

Schedule future tasks (crontab and at)

Linux #redhat

- `crontab`
 - This command is used to schedule applications, processes, or services for you in your system.
 - You can run `crontab -e` to edit it, and there are different options.
 - When a process or application is scheduled in `crontab`, that becomes a job.
- `at.`
 - This command is just like `crontab`. The only difference between `at.` and `crontab` is `at.` is scheduled as one time basis or as an `ad-hoc` process.
- Before scheduling a job, make sure your clock is correct. Run the `date` command to check your date.
 - You can set your clock with `date -s "29 Jun 2024 16:58:00"`
 - The `-s` option stands for "set".

Example using `crontab` command:

```
[user@localhost ~]$ crontab -e
```

- You have to use the `-e` option to "edit" the `crontab` and specify whatever that you're trying to schedule.

File editor:

```
09 17 * 6 * echo "This is my first crontab entry" > crontab-entry
~
~
~
:
```

- Once you run `crontab -e`, it will bring you to a `vi` editor mode.
 - Hit `"I"` to enter INSERT mode.
- First is the minute (09), second is the hour (17), then the day of the month (`*`), then the month (6), and the day of the week (`*`). Finally you specify the command to schedule.
 - `*` means "everyday" for the day of the month, and day of the week.
- In this example we are scheduling to print the phrase "This is my first crontab entry" to a new file called "crontab-entry".

Example using `crontab` command:

```
[user@localhost ~]$ crontab -l
```

- The `-l` option displays the current `crontab` on standard output.

Output:

```
09 17 * 6 * echo "This is my first crontab entry" > crontab-entry
```

- This is exactly what we specified in the `crontab` file.

Using `at` to schedule jobs

from [Managing System Information, Processes, and Performance in Oracle Solaris 11.1](#)

```
$ **at 11:45pm July 31**  
at> **rm /home/smith/*core***  
at> Press Control-d  
commands will be executed using /bin/csh  
job 933486300.a at Tue Jul 31 23:45:00 2004
```