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What Is Wcron?

Wcron is a periodical task scheduler.

Wcron is inspired by Unix's cron utility. It is very commonly used on Unix systems. In fact, most Unix systems depend a lot on cron. Cron (and Wcron for that matter) is most useful for machines that run 24 hours a day, but it can be of a great help even for casual users. Wcron lets you specify the time of execution of specific tasks. It can be used for one-shot executions and for periodical executions. People use it to make regular backups, remind them of something, start background tasks like file transfer or automated BBS systems and much, much more...

Starting 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, WinCLI Pro, 4WIN 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. In Windows 3.1 you can just drag Wcron's icon into the StartUp group to perform the same task.

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 writes the time and date to the logfile.

Adding A Task

To add a task you may either click on the "Add..." button in the main window, use the "Task/Add..." menu, press ALT-T A or press on the "Insert" key. This will bring you to the task edit window with default values for each fields. When done, click on "OK" and the task will be added. Clicking on "Cancel" will void the operation.

Removing A Task

To remove a task, you must first select it with either the mouse or the keyboard. To be selected, a task must be in reverse video. Then, you may either click on the "Delete..." button in the main window, use the "Task/Delete..." menu, press ALT-T D or press on the "Delete" key. A confirmation message will ask you before the task is actually deleted. If you click on "Yes", the task will be removed from the memory and will be deleted from the crontab.

Editing A Task

To edit a task, you must first select it with either the mouse or the keyboard or double click on it's description. To be selected, a task me appear in reverse video. If you choose not to double click, yo may either click on the "Edit..." button in the main window, use the "Task/Edit..." menu, press ALT-T E or press on the "Return" key. This will bring you to the task edit window with the information concerning that task. When done, click on "OK" and the task will be updated. Clicking on "Cancel" will void the changes.

The Task Edit Window

<u>Fields</u>	Description, date, minutes, ...
<u>Options</u>	Enable, beep, confirm, ...
<u>Buttons</u>	Default, clear, run, browse, ...

Fields

<u>Description</u>	A simple description of the task.
<u>Minute</u>	Minutes
<u>Hour</u>	Hours
<u>Day</u>	Days
<u>Month</u>	Months
<u>Day of week</u>	Days of the week(s)
<u>Command</u>	Command to run.
<u>Starting directory</u>	Working directory for the program to run.

Description Field

The description is the text which appears 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 dinner
- Trim log files

Minute Field

The minute field specifies the minutes of the hour at which the task will be executed. Numbers range from 0 to 59. The asterisk means every minute. This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

15	quarter pass hour(s).
15, 30, 45	quarter pass, half and quarter to hour(s).
30, 45-50	half-hour(s) and minute range 45 to 50.
*	every minute of the hour(s).

Hour Field

The hour field specifies the hours of the day at which the task will be executed. Numbers range 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 hours a day.

Day Field

The day field specifies the days of the month on which the task will be executed. Numbers range 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 day of the month(s).
3,15,27	day 3, 15 and 27 of the month(s).
16-20	every day of the month(s) between the 16th and 20th.
*	every day of the month(s).

Month Field

The month field specifies the months of the year on which the task will be executed. Numbers range from 1 to 12. The asterisk means every month. This field is optional, default is asterisk.

Examples:

2	February.
3,7,9	March, July and.
4 9-12	April and September to December.
*	every month(s).

Day Of Week Field

The day of week field specifies the day of the week on which the task will be executed. Numbers range 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-ends.
1,2,3,4,5	working-days.
*	all week (including week-end).

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). It can also be a windows document file that has an association with an executable.

The extension is optional. If there is no extension, Wcron will try to find an executable with the base name specified.

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.

Examples:

```
write.exe c:\windows\readme.wri  
or  
write c:\windows\readme.wri  
or  
c:\windows\readme.wri
```

will start write with d:\windows\readme.wri loaded in it.

Note: To run a DOS application with the "Minimize" or the "Hidden" 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 executable's program name. Otherwise if run minimized, the icon of the DOS application will show up but the application will be held until the user double click its icon. If run hidden, the application will be held up forever!

Starting Directory Field

The starting directory field, if specified, will make Wcron change the current working directory when executing the task. This is useful for programs that search for files in the current directory and can't find them when started from an arbitrary path. This field is optional.

