

Cron Jobs in Linux

A cron job is a scheduled task that runs automatically at specified times or intervals. It's a powerful tool for automating repetitive tasks in Linux systems.



Cron Job Syntax

```
* * * * * command
```

Each asterisk represents a time unit: minute, hour, day of month, month, day of week. Replace asterisks with specific values or ranges to define the schedule.



Creating a Cron Job

Use `crontab -e`

Use the 'crontab -e' command to edit the crontab file for user we are login with.

`crontab -eu username`

for any user we have in system.

`crontab -lu username`

to check cron for specific person.

Defining cron jobs

A crontab file consists of lines defining individual **cron jobs**. Each line follows this format:

Here's the crontab syntax in a table format:

Field	Allowed Values	Description
Minute	0-59	Minute of the hour
Hour	0-23	Hour of the day
Day of Month	1-31	Day of the month
Month	1-12	Month of the year (Jan-Dec)
Day of Week	0-7 (Sunday = 0 or 7)	Day of the week (Sun-Sat)
Command	Any valid shell command	The task to execute

Example:

Minute	Hour	Day of Month	Month	Day of Week	Command
30	2	*	*	1	/home/user/script. sh

Macro Values

Crontab Special Keywords

Instead of numeric values, you can use these keywords:

Keyword	Equivalent To
@reboot	Runs at startup
@yearly	0 0 1 1 * (Once a year)
@monthly	0 0 1 * * (Once a month)
@weekly	0 0 * * 0 (Once a week)
@daily	0 0 * * * (Once a day)
@hourly	0 * * * * (Once an hour)

Special and Important Files.

1. Logs can be found in `/var/log/cron`.
2. Some Special files in `/etc/cron`. (tab twice).
3. configuration file `/etc/crontab`.
4. `/etc/cron.deny`
5. `cron.allow`
6. `/etc/crontab`