

Home



New

See [Announcement - hcron v1.5 Released](#).

New "hcrcon doc". See [Generating Event Tree Documentation](#) for an example.

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What is hcron?

hcrcon is a periodic command scheduler along the lines of the ubiquitous cron—but with unique features.

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

At Environment Canada, hcrcon 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 hcrcon:

- events are named and organized hierarchically
- events are defined individually (by file)
- key=value based event definition
- events are composable (`include` directive)
- template events (`template_event` field)
- event chaining of one or more events (`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
- event tree document generation tool (see [Generating Event Tree Documentation](#) **NEW**)
- on-demand activation of existing events

Comparing cron/crontab to hcron

crontab entry:

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

hcrcon event file (called `hello_dolly`):

```
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
```

About

Name

hcrcon - Periodic Command Scheduler

Version

1.5

Requirements

Python 3 (and 2.7), Linux/UNIX

License

GPL-2

Links

[Repository](#)

Featured

[hcrcon Guide](#)

Jun 17, 2020 • updated by John • [view change](#)

[hcrcon -- John Marshall -- 2019-03-12](#)

Mar 02, 2020 • updated by John • [view change](#)

[Generating Event Tree Documentation](#)

Mar 01, 2020 • updated by John • [view change](#)

[Announcement - hcrcon v1.5 Released](#)

Feb 27, 2020 • created by John

[Getting Your Environment Right](#)

Sep 21, 2017 • updated by John • [view change](#)

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.