

**NAME**

*cron* — clock daemon

**SYNOPSIS**

*/etc/cron*

**DESCRIPTION**

*Cron* executes commands at specified dates and times according to the instructions in the file */usr/lib/crontab*. *Cron* should be started from an entry in the *lines* file: see *init(1M)*.

*/usr/lib/crontab* consists of lines of six fields separated by spaces or tabs. The first five are integer patterns to specify the minute (0-59), hour (0-23), day of the month (1-31), month of the year (1-12), and day of the week (0-6 with 0=Sunday). Each of these patterns may contain a number in the range above; two numbers separated by a minus (—) meaning a range inclusive; a list of numbers separated by commas (,) meaning any of the numbers; or an asterisk (\*) meaning all legal values. The sixth field is a string that is executed by *sh* at the specified times. A percent (%) in this field is normally translated to a new-line character. Only the first line (up to a % or end of line) of the command field is executed by *sh*. The other lines are made available to the command as standard input. To escape this special meaning of %, immediately precede the percent by a \. Similarly, to continue a line on subsequent lines the last character of the line should be a \. In this latter case, both the \ and the newline are discarded.

*/usr/lib/crontab* is examined by *cron* whenever *cron* is started, whenever *cron* is sent the interrupt signal and every hour on the hour. Thus it could take up to an hour for entries to become effective if *cron* is not signalled.

**FILES**

*/usr/lib/crontab*

**SEE ALSO**

*init(1M)*, *sh(1)*, *kill(1)*

**DIAGNOSTICS**

None — illegal lines in *crontab* are ignored.