10.3.2 Scheduling Tasks with at

Click one of the buttons to take you to that part of the video.

Schedule Tasks with at 0:00-0:14

In this demonstration, we will demonstrate the at command. The at command is used for scheduling jobs, processes, and programs at a later time.

Ineractive Option 0:15-0:32

There's several options that can be used with the at command. The one that I'll be demonstrating here will be interactive. To use the program we just type in the word at. that's what what gets us started. I'm going to specify the time as now.

Specify the Time 0:33-1:14

We have several different times, that we can specify. One would be noon, which would be 12 p.m., midnight, 12 a.m., tomorrow. We could say, "noon tomorrow." We could say, "next week." We could say, "next Monday." We can specify a day like Thursday or Friday. We can specify next month. We could have something along the lines of 2 p.m. next month, or we can even specify a date. The funny one is teatime so teatime in Great Britain is 4 p.m. We can even use teatime.

Use at Command to Create a File 1:15-2:17

In this case, what I'm going to do is actually create a file. Let me go ahead and delete what I typed in and show you that there is only some directories here, no file.

I'm going to go ahead and create a file, and that's what I'll do with the at command. I will type at now, plus 2 minutes. That will give me time to do what I want to do. What I'm going to do is something very simple. I'm just can echo the word hello and put it into a file called 'atdemo'. That's all I'm going to do.

Now, I do a Control-D, and what that does is that specifies that the job is finished. You can see that it scheduled for two minutes from now. If I put in the date, you'll see that right now it is 21, 39, 59. We'll go ahead and wait a minute. But while were waiting, I'll go ahead and explain a little bit more.

The atq Command 2:18-2:52

This is as I said interactive. So at allows us to run something interactively and allows us to create this job. When I can also do is use the atq program which will show me jobs that are in the queue that are either waiting to run or are running now. As you can see, there's an old job in there, and I did that on purpose. It never really had the opportunity to run, and it was supposed to run just a couple of minutes ago.

The atrm Command 2:53-3:17

What I can do is I can actually remove it and say, "You know what, I really didn't mean to run that." I could type atrm, at remove, and then specify the job number which is one, and you see, nothing came back. But now, if I do an atq, there's nothing there. What that means is, it's now after the time that that job was supposed to run.

Results 3:18-3:33

Let's look at my file listing now. Sure enough, here is that file 'atdemo'. Let's go ahead and take a look at it, 'cat atdemo', and we should see the word hello.

Summary 3:34-3:37

In this demonstration, what I showed you was the at command, and how you can schedule jobs at a later time.