Examples:

c:\windows
or
c:\windows\

Options

Available for each task. are:

Enable this task	This let you temporally shut down the execution of a task without removing it from the list.
Beep when launching	Wcron 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 deny the execution of the task.
Normal	The window of the task will show up in it's normal dimensions.
Minimized	The window of the task will show up minimized.
Maximized	The window of the task will show up maximized.
Hidden	No window will be visible when the application starts. It will run in the background without appearing on the screen. NOTE: be careful with this option. If a task started this way crashes, you may never know about it.

Note: To run a DOS application with the "Minimize" or the "Hidden" 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 executable's program name. Otherwise if run minimized, the icon of the DOS application will show up but the application will be held until the user double click it's icon. If run hidden, the application will be held up forever!

Buttons

The task edit window contain six buttons:

Default	Reset field and check boxes to their default state.
Clear	Clears every <u>fields</u> in the dialog box.
Run	This is for testing the <u>command</u> . When clicking on this button Wcron tries to execute the command and display an error message it failed. This is useful to test the task before saving it in the crontab with the OK button.
Browse	Clicking on this button will open a file requester and let you browse for a Command.
Help	Bring the index of this file.
OK	Save changes to the <u>crontab</u> and returns to the tasklist window.
Cancel	Cancel changes and returns to the tasklist window.

The Logfile

The logfile created by Wcron is named "WCRON.LOG". It is created in the Windows directory by default. You may change that by setting it in the Options dialog.

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 heavy usage of Wcron it is recommended to trim the file regularly.

System Menu

Options
Exit

Set Wcron options.
Exit Wcron

Option Menu

When choosing this menu item, an options dialog will open.

Available options are:

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 current time when minimized.
Show date	Show the current date when minimized. You may choose between short or long date format.
Wcron ON/OFF	Check the OFF checkmark to disable Wcron.
Store log info	Check if you want Wcron to store log informations.
Browse	Click on this button to browse for a new logfile.

Exit Menu

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 writes the time and date to the logfile.

Task Menu

Add...

Same as clicking on the "Add..." button in the main window or pressing on the "Insert" key. See "Adding a task" section.

Edit...

Same as clicking on the "Edit..." button in the main window or pressing on the "Return" key. See "Editing a task" section.

Delete...

Same as clicking on the "Delete..." button in the main window or pressing on the "Delete" key. See "Removing a task" section.

Help Menu

Index	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the main index card.
Getting Started	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Getting Started" section.
Adding a task	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Adding A Task" section.
Removing a task	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Removing A Task" section.
Editing a task	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Editing A Task" section.
Register	Open the Wcron Help file and go to the "Registration Form" section. We ask you to print this form, fill it out and send it along with your payment to Cinétic Systems. See the <u>Contact</u> section to learn about how to contact us.
About Wcron...	This function will open a dialog box containing informations about the author and <u>registration informations</u> . It also displays Windows version, Windows mode, DOS version, processor type and free memory.

External Utilities

Here are some little utilities included with Wcron:

Reminder

Trimfile

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.

Description	Meeting with John Doe
Minute	50
Hour	9
Day	11
Month	7
Day of Week	*
Command	remind Meeting with John Doe at his office at 10:00.

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:

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

Version Changes

Changes for 2.2g

- o Fixed a crash bug that happened in some situations when the file WIN.INI was modified by another application (actually, the only case I have seen is with Excel (File|Printer|OK) but it could have happened with some other application. This was a weird one!

Changes for 2.2f

- o Changed the "Delete" button image to something less confusing. The old one seemed always "grayed". This is for you Jim! :-)
- o Added an "Help" button to the Option dialog.
- o Updated Microsoft's COMMDLG.DLL and SHELL.DLL
- o There was still a small bug with the "Day Of Week". This was causing day-of-week specific task to be started every day of the week. Fixed.
- o Fixed a bug introduced in 2.2e in the option dialog. The options were not saved correctly in the "Wcron.ini" file.
- o Changed the 'Delete' button image to something less confusing. The old one seemed always "grayed". This is for you Jim! :-)
- o There was still a small bug with the "Day Of Week". This was causing day-of-week specific task to be started every day of the week. Fixed.

