

Cron Automation

2016

This information comes from "<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/CronHowto>"

To edit the cron job list:

```
crontab -e (don't sudo, or you will change root cron, not your user cron)
```

Then add your job, which has the format:

Each line has five time-and-date fields, followed by a command, followed by a newline character ('\n'). The fields are separated by spaces. The five time-and-date fields cannot contain spaces. The five time-and-date fields are as follows: minute (0-59), hour (0-23, 0 = midnight), day (1-31), month (1-12), weekday (0-6, 0 = Sunday).

```
01 04 1 1 1 /usr/bin/somedirectory/somecommand\\
```

The above example will run /usr/bin/somedirectory/somecommand at 4:01am on January 1st plus every Monday in January.

An asterisk (*) can be used so that every instance (every hour, every weekday, every month, etc.) of a time period is used.

```
01 04 * * * /usr/bin/somedirectory/somecommand
```

Working Example

This example will run the script **pibackup** at **3am** every **Sunday**

```
00 03 0 0 0 /mnt/usbstorage/backups/scripts/pibackup
```

Check if Cron is Running

```
/etc/init.d/cron status
● cron.service - Regular background program processing daemon
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/cron.service; enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Wed 2016-08-03 20:37:22 BST; 19h ago
     Docs: man:cron(8)
    Main PID: 453 (cron)
      CGroup: /system.slice/cron.service
              └─453 /usr/sbin/cron -f
```

Check Jobs

```
crontab -lu pi
Shows current cron jobs for user pi
```

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