

Best practices with Sensors

When using sensors, keep the following in mind to avoid potential performance issues:

- Always define a meaningful **timeout** parameter for your sensor. The default for this parameter is seven days, which is a long time for your sensor to be running. When you implement a sensor, consider your use case and how long you expect the sensor to wait and then define the sensor's timeout accurately.
- Whenever possible and especially for long-running sensors, use the **reschedule** mode so your sensor is not constantly occupying a worker slot. This helps avoid deadlocks in Airflow where sensors take all of the available worker slots.
- If your **poke_interval** is very short (less than about 5 minutes), use the **poke** mode.

Using **reschedule** mode in this case can overload your scheduler.

- Define a meaningful **poke_interval** based on your use case. There is no need for a task to check a condition every 60 seconds (the default) if you know the total amount of wait time will be 30 minutes.

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