

Crontab & Telegram Alert Automation – Linux Sysadmin Lesson

1 What is Crontab?

`cron` is a Linux scheduler service that automatically runs tasks at specific times.
`crontab` is the file and command used to define scheduled jobs for a user.

In system administration, `crontab` is used to automate:

- Monitoring scripts
- Alerts
- Backups
- Maintenance tasks

Example idea:

“I want Linux to run my monitoring script every 5 minutes automatically.”

2 Crontab File Structure

Each `crontab` entry follows this format:

```
* * * * * /path/to/script.sh
```

The five time fields mean:

Field	Range	Description
1	0–59	Minute
2	0–23	Hour
3	1–31	Day of Month
4	1–12	Month
5	0–7	Day of Week (0 or 7 = Sunday)

Example:

```
30 3 * * * /home/user/alert.sh
```

This runs the script every day at 3:30 AM.

3 Important Crontab Commands

Edit crontab:

```
crontab -e
```

List scheduled jobs:

```
crontab -l
```

Remove all crontab jobs:

```
crontab -r
```

4 Automating Alerts Using Crontab

Example automation (run every 5 minutes):

```
*/5 * * * * /home/user/alert.sh
```

This means:

- Check system automatically
- No manual execution
- Continuous monitoring