

# Cron tips

Tips for writing crontab expressions:

1. If the day-of-month or day-of-week part starts with a \*, they form an intersection. Otherwise they form a union. \* \* 3 \* 1 runs on the 3rd day of the month and on Monday (union), whereas \* \* \*/2 \* 1 runs on every second day of the month only if it's also a Monday (intersection). The [manpage](#) is incorrect about this detail. [More info](#).
2. Run your servers including the cron process in UTC timezone. [Why?](#)
3. Some cron implementations allow to specify years and seconds. However, cron is not the best tool if you need to operate at those levels.
4. Don't use @reboot because it has too many issues.
5. More difficult schedules can be realized by combining multiple cron expressions. For example, if you need to run X every 90 minutes, create one crontab entry that runs X every 3 hours on the hour (0 \*/3 \* \* \*), and a second crontab entry that runs X every 3 hours with an offset (30 1/3 \* \* \*).
6. Another alternative for complicated schedules is [Mcron](#).

More tips: [Best practices for cron](#)

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