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CRON AND CRONTAB

Cron is a tool for configuring scheduled tasks on Unix systems, used to schedule commands or scripts to run periodically and at fixed intervals; tasks range from backing up the users' home folders every day at midnight, to logging CPU information every hour.

The command `crontab` (cron table) is used to edit the list of scheduled tasks in operation, and is done on a per-user basis; each user (including `root`) has their own `crontab`.

EDITING CRONTAB

Run `crontab` with the `-e` flag to edit the cron table:

```
crontab -e
```

SELECT AN EDITOR

The first time you run `crontab` you'll be prompted to select an editor; if you are not sure which to use, choose `nano` by hitting `Enter`.

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```
# m h dom mon dow   command
```

```
# * * * * * command to execute
# T T T T T
# | | | | |
# | | | | |
# | | | | |_____ day of week (0 - 7) (0 to 6 are Sunday to
Saturday, or use names; 7 is Sunday, the same as 0)
# | | | | |_____ month (1 - 12)
# | | | | |_____ day of month (1 - 31)
# | | | | |_____ hour (0 - 23)
# | | | | |_____ min (0 - 59)
```

For example:

```
0 0 * * * /home/pi/backup.sh
```

This cron entry would run the `backup.sh` script every day at midnight.

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