

10.3.3 at Command Facts

The **at** daemon (atd) schedules tasks to occur once at a specific time in the future.

This lesson covers the following topics:

- About the at daemon (atd)
- at daemon commands

About the at Daemon

The at daemon:

- Is managed using:
 - The **atd** init script in the /etc/rc.d/init.d/ or /etc/init.d/ script directory on init-based distributions.
 - The **atd.service** file and the **systemctl** command on systemd-based distributions.
- Uses configuration files to specify standard user accounts that can and cannot use the **at** command.
 - **/etc/at.allow** specifies users who can use the **at** command.
 - **/etc/at.deny** specifies users who cannot use the **at** command.



If the **at.allow** file exists, then only users listed in the file are allowed to create at jobs. The **at.deny** file is ignored. If **at.allow** does not exist, then just the users listed in **at.deny** are blocked from creating at jobs. Everyone else is allowed to create jobs.

Be aware of the follow general steps when using the **at** utility:

1. Enter **at time**. The **at>** prompt is displayed
2. Enter each command you want to run at the at> prompt, one command per line. Press **Enter** after each command.
3. Press **Ctrl+d** to exit the at> prompt.

at Daemon Commands

The table below lists the most common commands for managing tasks with the **at** command:

Command	Used To	Examples
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at time date	<p>Schedule the command to run at a specific time and date. Options and syntax include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • today • tomorrow • month # • MMDDYY • MM/DD/YY • DD.MM.YY 	<p>at 12:12AM starts the command the next time the clock reads 12:12 AM.</p> <p>at 12:12AM September 1 starts the command at 12:12 AM on September 1.</p> <p>at 12:00AM 01/01/2016 starts the command at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2016.</p> <p>at 12:00AM 01012016 starts the command at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2016.</p> <p>at 12:00AM 01.01.2016 starts the command at 12:00 AM on January 1, 2016.</p>
at time_of_day	<p>Use time of day keywords to run the command. Options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midnight (12:00 AM) • Noon (12:00 PM) • Teatime (4:00 PM) 	<p>at midnight starts the command the next time the clock reads 12:00 AM.</p>
at now	Run the command immediately.	
at now + number time_period	<p>Schedule the command to run at the designated time in the future. Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minutes • hours • days • months 	<p>at now + 6 days starts the command 6 days after the time the command is issued.</p> <p>at now + 1 months starts the command 1 month after the time the command is issued.</p>
at -f filename time	Schedule the tasks listed in the specified file to run at the designated time.	<p>at -f /home/user/mycommands now + 3 hours starts the jobs listed in the mycommands file in three hours from the time the command is issued.</p>
at -l atq	<p>List the tasks in the at queue for the current user.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When run as root, atq or at -l lists all the jobs in the at daemon's queue. • When run as a user other than root, at lists only the jobs for the current user. 	<p>atq shows all jobs in the at queue.</p>
at -d jobnumber	Remove jobs from the at queue. Use spaces to separate	<p>at -d 2 3 removes jobs 2 and 3 from the at queue.</p> <p>atrm 4 removes job 4 from the at queue.</p>

atrm <i>jobnumber</i>	multiple jobs.	
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