

crontab - Scheduler and logging

Crontab - Crontab is scheduler so you can launch scripts hourly/daily/weekly/monthly.

1. type "sudo crontab -e" (Edit the crontab)
2. Pick 1. nano unless you like other editors.

```
nodeadmin@Constellation-Node:/scripts$ crontab -e
no crontab for nodeadmin - using an empty one

Select an editor. To change later, run 'select-editor'.
 1. /bin/nano          <---- easiest
 2. /usr/bin/vim.basic
 3. /usr/bin/vim.tiny
 4. /bin/ed

Choose 1-4 [1]:
```

Add the following to the bottom of the crontab to run the script at 10AM Sunday

0 10 0 /scripts/<starchiver script> -options

To run it every Sunday at, for example, 10:00 AM, add:

bash

Copy

Edit

0 10 * * 0 /scripts/myscript.sh



Explanation:

- 0 → minute
- 10 → hour (10 AM)
- * → every day of the month
- * → every month
- 0 → Sunday (can also use 7)

CRONTAB LOGGING:

You also want better crontab logging! this is easy. Edit this file with nano

and remove the # from the line below. The run

There will be a new log
for your jobs in /var/log/cron.log

```
# Default rules for rsyslog.
#
#           For more information see rsyslog.conf(5) and /etc/rsyslog.conf

#
# First some standard log files.  Log by facility.
#
auth,authpriv.*          /var/log/auth.log
*.*;auth,authpriv.none   -/var/log/syslog
cron.*                  /var/log/cron.log
#daemon.*                -/var/log/daemon.log
kern.*                   -/var/log/kern.log
#lpr.*                    -/var/log/lpr.log
mail.*                   -/var/log/mail.log
#user.*                   -/var/log/user.log

#
# Logging for the mail system.  Split it up so that
# it is easy to write scripts to parse these files.
#
#mail.info                -/var/log/mail.info
#mail.warn                -/var/log/mail.warn
mail.err                  /var/log/mail.err
```

CRONTAB LOGGING DETAILS

Now setup cron to give you more logging details. Run the following command

You will want to add -L 15 to the ExecStart line like so

[Unit]

Description=Regular background program processing daemon

Documentation=man:cron(8)

After=remote-fs.target nss-user-lookup.target

[Service]

EnvironmentFile=-/etc/default/cron

ExecStart=/usr/sbin/cron -f -P \$EXTRA_OPTS

IgnoreSIGPIPE=false
KillMode=process
Restart=on-failure
SyslogFacility=cron

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

Save and run

again to restart the cron scheduler

The log will now have these details:

- 1: Start of all cron jobs
- 2: End of all cron jobs
- 4: Failed jobs (exit status != 0)
- 8: Process ID of all cron jobs

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