

What's a Sensor?

A Sensor is a particular operator that waits for a condition to be true. If the condition is true, the task is marked **successful**, and the next task runs. If the condition is false, the sensor waits for another interval until it times out and **fails**.

Implementing a Sensor is as simple as shown below:

```
from airflow import DAG
from airflow.sensors.python import PythonSensor

def _condition():
    return False

with DAG(
    dag_id="sensor",
    start_date=datetime(2021, 1, 1),
    schedule="@daily",
    catchup=False,
):
    waiting_for_condition = PythonSensor(
        task_id="waiting_for_condition",
        python_callable=_condition,
        poke_interval=60,
        timeout=7 * 24 * 60 * 60
    )
```

In the example above, the Sensor checks `_condition` to be true every 60 seconds by default (`poke_interval`). Since `_condition` always returns False, the Sensor will continue checking every 60 seconds until it times out after 7 days (`7 * 24 * 60 * 60` by default). When the Sensor times out, it is marked **failed**.

That's it.

Now that you know what Sensors are, let's discover how do they work and why they are so useful.

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