NAME

crontab – user crontab file

SYNOPSIS

crontab [*filename*]
crontab [–elr] *username*

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

crontab manages a user's access with **cron** by copying, creating, listing, and removing **crontab** files. If invoked without options, **crontab** copies the specified file, or the standard input if no file is specified, into a directory that holds all users' crontabs.

crontab Access Control

Users: Access to **crontab** is allowed:

- if the user's name appears in **/etc/cron.d/cron.allow**.
- if **/etc/cron.d/cron.allow** does not exist and the user's name is not in **/etc/cron.d/cron.deny**.

Users: Access to **crontab** is denied:

- if **/etc/cron.d/cron.allow** exists and the user's name is not in it.
- if **/etc/cron.d/cron.allow** does not exist and user's name is in **/etc/cron.d/cron.deny**.
- if neither file exists.

Note that the rules for **allow** and **deny** apply to **root** only if the **allow**/**deny** files exist.

The **allow**/**deny** files consist of one user name per line.

crontab Entry Format

A **crontab** file consists of lines of six fields each. The fields are separated by spaces or tabs. The first five are integer patterns that specify the following:

minute (**0**–**59**),
hour (**0**–**23**),
day of the month (**1**–**31**),
month of the year (**1**–**12**),
day of the week (**0**–**6** with **0**=Sunday).

Each of these patterns may be either an asterisk (meaning all legal values) or a list of elements separated by commas. An element is either a number or two numbers separated by a minus sign (meaning an inclusive range). Note that the specification of days may be made by two fields (day of the month and day of the week). Both are adhered to if specified as a list of elements. See **EXAMPLES**.

The sixth field of a line in a **crontab** file is a string that is executed by the shell at the specified times. A percent character in this field (unless escaped by \) is translated to a NEWLINE character.

Only the first line (up to a '%' or end of line) of the command field is executed by the shell. Other lines are made available to the command as standard input. Any line beginning with a '#' is a comment and will be ignored. The file should not contain blank lines.

The shell is invoked from your **$HOME** directory with an **arg0** of **sh.** Users who desire to have their **.profile** executed must explicitly do so in the **crontab** file. **cron** supplies a default environment for every shell, defining **HOME**, **LOGNAME**, **SHELL(=/bin/sh)**, **TZ**, and **PATH**. The default **PATH** for **user** cron jobs is **/usr/bin**; while **root** cron jobs default to **/usr/sbin:/usr/bin**. The default **PATH** can be set in **/etc/default/cron**; see **cron**(1M).

If you do not redirect the standard output and standard error of your commands, any generated output or errors will be mailed to you.

OPTIONS

–e edits a copy of the current user's **crontab** file, or creates an empty file to edit if **crontab** does not exist. When editing is complete, the file is installed as the user's **crontab** file. If a *username* is given, the specified user's **crontab** file is edited, rather than the current user's **crontab** file; this may only be done by a super-user. The environment variable **EDITOR** determines which editor is invoked with the **–e** option. The default editor is **ed**(1). Note that all crontab jobs should be submitted using **crontab**; you should not add jobs by just editing the **crontab** file because **cron** will not be aware of changes made this way.

–l lists the **crontab** file for the invoking user. Only a super-user can specify a *username* following the **–r** or **–l** options to remove or list the **crontab** file of the specified user.

–r removes a user's crontab from the crontab directory.

EXAMPLES

1. Clean up **core** files every weekday morning at 3:15 am:

   15 3 * * 1-5 find $HOME -name core 2>/dev/null | xargs rm -f

2. Mail a birthday greeting:

   0 12 14 2 * mailx john%Happy Birthday!%Time for lunch.

3. As an example of specifying the two types of days:

   0 0 1,15 * 1

   would run a command on the first and fifteenth of each month, as well as on every Monday. To specify days by only one field, the other field should be set to *, for example:

   0 0 * * 1

   would run a command only on Mondays.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **crontab**: **LC_TYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EDITOR Determine the editor to be invoked when the **–e** option is specified. The default editor is **ed**(1).

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

FILES

/etc/cron.d	main cron directory
/etc/cron.d/cron.allow	list of allowed users
/etc/default/cron	contains cron default settings
/etc/cron.d/cron.deny	list of denied users
/var/cron/log	accounting information
/var/spool/cron/crontabs	spool area for **crontab**.

SEE ALSO

atq(1), **atrm**(1), **ed**(1), **sh**(1), **cron**(1M), **su**(1M), **environ**(5)

NOTES

If you inadvertently enter the **crontab** command with no argument(s), do not attempt to get out with CTRL-D. This removes all entries in your **crontab** file. Instead, exit with CTRL-C.

If a super-user modifies another user's **crontab** file, resulting behavior may be unpredictable. Instead, the privileged user should first **su**(1M) to the other user's login before making any changes to the **crontab** file.