

How to use Cron TABLE (Dreamhost.com)

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Cron is a unix utility that allows tasks to be automatically run in the background at regular intervals by the cron daemon.

Crontab (CRON TABLE) is a file which contains the schedule of cron entries to be run and at specified times.

How to use Cron (Dreamhost.com)

- You'll need to enable shell access (SSH) before you can modify your crontab
- Crontab file: Create and Edit
- Generate log file

- Example

- Run php from cron

```
* * * * * command to be executed
- - - - -
| | | | |
| | | | | +----- day of week (0 - 6) (Sunday=0)
| | | | | +----- month (1 - 12)
| | | | | +----- day of month (1 - 31)
| | | | | +----- hour (0 - 23)
| | | | | +----- min (0 - 59)
```

Enable shell access (Dreamhost.com)

- Visit the Manage Users (<https://panel.dreamhost.com/index.cgi?tree=users.users&>) page of the control panel.
- Click the [edit] link located next to the user you'd like to enable shell access for.
- Check the 'Enable ssh/telnet?' box for that user.
- Click 'Save Changes' to save the change.
- Wait about 20 minutes for this change to take effect.

Crontab file: Create and Edit crontab -e Edit your crontab file, or create one if it doesn't already exist.

crontab -l Display your crontab file.

crontab -r Remove your crontab file.MAILTO=mycron@example1.com

```
# 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).
# | | | | | commands
3 2 * * 0,6 /some/command/to/run
3 2 * * 1-5 /another/command/to/run
```

DreamHost cron does NOT have an environment. The following will not work!

```
* * * * * perl myscript.pl
```

```
* * * * * perl /home/myuser/mydomain.com/myscript.pl
```

Generate log file

The output from commands is determined by the last entries on the line. If you don't specify anything at all, regular and error output will be e-mailed to you.

- MAILTO environment variable in the crontab If MAILTO is defined (and non-empty), mail is sent to the user so named. If MAILTO is defined but empty (MAILTO=""), no mail will be sent:

MAILTO=mycron@example1.com

- Email you the regular and error output:

```
8 2 * * * /home/you/bin/coolscript.pl
```

- Only email you errors: `8 2 * * * /home/you/bin/coolscript.pl >/dev/null`

- Not tell you anything (+ disable E-mail):

```
8 2 * * * /home/you/bin/coolscript.pl >/dev/null 2>&1
```

- log in file:

```
8 2 * * * /home/you/bin/coolscript.pl > /home/you/cronlogs/you_log_cron.log
```

Example

- Run a script every 20 minutes: `*/20 * * * * /usr/local/bin/perl /home/you/mydomain.com/myscript.pl`

- Run a php page called cron.php every hour (use wget): `0 * * * * wget http://www.somedomain.com/cron.php`

- Run a command at 2:08am

```
8 2 * * * /home/someone/bin/coolscript.pl
```

- Run a command at 2:00am on saturday `0 2 * * 6 /home/you/weekly/weekly.pl`

Execute php using cron

- To execute a PHP script using crontabs, you must add this line to the top of the PHP script you want to execute for it to work: `#!/usr/local/bin/php -q`

- Alternately, you can set up your cron entry like this: `* * * * * /dh/cgi-system/php.cgi`

```
/home/youruser/yourdomain.com/path-to-php4-script.php
```

```
* * * * * /dh/cgi-system/php5.cgi /home/youruser/yourdomain.com/path-to-php5-script.php
```