

Cron and Task Scheduling

Files & Utilities:

- `/usr/bin/crontab`
- `/var/spool/cron/allow`
- `/var/spool/cron/deny`
- `/etc/crontab` # Manages the below directories
- `/etc/cron.hourly/`
- `/etc/cron.daily/`
- `/etc/cron.weekly/`
- `/etc/cron.monthly/`

Crontab Format

Minute	Hour	Date	Month	Day	Command String
0-59	0-23 (0 is midnight)	1-31	1-12 (3-letter abbreviations too)	0-7 (0 or 7 for Sunday) (3-letter abbreviations too)	Anything permissible at a single shell prompt

```
# Check every minute for logins by user "evil"
* * * * * who | grep '^evil '
#
# Run a script every odd hour (1,3 5...) during the week
0 1,3,5,7,9,11,13,15,17,19,21,23 * * 1-5 /home/bob/ascript
# Same...
0 */2 * * 1-5 /home/bob/ascript
# Same...
0 */2 * * mon,tue,wed,thu,fri /home/bob/ascript
```

/usr/bin/crontab

The utility for managing cron tables.

crontab -r (deletes your table)

crontab -l (lists your table)

crontab -e (edits your table)

crontab -u username -e (edit username's table)