

Linux Job Scheduler Administration



(Regular, to the minute, job scheduler – **cron**, one-time job execution – **at**)

cron daemon – runs continuously “wakes-up” once a minute, examines configuration in the files:

/var/spool/cron/ tabs – store user *cron* jobs

(should not edit directly – use *crontab utility*)

/etc/cron.d directories

/etc/crontab - System jobs.

Then the daemon executes commands specified by these configuration files if the *time matches* the time listed in the files.

System cron jobs

Jobs run as root and perform system-wide maintenance like log-rotation and /tmp file removal.

/etc/crontab file:

M H D M W username run-parts /etc/cron.daily

Five fields that specify time: *An asterisk (*) matches all possible values*

M-Minute (0-59)

H-Hour (0-23)

D-Day (1-31)

M-Month (1-12)

W-Week (0-7) *Sunday is either 0 or 7*

A dash (-) between two values indicates a range

run-parts is a command – runs any executable scripts

Interval – *hourly, daily, weekly, and monthly* are

User cron jobs

Use the *crontab* utility:

>crontab [-u user] [-l | -e | -r] [file]

(If run without a *user* parameter

associated with the current user)

-l displays current

-r removes the

-e opens a

The

Sample user cron job file:

(Note the three **environment variables** at the top)

SHELL=/bin/bash

MAILTO=jsmith

HOME=/home/jsmith

0,30 * * * * /usr/bin/fetchmail -s

0 2 * * mon /usr/local/bin/clean-adouble \$H

In a user *cron* job, you do not specify the user to execute the job. That information is the **owner** of the *cron* job.

anacron

(<http://anacron.org>)

Periodic

daemo

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