Changes for 2.2e

- o Now remembers main window's last position on the screen when exiting.
- o Help button in the task edit window didn't work properly. Fixed.
- o Fixed a bug when restoring Wcron from the iconized state to the normal by clicking on the icon text rather than on the icon... The caption of the normal window would not change to "Wcron". Instead it would show the same thing as the iconized text.
- o Sometimes started at wrong date because of a mix-up between the "Hour" and "Date" fields. Fixed.
- o If spaces only were specified in any numeric field in the task info window, Wcron was not saving it as an "*" but it was acting as if it has. Fixed.
- o Compiled using size optimization to reduce program's size.

Changes for 2.2d

- o Fixed a bug introduced in 2.2b that was crashing the program the first time you entered a task. For that reason, version 2.2d was unusable for new users (no wcron.ini on the system) or when you deleted all the tasks and tried to enter a new one. Sorry! :-)
- o Now disables menu options and keyboard shortcuts for 'Edit' and 'Delete' when there is no task in the list.

Changes for 2.2c

- o Fixed a bug introduced in 2.2b that disabled the "Edit" feature. This was due because when clicking on "OK" in the Task Edit window, Wcron was finding another task that has the same name but it was in fact the task itself.

Changes for 2.2b

- o Full keyboard support in main window
 - 'Insert' to add a task.
 - 'Return' to edit a task.
 - 'Delete' to remove a task.
- o Task edit dialog refuse to let the user enter a task name (description) that already exist.
- o Added "Task" menus to add, edit and delete tasks
- o Fixed some inconsistencies in the help file, particularly in field descriptions' examples.

Changes for 2.2a

- o Now has association support. Entering a document filename in the "command" field will execute the application that created the document and open the document.
- o No longer need to specify the extension. If not specified, Wcron will search for an executable file with the base name specified.
- o Use Microsoft's "shell.dll" to execute tasks.
- o Fixed a small bug with the icon's date & time under Windows 3.1

Changes for 2.1a

- o Changed the behavior of the "Run" button. Now this button acts as a "test" button. It does not save task info.
- o Standardized the Time & Date everywhere in Wcron and Reminder. Now uses international settings (set from the control panel).
- o Bug fix: The months field was off by one. (i.e. 1 was February instead of January)
- o Bug fix: When deleting a task that add a description > 17 chars.
- o Bug fix: When Wcron was unable to run a task, it sometimes crashes.
- o New mode of distribution. We now accept credit card order via PsL (Public software Library). See below for more info.

Changes for 2.0b

- o Fix problem with EGA display
- o Added EGA bitmaps for controls (buttons)

Changes for 2.0a

- o Made the task list sort ordered (bug introduced in 2.0)
- o Centered the "Last modifications" string in the Task info dialog
- o Added a confirmation messagebox when clicking on 'Delete' button to prevent unwanted deletions!
- o Corrections in the help file

Changes for 2.0

- o Totally revamped user interface. Much more eye-catching and fun to use.
- o Reminder and Trimfile have been updated for the "new look"
- o Option to turn off the logfile.
- o More useful messages in the logfile.
- o Better error message in logfile (English text as opposed to plain numbers!)
- o Edit button in the main window that does just the same as double clicking on the currently selected task.
- o Browse button in the Option dialog to browse for a logfile
- o Starting directory field in the Edit task dialog
- o Browse button in the Edit task dialog to browse for a command.
- o System information in the about box (Windows version, Windows mode, DOS version, processor type and free memory.
- o Added system menu options. When Wcron is iconized, you won't have to open it to go to the option dialog, get some help, enable/disable Wcron and open the About box.
- o Registration form.
- o And couple of minor bug fixes (Well, there is no major bug! :-)

Changes for 1.0

- o First official release! :-)

Glossary

Association

Cron

Crontab

Task

Unix system

WinCLI

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 filling out the Registration form found in this Help file and by sending a check or money order to the amount of \$25 US (\$30 Cdn) to:

Cinétic Systems
4933 Verreau,
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
H1M 2C7

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

or with MC, Visa, Amex or Discover from the Public (software) Library by calling 1-800-2424-PSL or 1-713-524-6394 or by FAX to 1-713-524-6398 or by CIS Email to 71355,470. Ask for "Wcron" or part #10450. These numbers are for orders only. PSL will give you a registration code to unlock the program. Any questions about registration options, product details, technical support, volume discounts, dealer pricing, site licenses, etc, must be directed to Cinétic Systems (see addresses above). You can also mail credit card orders to PSL at P.O.Box 35705, Houston, TX 77235-5705.

