Help
Welcome to Wcron Help

What is Wcron?
Getting Started
The edit task dialog box
Menus
The logfile
External utilities
Glossary
License
Limited Waranty
Wcron distribution
Contact
Credits

Menus

Wcron Menu Bar

System_menu

Help Menu

What is Wcron?

Wcron
Periodical Task Schedular

Wcron is a periodical task schedular.

The name Wcron stands for Windows cron.   "Cron" is a standard tool on Unix systems and it is very commonly used.   In fact most Unix systems depends a lot on cron.

Cron (and Wcron for that matter) is most useful for machines that runs 24 hours a day. Wcronlet you specify the time of execution of a specific tasks.   It can be used for once only executions and for periodical executions.

Glossary
Definition of Wcron Terms.

Cron
Crontab
Task
Unix system
WinCLI
Wcron

Credits

Who's who of Wcron

Wcron was developped by Cinétic Systems.

The following people have contributed to the development of Wcron:

Software Engineer:
Sylvain Tremblay

Technical Consulting:
Philippe Blais
Matthew Dillon
Eric Trépanier

Beta Testing:
Philippe Blais
Jean-François Marceau
Hans Laroche
Eric Trépanier
Robert Salesas
Marc Veilleux

Contact

Who to contact

<u>Wcron</u> is marketed and supported by Cinétic Systems.

Cinétic Systems
4933 Verreau
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
H1M 2C7

Internet: Cinetic@Speedy.CAM.ORG
Compuserve: 71640,666

Standard tool on Unix systems.   Most Unix systems depends on the execution of cron to start   regular tasks, make backups, start regular connexions to a host in a network and do other important backgroud tasks.

File where the tasks list and their informations for execution time are stored. In the case of Wcron, the crontab is named "WCRON.INI" and is a standard Windows ".INI" file. WCRON.INI stores more informations than standard crontabs, however. Task options and global options are also kept in it.

In this document we use the word "task" to designate a Windows program or a DOS command   Wcron has to execute at some specific time.

WinCLI is a command line interface for Windows.   It acts like a DOS in a window but takes a lot less memory than a real DOS window.   It also packs a lot of useful features such as command line history, command line editing, aliases and more...

WinCLI is developped by Eschalon Development Inc.

Wcron stands for Windows cron.   Cron is a standard tool on Unix systems.

The term "Unix system" is being used to designate any computer running under the Unix operating system.   Most workstation such as Sun Sparcstations and Apollo run under Unix and some personnal computer such as the Amiga 3000 and 80386 PC compatible systems have implementations of the Unix operating systems.

Getting started
In The Beginning...

Starting Wcron
How to start Wcron

Wcron can be started in several ways.

1) The Run... command in the File Menu of the Program Manager and File Manager can be used to start the program.

2) If Wcron was been imported into the Program Manager then double clicking on the icon will start the program.

3) From the File Manager, double clicking on the Wcron entry will start the program.

4) From within WinCLI   (or other command line interface for Windows) changing the current directory to the one Wcron is stored in and typing "wcron" will start the program.   Note: if the directory where Wcron is stored is in the PATH environment variable, you do not need to CD to that directory before typing Wcron.

5) You can put Wcron in the LOAD= of the WIN.INI file so that it is started every time you start Windows.

The main window of Wcron consist of a list box which shows, in alphabethical order, the task list you created.   The first time you start Wcron, the task list will be empty.

When starting, Wcron write the time and date to the logfile.

Adding a task

Clicking on the "Add..." button in the main windows will bring you <u>the edit task dialog box</u> with the default values for each <u>fields</u>.

Removing a task

Clicking on the "Remove" button in the main windows will remove the <u>task</u> from the list in memory and will delete it from the <u>crontab</u>.

Editing a task

Double clicking on a <u>task</u> brings you the edit task dialog box with the information about that task.   See <u>The edit task dialog box</u> section for more informations.

The edit task dialog box

Editing a task

Fields
Options
Buttons

Fields

Edit task dialog box fields

      Description
      Minute
      Hour
      Day
      Month
      Day of week
      Command

Description field

The description is the text that will apear in the <u>task</u> list.   This field is **not** optional.   You cannot click on the OK button unless you enter a description.   You will always refer to the description of a task to edit or modify it.   The descrition must be **unique**.   Giving tasks significant description helps when searching in a long list of tasks.

