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# T1053.002 - At

## Description from ATT&CK

Adversaries may abuse the [at](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0110>) utility to perform task scheduling for initial or recurring execution of malicious code. The [at](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0110>) utility exists as an executable within Windows, Linux, and macOS for scheduling tasks at a specified time and date. Although deprecated in favor of [Scheduled Task](<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1053/005>)'s [schtasks](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0111>) in Windows environments, using [at](<https://attack.mitre.org/software/S0110>) requires that the Task Scheduler service be running, and the user to be logged on as a member of the local Administrators group.

On Linux and macOS, `at` may be invoked by the superuser as well as any users added to the `at.allow` file. If the `at.allow` file does not exist, the `at.deny` file is checked. Every username not listed in `at.deny` is allowed to invoke `at`. If the `at.deny` exists and is empty, global use of `at` is permitted. If neither file exists (which is often the baseline) only the superuser is allowed to use `at`.(Citation: Linux at)

Adversaries may use [at](#) to execute programs at system startup or on a scheduled basis for [Persistence](#). [at](#) can also be abused to conduct remote [Execution](#) as part of [Lateral Movement](#) and/or to run a process under the context of a specified account (such as SYSTEM).

In Linux environments, adversaries may also abuse [at](#) to break out of restricted environments by using a task to spawn an interactive system shell or to run system commands. Similarly, [at](#) may also be used for [Privilege Escalation](#) if the binary is allowed to run as superuser via `sudo`. (Citation: GTFObins at)

## Atomic Tests

- [Atomic Test #1 - At.exe Scheduled task](#)
- [Atomic Test #2 - At - Schedule a job](#)

### Atomic Test #1 - At.exe Scheduled task

Executes cmd.exe Note: deprecated in Windows 8+

Upon successful execution, cmd.exe will spawn at.exe and create a scheduled task that will spawn cmd at a specific time.

**Supported Platforms:** Windows

**auto\_generated\_guid:** 4a6c0dc4-0f2a-4203-9298-a5a9bdc21ed8

**Attack Commands:** Run with `command_prompt` !

```
at 13:20 /interactive cmd
```



### Atomic Test #2 - At - Schedule a job

This test submits a command to be run in the future by the `at` daemon.

Supported Platforms: Linux

auto\_generated\_guid: 7266d898-ac82-4ec0-97c7-436075d0d08e

Inputs:

Name	Description	Type	Default Value
time_spec	Time specification of when the command should run	String	now + 1 minute
at_command	The command to be run	String	echo Hello from Atomic Red Team

Attack Commands: Run with `sh` !

```
echo "#{at_command}" | at #{time_spec}
```

Dependencies: Run with `sh` !

Description: The `at` and `atd` executables must exist in the PATH

Check Prereq Commands:

```
which at && which atd
```

Get Prereq Commands:

```
echo 'Please install `at` and `atd`; they were not found in the PATH (Package name
```

Description: The `atd` daemon must be running

Check Prereq Commands:

```
systemctl status atd || service atd status
```

Get Prereq Commands:

```
echo 'Please start the `atd` daemon (sysv: `service atd start` ; systemd: `systemc`' 
```