

CRONTAB(1)

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NAME

crontab - maintain crontab files for individual users (V3)

SYNOPSIS

```
crontab [ -u user ] file
crontab [ -u user ] { -l | -r | -e }
```

DESCRIPTION

crontab is the program used to install, deinstall or list the tables used to drive the cron(8) daemon in Vixie Cron. Each user can have their own crontab, and though these are files in /var/spool/cron/crontabs, they are not intended to be edited directly.

If the /etc/cron.allow file exists, then you must be listed therein in order to be allowed to use this command. If the /etc/cron.allow file does not exist but the /etc/cron.deny file does exist, then you must not be listed in the /etc/cron.deny file in order to use this command. If neither of these files exists, then depending on site-dependent configuration parameters, only the super user will be allowed to use this command, or all users will be able to use this command. For standard Debian systems, all users may use this command.

If the -u option is given, it specifies the name of the user whose crontab is to be tweaked. If this option is not given, crontab examines "your" crontab, i.e., the crontab of the person executing the command. Note that su(8) can confuse crontab and that if you are running inside of su(8) you should always use the -u option for safety's sake.

The first form of this command is used to install a new crontab from some named file or standard input if the pseudo-filename '-' is given.

The -l option causes the current crontab to be displayed on standard output. See the note under DEBIAN SPECIFIC below.

The -r option causes the current crontab to be removed.

The -e option is used to edit the current crontab using the editor specified by the VISUAL or EDITOR environment variables. After you exit from the editor, the modified crontab will be installed automatically. If neither of the environment variables is defined, then the default editor /usr/bin/editor is used.

DEBIAN SPECIFIC

The "out-of-the-box" behaviour for crontab -l is to display the three line "DO NOT EDIT THIS FILE" header that is placed at the beginning of the crontab when it is installed. The problem is that it makes the sequence

```
crontab -l | crontab -
```

non-idempotent -- you keep adding copies of the header. This causes pain to scripts that use sed to edit a crontab. Therefore, the default behaviour of the -l option has been changed to not output such header. You may obtain the original behaviour by setting the environment variable CRONTAB_NOHEADER to 'N', which will cause the crontab -l command to emit the extraneous header.

SEE ALSO

crontab(5), cron(8)

FILES

```
/etc/cron.allow  
/etc/cron.deny
```

STANDARDS

The crontab command conforms to IEEE Std1003.2-1992 (``POSIX``). This new command syntax differs from previous versions of Vixie Cron, as well as from the classic SVR3 syntax.

DIAGNOSTICS

A fairly informative usage message appears if you run it with a bad command line.

BUGS

Although cron requires that each entry in a crontab end in a newline character, the neither the crontab command nor the cron daemon will detect this error. Instead, the crontab will appear load normally. However, the command will never run. The best choice is to ensure that your crontab has a blank line at the end.

AUTHOR

Paul Vixie <paul@vix.com>