

Cron, Archiving & Compression.



Cron

A daemon (service) used to schedule a frequently used tasks or commands

EXAMPLE

System updates and snapshots (backups)

Cron – starting the daemon

In order for Cron to run scheduled task over time, there must be a service running in the background.

COMMAND

```
# systemctl enable cron  
# systemctl start cron
```

Scheduling a command

To add a command to the scheduled list run the command

```
$ crontab -e
```

The previous command is used to edit the cron table by specified text editor for the current user

```
$ crontab -e -u <user>
```

For a specific user (need to be promoted to super user)

Scheduling a command

After opening the file for editing, the file will be all commented with introduction and example.

In order to add a certain scheduled command, use the following format

<Min> <Hour> <DayofMon> <Mon> <DayofWeek> <Command>

Scheduling a command

THE ACCEPTED VALUES

- n (number from the field range)
- *
- */n (to run the task ever n of that field)

EXAMPLE

5 4 * 2 0 apt update && apt upgrade

At 04:05 on Sunday in February.

Archiving and Compression

Archiving

The process of grouping multiple files and directories together into a single file.

Compression

The process of using fewer bits of some data using compression algorithms.

Archiving

(tar) is the most popular archiving utility in GNU/Linux systems.

EXAMPLE

For creating an archived file

```
$ tar -cvf <target_name> <file1> <dir1> <file2> <file3> ....
```

For the opposite

```
$ tar -xvf <archived_file>
```


Compression

(gzip) is a famous compression utility in GNU/Linux systems

EXAMPLE

For compressing

```
$ gzip <file_name>
```

For decompressing

```
$ gunzip <file_name> # or gzip -d <file_name>
```

Archiving and Compression

Combining tar with gzip is an elegant way to compressing multiple files or directories.

EXAMPLE

```
$ tar -cvzf <target_name> <file1> <dir1> <file2> <file3> ....
```

```
$ tar -xvzf <archived_compressed_file>
```

Resources

- man 5 crontab
- man 1 tar
- man 1 gzip
- OSC github repo

Thank You

