SYSTEMD TIMERS AS A CRON ALTERNATIVE

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IN THIS PRESENTATION

- What is Systemd?

- What are Systemd Timers?

- How do I use Systemd Timers?

WHAT IS SYSTEMD?

From the ArchWiki:

*"**systemd** is a suite of basic building blocks for a Linux system. It provides a system and service manager that runs as PID 1 and starts the rest of the system."*

WHAT ARE SYSTEMD TIMERS?

- Just text files

- They tell systemd to run a unit at a specific interval

- Similar to Cron

ADVANTAGES OF SYSTEMD TIMERS

- Simple to stop, start, and run jobs

- Jobs are logged in the systemd journal

- More listed here

DISADVANTAGES OF SYSTEMD TIMERS

- More tedious to set up new jobs

- No built in error emails

HOW TO USE SYSTEMD TIMERS

1. Create a timer file
2. Create a service file
3. Enable the timer
4. Start the timer

TIMER FILE

```
# ~/.config/systemd/user/mytimer.timer
# or /etc/systemd/system/mytimer.timer
[Unit]
Description=An example timer

[Timer]
OnCalendar=daily
# Optional
Persistent=true

[Install]
WantedBy=timers.target
```

SERVICE FILE

```
# ~/.config/systemd/user/mytimer.service
# or /etc/systemd/system/mytimer.service
[Unit]
Description=An example timer service

[Service]
ExecStart=/path/to/cool/thing/doSomethingCool.sh
```

START AND ENABLE THE TIMER

```
$ systemctl enable mytimer.timer
$ systemctl start mytimer.timer
```

(Use **systemctl --user** for user level timers.)

OTHER USEFUL COMMANDS

Check up on a timer:

```
$ systemctl status mytimer.timer
```

List all timers:

```
$ systemctl list-timers
```

HOW I'VE BEEN USING THEM

- Mostly web scrapers
- Backup script for my server

FURTER RESOURCES

- The ArchWiki (even if you don't use Arch Linux)
- `man systemd.timer`
- This blog post

QUESTIONS?