

# Home

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## What is hcron?

hcron is a periodic command scheduler along the lines of the ubiquitous cron—but with some really useful differences.

hcron scales easily from a handful of events to many thousands:

*At Environment Canada, hcron is in 24/7 operational use with over 300 users, over 3000 event definitions, and more than 130000 events scheduled each day.*

## What Sets hcron Apart?

Many features are unique to hcron:

- events are defined individually (by file)
- key=value based event format
- events are labelled and organized hierarchically
- events are composable (`include` directive)
- template events (`template_event` field)
- event chaining (`next_event` and `failover_event` fields)
- powerful and concise variable manipulation
- events do not get clobbered during system reinstalls
- network-oriented rather than host-oriented

## Comparing cron/crontab to hcron

crontab entry:

```
# hello_dolly
0 11,21 * 2-12/2 * ssh execheost.abc.xyz 'echo
"hello dolly" > /tmp/hello_dolly'; mail -s
done Mister.Big@mailhost.abc.xyz
```

hcron event file (called `hello_dolly`):

## About

### Name

hcron - Periodic  
Command Scheduler

### Requirements

Python 2.6

### License

GPL-2

### Links

[Repository](#)

## Featured

```
as_user=  
host=exechost.abc.xyz  
command=echo "hello dolly" > /tmp/hello_dolly  
notify_email=Mister.Big@mailhost.abc.xyz  
notify_message=done  
when_month=2-12/2  
when_day=*  
when_hour=11,21  
when_minute=0  
when_dow=2
```

Using hcron means never needing to check the crontab man page to remember the field order. But there is more to hcron than a key=value approach.

See the [Documentation](#) for more.

- [hcron Guide](#)  
Aug 10, 2018 • updated by John • view change
- [Getting Your Environment Right](#)  
Sep 21, 2017 • updated by John • view change
- [Announcement - hcron v0.21 Released](#)  
Jun 23, 2017 • updated by John • view change
- [Ways to Use the include Directive](#)  
May 15, 2017 • updated by John • view change
- [Multihost Event Using Indexing and Iteration](#)  
Dec 19, 2015 • updated by John • view change
- [How To](#)  
Nov 30, 2015 • updated by John • view change
- [Converting between cron and hcron](#)  
Jan 26, 2014 • created by John

