

# Cron Cheat Sheet

Cron is a scheduling system for POSIX computers.

## Notation

Minute   Hour   Date   Month   Weekday

## Examples

|          |           |        |    |   |   |
|----------|-----------|--------|----|---|---|
| 10       | *         | *      | *  | * | At the 10th minute of every hour of every day |
| */10     | *         | *      | *  | * | Every 10 minutes                              |
| 10       | 14        | *      | *  | * | At 14:10                                      |
| 10       | 14        | 1      | *  | * | At 14:10 on the first day of the month        |
| 10       | 14        | 15     | 1  | * | At 14:10 on 15 January                        |
| 0        | 2         | 15     | 10 | * | At 2 AM on 15 October                         |
| 0        | 3         | *      | 10 | 0 | At 3 AM on all Sundays in October             |
| 0        | 3         | *      | 10 | 1 | At 3 AM on all Mondays in October             |
| @yearly  | @annually |        |    |   | Shorthand for <i>once a year (1 January)</i>  |
| @monthly | @weekly   | @daily |    |   | Shorthand for <i>once a month</i>             |
| @hourly  |           |        |    |   | Shorthand for <i>on every hour</i>            |
| @reboot  |           |        |    |   | On <i>reboot</i>                              |



## Command

*Cron configuration is stored in a file called a crontab, which is specific to each user.*

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <code>crontab -e</code>    | Edit your crontab file                                    |
| <code>crontab -l</code>    | List all entries in your crontab                          |
| <code>crontab -r -i</code> | Remove the default crontab, after asking for confirmation |
| <code>crontab -u</code>    | Specify a different user's crontab                        |

## Files

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <code>/etc/cron.d</code>                         | Location for system cron entries   |
| <code>/etc/crontab</code>                        | Legacy system crontab  |
| <code>/var/spool/cron</code>                     | Location for user crontabs   |
| <code>/lib/systemd/system/crontab.service</code> | systemd cron service (systemd scans traditional cron locations and executes cron jobs as expected) |