Examples:

Backup systems files
Remind business diner
Trim log files

Minute field

The minute field specifies the minutes of the <u>hour</u> that the task will be executed.   Number ranges from 1 to 60.   The asterisk means every minute.   This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

15	Minute 15
15,30,45	Minute 15, 30 and 45
15,30,45-50	Minute 15, 30 and range 45 to 50
*	Every minute of the hour

Hour field

The hour field specifies the hours of the <u>day</u> that the task will be executed.   Number ranges from 0 to 23.   The asterisk means every hour.   This field is optional, defaut is asterisk

Examples:

8	8 am
16	4 pm
8,16	8 am and 4 pm
0,8,12-14,22	Midnite, 8 am, noon to 2pm and 11 pm
*	24 hour a day

Day field

The day field specifies the days of the <u>month</u> that the task will be executed.   Number ranges from 1 to 31.   For months with less that 31 days, values larger that the maximum days of the month will be ignored.   The asterisk means every day.   This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

1	1st
3,15,27	days 3, 15 and 27
16-20	every day between the 16th and 20th
*	Every day of the month

Month

The month field specifies the months of the year that the task will be executed.   Number ranges from 1 to 12.   The asterisk means every month.   This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

3	February
4,7,9	March, July and September
5 9-12	April and September to December
*	Every months

Day of week field

The day of week field specifies the day of the week that the task will be executed.   Number ranges from 0 to 6, 0 being Sunday.   The asterisk means every day of the week.   This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

1	Monday
2-4	Tuesday through Thursday
0,6	Week-end
*	All week.

Command field
Command field

The command field is the command to run with its parameters.   This field is **not** optional. You cannot click on the OK button unless you enter something in this field.

The command can be a Windows executable (.EXE), a DOS executable (.EXE or .COM), a DOS batch file (.BAT) or a Windows Program Information File (PIF).

If no extentions is specified, .EXE is assumed.

The search path is the 'windows' directory, the Windows 'system' directory and then the standard DOS path.   It is also possible to specify the full pathname of the command.

Note: To run a DOS application with the <u>"Run Minimize"</u> option you will have to create a Program Information File (PIF) for the application and check the "Background" checkmark.   You then enter the .PIF file in the command field instead of the real DOS program name.   Otherwise the icon of the DOS application will show up but the application will be held util the user double click it's icon.

Options

There are four options available for each <u>task</u>.

Enable this task This let you temporarly shut down the execution of a taskwithout removing it from the list.

Beep when lanching <u>Wcron</u> will beep when executing this task.

Confirm before launching If this option is on Wcron will ask the user to confirm the execution at launch time.   Use this for critical tasks.   Do **not** use this option with frequent periodical tasks unless you know there will be someone at the computer to confirm or unconfirm the execution of the task.

Run minimized The window of the tasks will show up as minimized when Wcron executes it.

Note: To run a DOS application with the "Run minimize" option you will have to create a Program Information File (PIF) for the application and check the "Background" checkmark.   You then enter the .PIF file in the command field instead of the real DOS program name.   Otherwise the icon of the DOS application will show up but the application will be held util the user double click it's icon.

Buttons

Edit task dialog box buttons

The edit task dialog box   contain six buttons:

OK   Save changes to the crontab and returns to the tasklist window.

Cancel   Cancel changes and returns to the tasklist window.

Clear   Clears every fields in the dialog box.

Run now   This is for testing the command.   When clicking on this button
                            Wcron tries to execute the command and display an error
                            message it failed.   Tasks options are not taken into
                            consideration when running the command this way.

Default   Reset field and check boxes to their default state.

Help   Bring the index of this file.

The logfile

The logfile created by <u>Wcron</u> is named "WCRON.LOG".   It is created in the Windows directory by default.   You can specify another filename and directory by adding a LOG FILE sub-section to the [WCRON OPTIONS] section in the WCRON.INI file.

Example:

```
[WCRON OPTIONS]
LOG FILE=C:\TEMP\WCRON.LOG
```

The logfile contain useful informations on the execution of Wcron and the <u>tasks</u> that it launches.   Dates and time of executions, modifications, deletion an addition are stored in it as well as return codes of failed executions.

Normally the logfile does not get very large but for eavy usage of Wcron it is recommended to <u>trim</u> the file regularly.

System menu

[Options](#)
[Exit](#)

Options menu

Available options are:

Enable Wcron   Turn this check box off when you do not want Wcron to executes any of the tasks that is in the task list.

Show icon   You may choose to hide <u>Wcron</u> icon when you minimize it so it won't appear on the bottom of your screen.   When this option is on and the program is minimized it will no longer appear in the task list of the task manager but it is still running.   To get Wcron back, run it again; it won't run a second instance, it will just get the hidden one back.

Show title   Show the program title when minimized.

Show time   Show the curent time when minimized.

Show date   Show the curent date when minimized.   You may choose between short or long date format.

Exit

Exiting Wcron

This option exits Wcron.   You can also quit by double clicking on the close gadget or hitting Alt+F4.

Exiting Wcron does not affect <u>tasks</u> that has been previously started by Wcron and are still running.   Those tasks will continue to run until they are finished or terminated manually.

When exiting, Wcron write the time and date to the <u>logfile</u>.

Help Menu

How to get some help

Index
Getting started
Adding a task
Removing a task
Editing a task
About Wcron

External utilities

Reminder
Trimfile

Reminder

Reminder

Reminder (remind.exe) is a simple program that pops a message box with the message given as parameter in it.   The date and time appear in the caption of the message box.

You can use it with <u>Wcron</u> to remind you of someting at a specific time and date.

