# Cronjobs in Linux -IW5

Cron allows Linux and Unix users to run commands or scripts at a given date and time. You can schedule scripts to be executed periodically. Cron is one of the most useful tool in a Linux or UNIX like operating systems. It is usually used for sysadmin jobs such as backups or cleaning /tmp/ directories and more. The cron service (daemon) runs in the background and constantly checks the /etc/crontab file, and /etc/cron.\*/ directories. It also checks the /var/spool/cron/ directory.

Cron is a job scheduling utility present in Unix like systems. The crond daemon enables cron functionality and runs in background. The cron reads the **crontab** (cron tables) for running predefined scripts.

By using a specific syntax, you can configure a cron job to schedule scripts or other commands to run automatically.

### Cron job syntax

Crontabs use the following flags for adding and listing cron jobs.

* **crontab -e**: edits crontab entries to add, delete, or edit cron jobs.
* **crontab -l**: list all the cron jobs for the current user.
* **crontab -u username -l**:list another user's crons.
* **crontab -u username -e**:edit another user's crons.

When you list crons, you'll see something like this:

# Cron job example

\* \* \* \* \* sh /path/to/script.sh