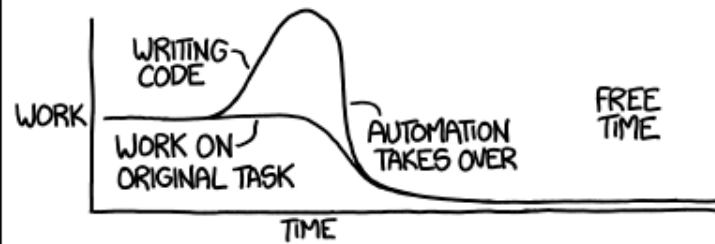


# Cron

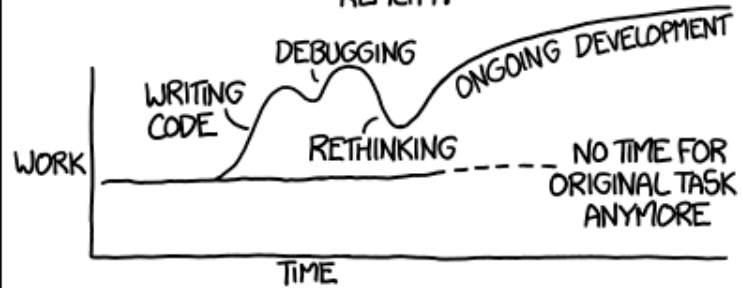
Scheduling for fun and profit

"I SPEND A LOT OF TIME ON THIS TASK.  
I SHOULD WRITE A PROGRAM AUTOMATING IT!"

THEORY:



REALITY:



# First we can check if cron is installed

○ adenner@server \$ ps aux | grep crond

```
root 311 0.0 0.7 1284 112 ? S Dec24 0:00 crond
```

```
adenner 8606 4.0 2.6 1148 388 tty2 S 12:47 0:00 grep crond
```

# Lets look /etc/crontab

- root@server # cat /etc/crontab
- SHELL=/bin/bash
- PATH=/sbin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin
- MAILTO=root
- HOME=/
  
- # run-parts
- 01 \* \* \* \* root run-parts /etc/cron.hourly
- 02 4 \* \* \* root run-parts /etc/cron.daily
- 22 4 \* \* 0 root run-parts /etc/cron.weekly
- 42 4 1 \* \* root run-parts /etc/cron.monthly

- minute hour dom month dow user cmd
- minute This controls what minute of the hour the command will run on, and is between '0' and '59'
- hour This controls what hour the command will run on, and is specified in the 24 hour clock, values must be between 0 and 23 (0 is midnight)
- dom This is the Day of Month, that you want the command run on, e.g. to run a command on the 19th of each month, the dom would be 19.
- month This is the month a specified command will run on, it may be specified numerically (0-12), or as the name of the month (e.g. May)
- dow This is the Day of Week that you want a command to be run on, it can also be numeric (0-7) or as the name of the day (e.g. sun).
- user This is the user who runs the command.
- cmd This is the command that you want run. This field may contain multiple words or spaces.

# examples

- `01 * * * * root echo "This command is run at one min past every hour"`
- `17 8 * * * root echo "This command is run daily at 8:17 am"`
- `17 20 * * * root echo "This command is run daily at 8:17 pm"`
- `00 4 * * 0 root echo "This command is run at 4 am every Sunday"`
- `* 4 * * Sun root echo "So is this"`
- `42 4 1 * * root echo "This command is run 4:42 am every 1st of the month"`
- `01 * 19 07 * root echo "This command is run hourly on the 19th of July"`

# Crontab

adenner@server \$ crontab -l  
to list your current crontab, and

- adenner@server \$ crontab -r  
will remove (i.e. delete) your current crontab.
- adenner@server # crontab -u

**Where do you use cron?**





## Linux Fortune Bot

@unix\_quote

I am a bot that posts fortune messages

📍 I Am In Your Base...

🔗 [upeke.net/blog](http://upeke.net/blog)

🕒 Joined September 2008

TWEETS  
3,256

FOLLOWERS  
287

 Follow

Tweets **Tweets & replies**



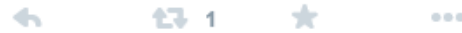
Linux Fortune Bot @unix\_quote · 10h

Perfect day for scrubbing the floor and other exciting things.



Linux Fortune Bot @unix\_quote · 24h

You will pioneer the first Martian colony.



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Sign up now to get your own personalized timeline!

[Sign up](#)

You may also like · [Refresh](#)



**unix player**  
@unixplayer



**Digg Linux Unix**  
@digg\_linux\_unix

# The fortune bot

Perl script that runs fortune and then posts the result to twitter (that has more followers than me)