

Section 10 – cron and at jobs

Questions

Please read the following questions carefully and try to answer them. You will find the correct answers, with an explanation where necessary, in the Answers.pdf file located in the same folder.

1. The crontab job always runs in the context of root
 - a. True
 - b. False
2. The shell that is used to execute scripts in cron is always the Bourne shell. It cannot be changed
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. You can temporarily disable a cron job by placing the following symbol at line start:
 - a. \$
 - b. #
 - c. @
 - d. //
4. The time field 15 12 5 * * in a crontab file means:
 - a. Every day in April at 3:12 PM
 - b. Every day in April at 12:15 PM
 - c. Fifth day of every month at 3:12 PM
 - d. Fifth day of every month at 12:15 PM
5. The time field 0 0 * * 1,2 in a crontab file means
 - a. First and second days of the month at 12:00 AM
 - b. Every day in January and February at 12:00 AM
 - c. Every Monday and Tuesday at 12:00 AM
 - d. None of the above
6. If you scheduled a crontab time like this: 0 15 1 1 4, when will the job run?
 - a. Thursday the first of January at 3:15 PM
 - b. It will run every Thursday at 3:15 PM, and the day of month field will be ignored
 - c. It will run both on January the first and on every Thursday at 3:15 PM
 - d. The crontab command will report an error and ask you to correct it
7. The shell environment file does get executed by default in the con job shell. A possible solution is to manually execute it in your job script
 - a. True
 - b. False
8. You are not allowed to use an editor on the crontab file except vi.
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. The root user can edit any crontab file of any user on the system
 - a. True
 - b. False

10. If a user is present in the `/etc/cron.allow` file, this user will be:
 - a. Allowed to run cron jobs in privileged mode
 - b. Allowed to edit crontab files of other users
 - c. Allowed to receive the mail message sent by crond to the users
 - d. Allowed to run cron jobs. Other users that are not present in this file will be denied
11. Placing users in `/etc/cron.deny` means
 - a. They are not allowed to run cron jobs
 - b. They are not allowed to receive mail from crond
 - c. They are not allowed to run `at` jobs
 - d. They are granted read-only access to their crontab files
12. The crontab shortcut `@monthly` means
 - a. Every month at the same date and time as the current time
 - b. Every first day of the month at 12:00 AM
 - c. Every first day of the month at the current time
 - d. A random day/time of every month
13. If `MAILTO` variable was set to an empty string, this means that the crond mail will be
 - a. Redirected to root
 - b. Redirected to the user as normal. It has no effect
 - c. Stopped from being generated
 - d. None of the above
14. The `at` command is used to execute a command or a script only once at a specified date and time
 - a. True
 - b. False
15. If the following time string was passed to an `at` command: `now + 1 month`, it will result in executing the at job:
 - a. Next month at 12:00 AM
 - b. Next month on the same day as today at 12:00 AM
 - c. Next month at the same day as today and the same time as the current time
 - d. Next month on the last day at 11:59 PM
16. The `at` command works the same as `nohup`; if you exit the shell the scheduled commands will run at the respective time
 - a. True
 - b. False
17. The batch command is typically used in the following scenario:
 - a. When you want to run a number of commands at once
 - b. When you want to run a shell script
 - c. When you want a script or a set of commands to run when the CPU load is below 1.5
 - d. When you want the `at` command to execute commands in a different shell
18. The `teatime` option in `at` command refers to the following time:
 - a. 4:00 PM
 - b. 5:00 PM
 - c. 6:00 PM
 - d. 7:00 PM

19. The at command cannot by allow and deny files as conjob files are
- a. True
 - b. False