RedHat Certified System Administrator (RHEL 9)

SUMMARY

CRON

- The service crond is responsible for managing the cron task-scheduling service; it is enabled by default. You can check it using:
  sudo systemctl status crond.service
- The cron service runs tasks periodically.
- The syntax for creating a cron task is found in:
  man 5 crontab
- Create a cron task:
  crontab -e [-u user]
  [PS: Specifying a user requires root access]
  [PS: Not Specifying a user will modify the crontab of the current user]

- Example of cron task:
  * * * * * logger "message sent to /var/log/messages"
  1-59/2 * * * * logger "every 2 minutes starting from minute 1 to minute 59"
- Interesting Files:
  - /etc/cron.deny: black list of users denying of using cron service.
  - /etc/cron.allow: White list of users only they are allowed to use cron.

  [PS: Priority goes like this:
  cron.allow is checked first,
  If it does not exist cron.deny is checked,
  If that too does not exist ONLY THE SUPER USER CAN USE CRON]

  - /etc/cron.monthly: scripts in this directory run once each month.
  - /etc/cron.weekly: scripts in this directory run once each week.
  - /etc/cron.daily: scripts in this directory run once a day.
  - /etc/cron.hourly: scripts in this directory run once an hour.
  - /etc/cron.d/: Files in this directory are cron tasks

  [PS: Syntax in these files is: "* * * * * [USER] [COMMAND]"]

AT

- Another service to schedule tasks is atd.
- It is enabled by default.
- Check it using:
  systemctl status atd

- AT Tasks are executed only once on the specified date and time.

- How to schedule a task using at:
  at 22:15
  > /path/to/script.sh
  Ctrl+d

- **The at command allows for complex time specifications, you can find more:**
  man at

- Check the queue of the at command:
  atq

- Remove a task from the queue of the at command:
  atrm [id]
  [PS: **To get the id of the task use the "atq" command**]

- Relevant files:
  - /etc/at.allow
  - /etc/at.deny

  [PS: **Same functioning as cron.allow & cron.deny**]