Example:

> You have a meeting at 10:00 am on the 11th of July and you want to be reminded 10 minutes before.
>
> **Description** Metting with John Smith
> **Minute**   50
> **Hour**   9
> **Day**   11
> **Month**   7
> **Day of Week** *
> **Command**   remind Metting with John Smith in his office at 10:00.

Trimfile

Trimfile

Trimfile (trimfile.exe) is a useful utilility to trim files to a certain number of lines.   It is a DOS and Windows program so you can run it in both environments.   The advantage of running it in Windows is that you can automatically run it in multitask once a day on growing files.

The format is:

Trimfile [-<nb. of lines>] file1 file2 ... filen

The default for nb. of lines is 100 if not specified.

Example:

Description	Trim log files
Minute	0
Hour	8
Day	*
Month	*
Day of week	*
Command	trimfile -250 c:\windows\wcron.log

License

Product License Agreement

The use of Wcron is subject to the following terms and conditions.

Wcron is copyrighted material. It is protected by the copyright laws of the United States and Canada. You may not make any changes or modifications to Wcron. You may not decompile, disassemble, or otherwise reverse-engineer the software in any way.

You may use Wcron on a trial basis provided you do not violate the protection afforded the licensed software by the copyright laws, and you agree to the terms of the license agreement. If you use Wcron on a regular basis you are obligated to purchase a license for its use.

A license for the use of Wcron can be obtained by sending a $15.00 registration fee to:

> Sylvain Tremblay
> 4933 Verreau,
> Montreal, Quebec
> Canada
> H1M 2C7

The license fee paid for Wcron is a one time fee.   Licensed users may obtain and use future revisions of Wcron by Cinétic Systems without reregistration.

Title to the licensed software is NOT transferred to the end user.   The end user is granted an exclusive license to use the software on one computer or computer work station at any given time.

Limited Warranty

Limited Warranty

Cinétic Systems does not warrant that the licensed software will meet your requirements or that the operation of the software will be uninterrupted or error free.   The warranty does not cover any media or documentation which has been subjected to damage or abuse by you or others. The software warranty does not cover any copy   of the licensed software which has been altered or changed in any way.

ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES INCLUDING ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE ARE LIMITED TO THE TERM OF THE EXPRESS WARRANTIES. Some States do not allow limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

The warranties set forth above are in lieu of any and all other express or implied warranties, whether oral, written, or implied, and the remedies set forth above are the sole and exclusive remedies.

Cinétic Systems is not responsible for any problems or damage caused by the licensed software that may result from using the licensed software. This includes, but is not limited to, computer hardware, computer software, operating systems, and any computer or computing accessories. End user agrees to hold Cinétic Systems harmless for any problems arising from the use of the software.

CINÉTIC SYSTEMS SHALL NOT IN ANY CASE BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, INDIRECT OR OTHER SIMILAR DAMAGES ARISING FROM ANY BREACH OF THESE WARRANTIES EVEN IF CINÉTIC SYSTEMS OR ITS AGENTS OR DISTRIBUTORS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.   Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitation or exclusion may not apply to you.

In no case shall Cinétic Systems liability exceed the license fees paid for the right to use the license software.

The above constitutes the license agreement for Wcron. It supersede any and all previous license agreements.

Wcron distribution

Distribution

You are granted a limited license to copy Wcron only for the trial use of others subject to the terms of this software license agreement described herein, and the conditions described below are met:

Wcron MUST be copied in an unmodified form and MUST contain the following files:
    Wcron.exe
    Wcron.hlp
    Remind.exe
    Trimfile.exe
    Readme.txt

No fee, charge or other compensation may be accepted or requested by anyone without the express written permission of Cinétic Systems.

Public Domain Disk Vendors may not charge a fee for Wcron itself. However you may include Wcron on a diskette for which you charge a nominal distribution fee. The purchaser of said diskette must be informed in advance that the fee paid to acquire the diskette does NOT relieve said purchaser from paying the Registration Fee for Wcron if said purchaser uses Wcron.

Operators of electronic bulletin board systems (Sysops) may post Wcron for downloading by their users without written permission only as long as the above conditions are met.   A fee may be charged for access to the bbs as long as no specific fee is charged for downloading Wcron files
without first obtaining express written permission from Cinétic Systems to charge such a fee.

Distributors of public domain and user supported software, such as disk vending services, may not charge a fee for Wcron itself. However you may include Wcron on a diskette for which you charge a nominal distribution fee. The purchaser of said diskette must be informed in advance that the fee paid to acquire the diskette does NOT relieve said purchaser from paying the Registration Fee for Wcron.

Index

Open help index

This function will open the Wcron Help file and go to the main index card.

Getting started

Getting started help

This function will open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Getting started" section.

Adding a task

Adding a task help

This function will open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Adding a task" section.

Removing a task

This function will open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Removing a task" section.

Editing a task

Editing a task help

This function will open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Editing a task" section.

About Wcron

About Wcron menu

This function will open a dialog box containing informations about the author and registration informations.