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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

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
- wcron.txt
- bwcc.dll
- commdlg.dll
- shell.dll
- remind.exe
- trimfile.exe

If you get an uncomplete archive, please tell us about it and please do your best to give us all info you got on the System, BBS, shareware vendor or others that distributes such an "illegal" version of Wcron.

BWCC.DLL is copyrighted by Borland International. COMMDLG.DLL and SHELL.DLL are copyrighted by Microsoft Corporation.

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.

Contacts

Wcron is marketed and supported by Cinétic Systems.

Cinétic Systems
4933 Verreau
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
H1M 2C7

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Compuserve: [71640,666](tel:71640666)

Credits

Wcron was developed 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

Testing and Quality Assurance:

Brian Blackman
Philippe Blais
Hans Laroche
Eric Trépanier
Robert Salesas
James D. Norris

Special Thanks to:

James D. Norris

For all of his help. He has been working in the dark reporting problems and helping us a lot since since version 1.0 of Wcron.

Robert Salesas

For all of his help and all answered questions!.

Other Products

Other products available from Cinétic Systems includes:

WINMAIL

A mail reader/composer for Windows. This program acts as a front end to Unix mail packages for DOS. Version 2.0a support UUPC/extended, FSUUCP, PC-NFS, FTP Software. It also has many new features and we added the "chilseled steel" 3-D look to it like we have done for Wcron. WinMail helps you organize mailboxes of users with it's multiple functions (read, mail, reply, forward, delete, undelete, save, and more...). WinMail is shareware and is available from Cinétic Systems at the low cost of \$30 US (\$35 CDN). WinMail is available on Compuserve in the "Advanced Windows" and "IBM Communication" forum. To retrieve it type either "go winadv" or "go cis:ibmsys" and, then do a browse (on all sections) using the keyword WINMAIL. It is also available on the Internet via anonymous FTP on the machine cica.cica.indiana.edu and on wsrn-simtel20.army.mil. You will also find it on numerous machines around the world. To get the complete list, send a message to archie@archie.mcgill.ca with a subject line (or the first line of the message) reading "prog winmail".

TEAMTRIS

This exiting new variant of the most popular game of the world let you play in four different mode, one of which is a "team" mode where two players plays on the same large board. You have to work together instead of being in competition with teach other. Of course, there is also the classic one player mode, the "competition" two player mode and a special one player "large board" mode. This DOS based game requires a VGA color or monochrome display adapter. Teamtris is FREEWARE.

Registration Form

Wcron version 2.2g

Registration number (reserved):

[Please print this page and fill it out with required informations]

Note: For site-licence registration please contact Cinétic Systems.

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State or province: _____

Zip or postal code: _____ Country: _____

Voice Phone: _____

Your E-Mail address (if applicable): _____

Your Compuserve ID (if applicable): _____

Computer Type: _____

From where did you acquire Wcron?

Comments?

Number of Wcron Registrations _____ X \$25 US (\$30 Cdn) _____

Signature: _____

Make check payable to Cinétic Systems.

Association

An association is a link between a file type, typically a document, and the application that created it. An application that produces files with a given filename extension typically associates the extension with an executable file when the application is installed. When executing a document file which has its extension registered in the association database, the executable application associated with the document is opened and then the application opens the document.

Cron

Standard tool on Unix systems. Most Unix systems depend on the execution of cron to start regular tasks, make backups and cleanups, start regular connection to a host in a network and do other important background tasks.

Crontab

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

Task

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 / WinCLI Pro

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 and more...

WinCLI Pro is the commercial version of WinCLI. It has over 30 commands, unlimited command line history, aliases, stackable commands, clipboard support, complete help system, adjustable virtual width and height, an interface for Pascal and C programmer plus much, much more...

WinCLI and WinCLI Pro are developed by Eschalon Development Inc.

You can contact Eschalon Development Inc. at the addresses below:

110-2 Renaissance Square
New Westminster, BC.
Canada, V3M 6K3

Tel/Fax: (604) 520-1543

Internet: Robert_Salesas@Mindlink.bc.ca
Compuserve: 76625.1320
BIX: newdawn

Unix System

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