**Cron jobs**

The cron service searches its spool area (usually /var/spool/cron/crontabs) for crontab files (which are named after user accounts); crontabs found are loaded into memory. cron also reads /etc/crontab, which is in a slightly different format. Additionally, cron reads the files in /etc/cron.d: it treats the files in /etc/cron.d as in the same way as the /etc/crontab file. The intended purpose of /etc/cron.d/ directory feature is to allow packages that require finer control of their scheduling than the /etc/cron.{daily,weekly,monthly} directories to add a crontab file to /etc/cron.d.

# crontab -r [to remove crontab]

# crontab -l ( to list all cron jobs of root )

# crontab -u <username> -l ( to list all cron jobs of user )

# crontab –e [to edit the crontab]

The following example means,

run script42 eight minutes after two, every day of the month, every

month and every day of the week.

8 14 \* \* \* script42

Run script8472 every month on the first of the month at 25 past midnight.

25 0 1 \* \* script8472

Run this script33 every two minutes on sunday (both 0 and 7 refer to sunday).

\*/2 \* \* \* 0

Instead of these five fields, you can also type one of these: @reboot, @yearly or @annually,

@monthly, @weekly, @daily or @midnight, and @hourly.

Users should not edit the crontab file directly, instead they should type crontab -e which will use the editor defined in the EDITOR or VISUAL environment variable. The cron daemon is reading the cron tables, taking into account the /etc/cron.allow and /etc/cron.deny files.

Stage 1 is primary boot loader : part of MBR size of 512 b read by