superuser

How to execute shell script via crontab?

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I have a notify.sh script that looks like:

notify-send "hi welcome"

My crontab notification for 2 PM:

0 14 * * * home/hacks/notify.sh

However, this doesn't work. What is the problem?

linux   crontab

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edited Jan 24, 2013 at 20:24

slhck
224k ● 71 716 gold badges 607 silver badges 664 bronze badges

asked Dec 10, 2009 at 8:38

Aravind
601 ● 1 1 gold badge 7 silver badges 9 bronze badges

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7 Answers

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Your script is missing a #! line at the start, which is the magic interpreted by the kernel to say which command interpreter is to be used for the script.

Make it look like this:

#!/bin/sh
notify-send "hi welcome"

and make sure the script is executable:

ls -l home/hacks/notify.sh
chmod +x home/hacks/notify.sh
ls -l home/hacks/notify.sh

Also, since you're asking for this to happen just once a day, is the timezone of the crontab the same as your own timezone? You might find this happening at 2pm GMT.

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answered Dec 10, 2009 at 9:04

Phil P
2,001 ● 11 11 gold badges 18 silver badges 8 bronze badges

+1 This answer is awesome - particularly noting the point about the script needs to being executable! Thanks!
– FXQuantTrader
Jan 9, 2015 at 6:10

Very subtle explanation. My upvote
– Fokwa Best
Oct 24, 2016 at 12:58

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Making crontab running is easy only . Here I am going to say how to run crontab jobs. It is useful for anyone who is stuck on crontab.

*/1 * * * * cd /home/hacks && sh notify.sh

To make the script executable, we have to do:

chmod +x home/hacks/notify.sh

Here i run this script for every one minute ... By doing below script, you can write it in a log file to find whether its working

write log

*/1 * * * * cd /home/hacks && sh notify.sh>>test.log

send mail

*/1 * * * * cd /home/hacks && sh notify.sh>>test.log | mail -s "Hi this is example" user@domain.com

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edited Dec 28, 2012 at 16:35

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answered Mar 25, 2010 at 6:05

Aravind
601 ● 1 1 gold badge 7 silver badges 9 bronze badges

2

isnt that "*/1 * * * * sh /home/hacks/notify.sh" will also work ?
– user1179459
Sep 25, 2015 at 1:14

5

4 hypothesis:

- the cron daemon is not running (do a `ps axfww | grep cron` and check)
- the notify-send is trying to send output to a terminal, or an X session -- but it is ran from within the cron environment and it does not know "who to talk to", so to speak.
- your script is not executable
- the `home/` path in the crontab script is relative to the user the scripts gets executed as. Try using the full path

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edited Dec 10, 2009 at 10:16

answered Dec 10, 2009 at 8:42

lorenzog

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Add `export DISPLAY=:0` above the notify-send line in your script. This addresses lornezog's second point.

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answered Mar 11, 2012 at 0:33

W_Whalley

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First of All, we need to edit the crontab with Command `crontab -e` and than Inside this Crontab add the Path of Executable script and in your Case like this `* 14 * * * home/hacks/notify.sh >/dev/null 2>&1` .

Start /Stop / restart cron service

- `/etc/init.d/crond start /stop / restart`
- `service crond start /stop /restart`
- `systemctl stop crond.service`

`systemctl stop crond.service`
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answered Oct 24, 2015 at 12:00

kunal

101 3 3 bronze
badges

you shouldn't need to restart according to answers at stackoverflow.com/questions/10193788/...
– George Birbilis
Aug 21, 2020 at 9:17

-1

You have to open crontab by the following command:

`crontab -u username -e (to edit) -l(to list) -r(to remove) 10(minutes) 8-15(hours) *(Day of month) *(month) 1,3,5(days of week) /path/to/script/script name.sh`

This will run your script once an hour from 8AM-3PM at 10 minutes past the hour every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
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edited Jul 9, 2011 at 1:47

Gaff

18.6k 15 15 gold 57 57 silver 68 68 bronze
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answered Dec 10, 2009 at 10:00

ravindrakhokharia

-3

quite simple, add following line at bottom of the crontab file via: sudo nano /etc/crontab

@reboot root cd /home/pi/node-sonos-http-api && npm start &

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edited Dec 28, 2018 at 16:32

Mureinik

3,974 11 11 gold 28 28 silver 42 42 bronze
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answered Dec 28, 2018 at 16:01

Martini7

1

This does not seem to be an answer to the question.
– Ljm Dullaart
Dec 28, 2018 at 19:00

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