Crontab Reference

A crontab task consists of four date/time fields and a command field. Every minute cron checks all crontabs for a match between the current date/time and their tasks. If there's a match, the command is executed. The system crontab has an additional field "User" that tells cron with which user id the command should be executed.

```
The fields are:


Min        minute of execution, 0-59


Hour       hour of execution, 0-23


Mday       day of month of execution, 1-31


Month      month of execution, 1-12 (or names)


Wday       day of week of execution, 1-7 (1 = monday, 7 = sunday, or names)


Command    Anything that can be launched from the command line


Possible values:


*          matches all values, e.g. a * in month means: "every month"


x-y        matches the range x to y, e.g.


2-4 in Mday means "on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of the month"


x/n        in range x with frequency n, e.g. */2 in Hour means "every other hour"


Months can be names: jan, Feb, mAr (case insensitive). (use 3 chars)


Weekdays can be names, e.g. sun, Mon, tUe. (use 3 chars, no case)
```

Special Strings

These can be used to replace the 5 time values.

```
string          meaning


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@reboot         Run once, at startup.


@yearly         Run once a year, "0 0 1 1 *".


@annually       (same as @yearly)


@monthly        Run once a month, "0 0 1 * *".


@weekly         Run once a week, "0 0 * * 0".


@daily          Run once a day, "0 0 * * *".


@midnight       (same as @daily)


@hourly         Run once an hour, "0 * * * *".
```

Emailing Cron Output:

```
MAILTO="recipient@domain.com"


MAILTO=""  <- will send no email
```

Examples

```
# Run drupal cron every 15 minutes..


*/15 * * * * /usr/local/bin/wget -q -O /dev/null http://www.mostlygeek.com/cron.php




# Update ports/sources and ports db. (2 commands, one cron line)


34 3 * * * cvsup -g -L 0 /root/supfile ; portsdb -Uu
```