

Introduction to Cron:

Cron is a time-based job scheduler in Unix-like operating systems. It allows users to schedule jobs (commands or scripts) to run at specified times and intervals.

Basic Syntax:

The cron syntax consists of five fields followed by the command to be executed:

* * * * * command_to_be_executed

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| | | | +---- Day of the week (0 - 7) (Sunday is both 0 and 7)

| | | +----- Month (1 - 12)

| | +----- Day of the month (1 - 31)

| +----- Hour (0 - 23)

+----- Minute (0 - 59)

Common Patterns:

- `*`: Every minute/hour/day/month/etc.

- `*/5`: Every 5 minutes/hours/etc.

- `0 12 * * *`: Every day at noon.

- `0 0 * * 0`: Every Sunday at midnight.

Understanding Cron Syntax -Fill in the blanks

1. Run a script every hour.

_____ /path/to/script

2. Run a backup every day at 2 AM.

_____ /path/to/backup/script

3. Run a command every Monday at 5 PM.

_____ /path/to/command

4. Run a maintenance script every 15 minutes.

_____ /path/to/maintenance/script

Practice Creating Cron Jobs

Using the following tasks, create the corresponding cron job entry.

1. ****Task****: Send a report every first day of the month at 6 AM.

_____ /path/to/report/script

2. ****Task****: Clean temporary files every night at midnight.

_____ /path/to/cleanup/script

3. ****Task****: Check disk usage every 30 minutes.

_____ /path/to/disk/check/script