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## What is Wcron?

### **Wcron Periodical Task Scheduler**

Wcron is a periodical task scheduler.

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

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## Contact

## Who to contact

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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 background 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 developed 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 personal computer such as the Amiga 3000 and 80386 PC compatible systems have implementations of the Unix operating systems.

## Getting started

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## 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 alphabetical 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

## Adding a task

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

## Removing a task

## Removing a task

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



## Editing a task

## Editing a task

Double clicking on a task brings you the edit task dialog box with the information about that task. See The edit task dialog box 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

## Description field

The description is the text that will appear in the task 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 description 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

## Minute field

The minute field specifies the minutes of the hour 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  
15,30,45  
15,30,45-50  
\*

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

## Hour field

## Hour field

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

## Day field

The day field specifies the days of the month that the task will be executed. Number ranges from 1 to 31. For months with less than 31 days, values larger than 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

## 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

## 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 extensions 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 "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 until the user double clicks its icon.

## Options

## Options

There are four options available for each task.

<b>Enable this task</b>	This let you temporarily shut down the execution of a task without removing it from the list.
<b>Beep when lanching</b>	<u>Wcron</u> will beep when executing this task.
<b>Confirm before launching</b>	If this option is on Wcron will ask the user to confirm the execution at launch time. Use this for critical tasks. Do <b>not</b> 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.
<b>Run minimized</b>	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 until the user double click its icon.

## Buttons

### Edit task dialog box buttons

The edit task dialog box contain six buttons:

<b>OK</b>	Save changes to the <u>crontab</u> and returns to the tasklist window.
<b>Cancel</b>	Cancel changes and returns to the tasklist window.
<b>Clear</b>	Clears every <u>fields</u> in the dialog box.
<b>Run now</b>	This is for testing the <u>command</u> . When clicking on this button <u>Wcron</u> tries to execute the command and display an error message it failed. <u>Tasks options</u> are not taken into consideration when running the command this way.
<b>Default</b>	Reset field and check boxes to their default state.
<b>Help</b>	Bring the index of this file.

## The logfile

### The logfile

The logfile created by Wcron 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 tasks 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 trim 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 Wcron 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.

## Options menu

## 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 tasks 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 logfile.



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## External utilities

Other utilities included with Wcron

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 Wcron to remind you of something 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.

<b>Description</b>	Meeting with John Smith
<b>Minute</b>	50
<b>Hour</b>	9
<b>Day</b>	11
<b>Month</b>	7
<b>Day of Week</b>	*
<b>Command</b>	remind Meeting with John Smith in his office at 10:00.

## Trimfile

## Trimfile

Trimfile (trimfile.exe) is a useful utility 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:

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

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

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### Limited Warranty

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### **Distribution**

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Wcron MUST be copied in an unmodified form and MUST contain the following files:

- Wcron.exe
- Wcron.hlp
- Remind.exe
- Trimfile.exe
- Readme.txt

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## **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**

### **Removing a task help**

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.