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Task scheduling

Task Scheduling with ‘ at ’ command

at

- at is used when you want to execute a command or multiple commands once at some future time.
- Input has to be supplied from the standard input.
- Example : print hello on your terminal.
- Step 1
    - $ date
    - Tue Oct 3 15:33:37 PDT 1995

- Step 2

```
$ tty
/dev/ttyp2
```

- Example : print hello on your terminal.
- Step 3

```
$ at 15:35
echo "hello" > /dev/ttyp2
^D
Job 18 will be executed using /bin/sh
```

```
$ at now + 25 minutes
echo  “HELLO “ > /dev/tty4
^D
Job 11 will be executed using /bin/sh
```

You must tell at your tty location or it won't send output to your terminal window

Listing Job ‘ atq ’ command

- To get a list of your pending at jobs, enter:

```
$ atq
```

- If you are superuser, atq shows you the pending at jobs of all users.

Delete a job enter ‘ atrm ’ command

- To delete a job, enter:

  $ atrm *job_number*

  where *job_number* is the job number returned by atq.

- The superuser can also remove other user's jobs.

Task Scheduling with Crontab

- cron is a unix utility that allows tasks to be automatically run in the background at regular intervals by the cron daemon.
- These tasks are often termed as cron jobs in unix.
- Crontab (CRON TABle) is a file which contains the schedule of cron entries to be run and at specified times.

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- export EDITOR=vi ;to specify a editor to open crontab file.
- crontab -e   Edit your crontab file, or create one if it doesn't already exist.
- crontab -l   Display your crontab file.
- crontab -r   Remove your crontab file.

Fields to Schedule Cronjob

- A crontab file has five fields for specifying day , date and time followed by the command to be run at that interval.

```
 *   *   *    *   *  command to be executed

 -   -   -   -   -

 |   |   |   |   |
 |   |   |   |   +----- day of week (0 - 6) (Sunday=0)
 |   |   |   +------- month (1 - 12)
 |   |   +--------- day of month (1 - 31)
 |   +----------- hour (0 - 23)
 +------------- min (0 - 59)
```

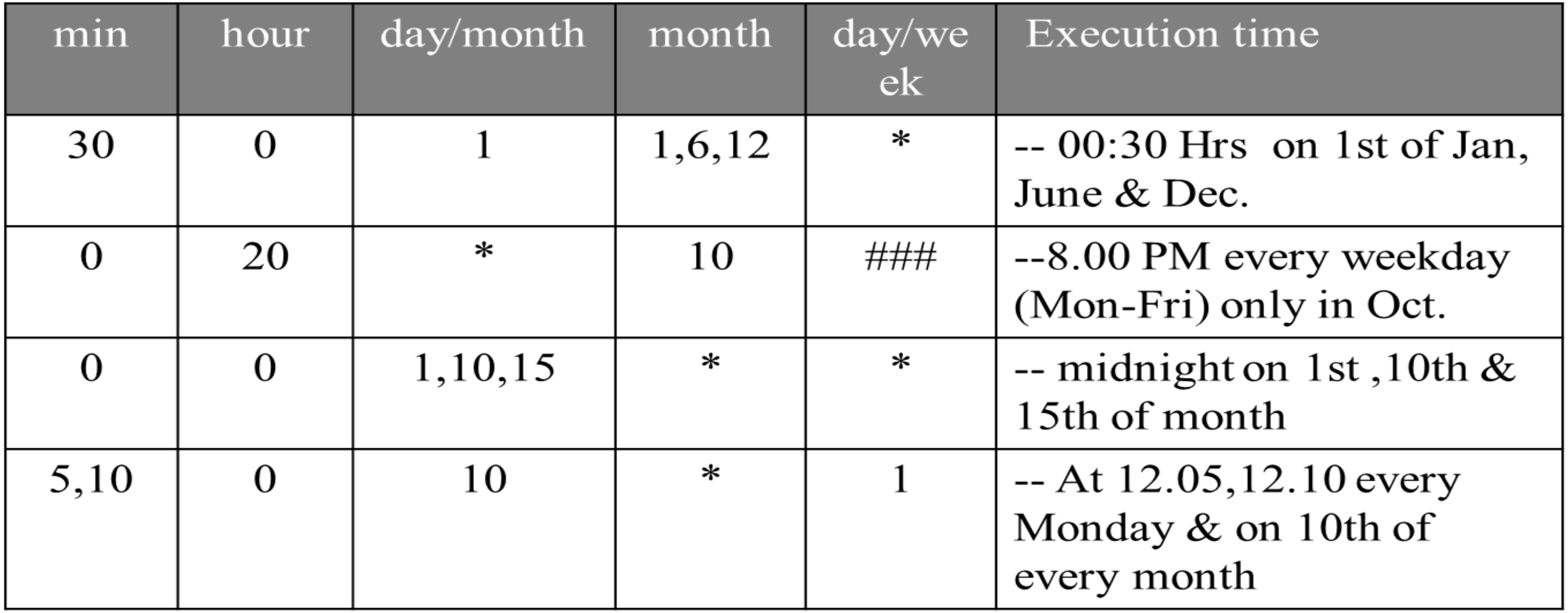
* in the value field above means all legal values as in braces for that column.

- **Crontab example:**

- removes the tmp files from /home/someuser/tmp each day at 6:30 PM.

```
30    18    *    *    *        rm /home/someuser/tmp/*
```

Changing the parameter values as below will cause this command to run at different time schedule below :



min	hour	day/month	month	day/we ek	Execution time
30	0	1	1,6,12	*	-- 00:30 Hrs on 1st of Jan, June & Dec.
0	20	*	10	###	--8.00 PM every weekday (Mon-Fri) only in Oct.
0	0	1,10,15	*	*	-- midnight on 1st ,10th & 15th of month
5,10	0	10	*	1	-- At 12.05,12.10 every Monday & on 10th of every month