

Crontab Reference

A crontab task consists of four date/time fields and a command field. Every minute cron checks all crontabs for a match between the current date/time and their tasks. If there's a match, the command is executed. The system crontab has an additional field "User" that tells cron with which user id the command should be executed.

The fields are:

Min minute of execution, 0-59

Hour hour of execution, 0-23

Mday day of month of execution, 1-31

Month month of execution, 1-12 (or names)

Wday day of week of execution, 1-7 (1 = monday, 7 = sunday, or names)

Command Anything that can be launched from the command line

Possible values:

* matches all values, e.g. a * in month means: "every month"

x-y matches the range x to y, e.g.

2-4 in Mday means "on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of the month"

x/n in range x with frequency n, e.g. */2 in Hour means "every other hour"

Months can be names: jan, Feb, mAr (case insensitive). (use 3 chars)

Weekdays can be names, e.g. sun, Mon, tUE. (use 3 chars, no case)

Special Strings

These can be used to replace the 5 time values.

string	meaning
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@reboot	Run once, at startup.
@yearly	Run once a year, "0 0 1 1 *".
@annually	(same as @yearly)
@monthly	Run once a month, "0 0 1 * *".
@weekly	Run once a week, "0 0 * * 0".
@daily	Run once a day, "0 0 * * *".
@midnight	(same as @daily)
@hourly	Run once an hour, "0 * * * *".

Emailing Cron Output:

```
MAILTO="recipient@domain.com"
```

```
MAILTO=""  <- will send no email
```

Examples

```
# Run drupal cron every 15 minutes..
```

```
*/15 * * * * /usr/local/bin/wget -q -O /dev/null http://www.mostlygeek.com/cron.php
```

```
# Update ports/sources and ports db. (2 commands, one cron line)
```

```
34 3 * * * cvsup -g -L 0 /root/supfile ; portsdb -Uu
```