum man page
2. [yum command: Update / Install Packages under Redhat Enterprise / CentOS Linux Version 5.x](#) ^[3]
3. [How do I add jobs to cron under Linux or UNIX oses?](#) ^[4]

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URLs in this post:

- [1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/redhat-and-friends/>
- [2] cron: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/how-do-i-add-jobs-to-cron-under-linux-or-unix-oses>
- [3] yum command: Update / Install Packages under Redhat Enterprise / CentOS Linux Version 5.x:
<http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-centos-fedora-linux-yum-command-howto/>
- [4] How do I add jobs to cron under Linux or UNIX oses?: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/how-do-i-add-jobs-to-cron-under-linux-or-unix-oses/>

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