

Cron and At

You can schedule regular jobs or run a job at a specified time.

`crond` – system daemon that starts jobs as commanded

`/var/spool/cron/crontabs` – crontab directory

A file for each user having cron service

root: things root wants run

john: thing john wants run

cron entries:

0,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50,55 * * * * frequent

40 14 * * * updatedb

30 5 * * 6 /var/adm/weekly

0 12 1 4 * postjoke

5 */2 * * mon-wed logprinter

Format: time info, what to run.

minute hour day-of-month month weekday

frequent: every 5 minutes, */5 would do the same thing

updatedb: 2:40 pm each day

weekly: 5:30 am each Saturday

postjoke: noon every April 1st

logprinter: every 2 hours: M,Tu,W

Submitting crontabs

crontabs must be submitted

`crontab file`

the file is submitted to crontab.

Checks to see if you are allowed

Copies into `/var/spool/cron/crontabs`

Informs `crond` of new file

Note: the file *replaces* any/all old crontab entries.

`crontab -e`

Get a copy of current crontab, invoke editor and submit when saved.

Note: Use this one to *update* an existing crontab.

`crontab -l`

what is in your crontab entry

`crontab -d`

remove your crontab entry

Admin can use two files to control access to cron

`cron.allow` – these users are allowed access

`cron.deny` – only these users are denied access

Linux default (no files): anyone can cron

At

Execute a command once (at the specified time).

```
at noon 04/01/97 < foolfile
```

```
at 21:30 -f cmdfile
```

Commands are taken from the file.

The will be run at the specified time.

```
atq what jobs do I have scheduled
```

Admin can control access using two files

at.allow, at.deny

default: anyone can at

at jobs are started by atd