Cron Jobs in cPanel: Setup, Timing and Ready-Made Examples for WordPress

cPanel Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/cpanel-cron-jobs/

What they are and why you need them In **Cron Jobs** pick a timing from **Common Settings** (such as once per hour), type the command and add the job. To stop the email after every run, add `>/dev/null 2>&1` at the end of the command.

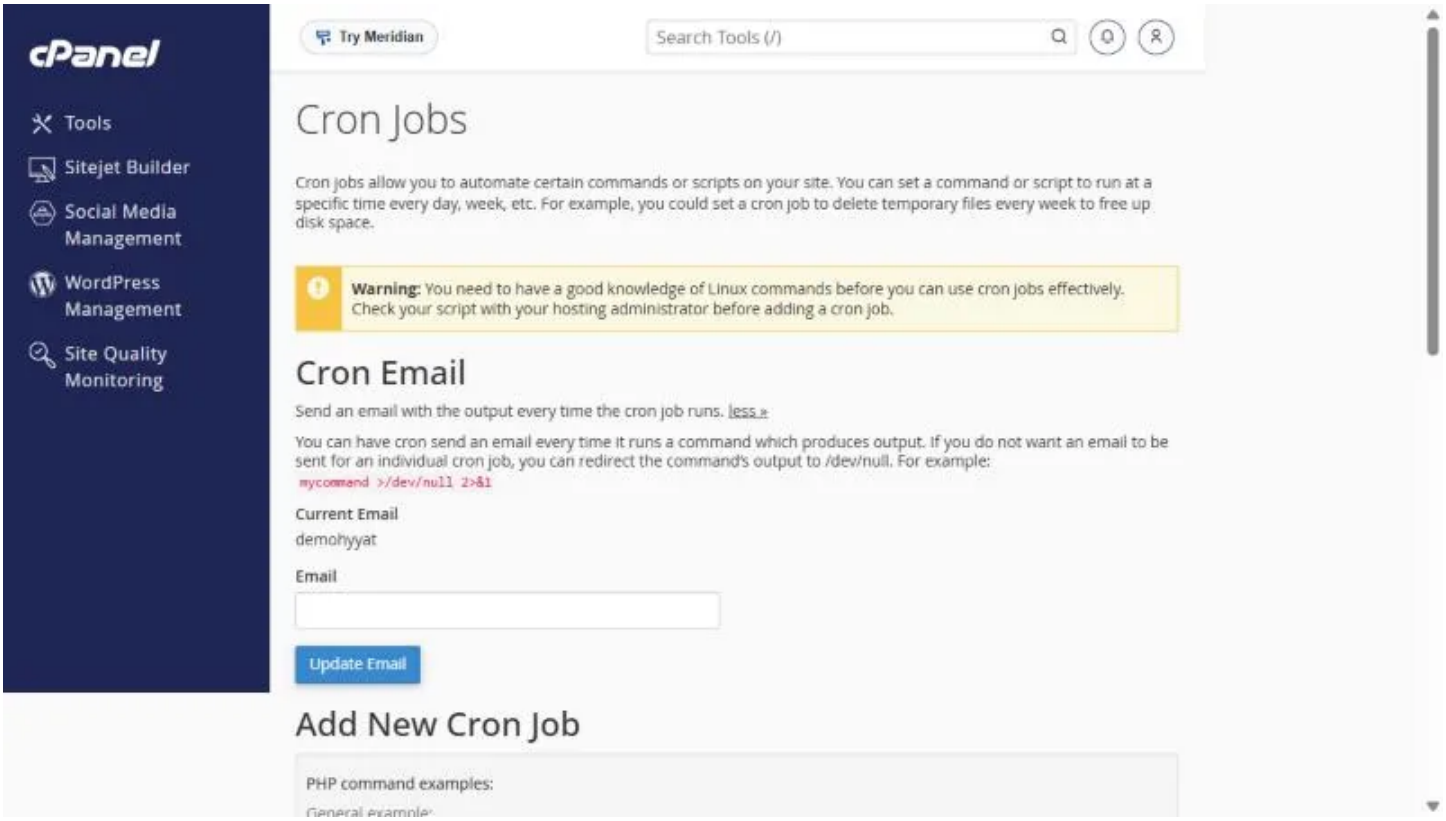
Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-cpanel-cronjobs-en.mp4?_=1

A question we often get: "I need a script to send a report every morning, and I do not want to run it by hand."

That is what cron jobs are for: you give the server a command and a time, and it runs it on schedule without you. They send newsletters, clean temporary files, refresh currency rates in a store and run WordPress tasks regularly.

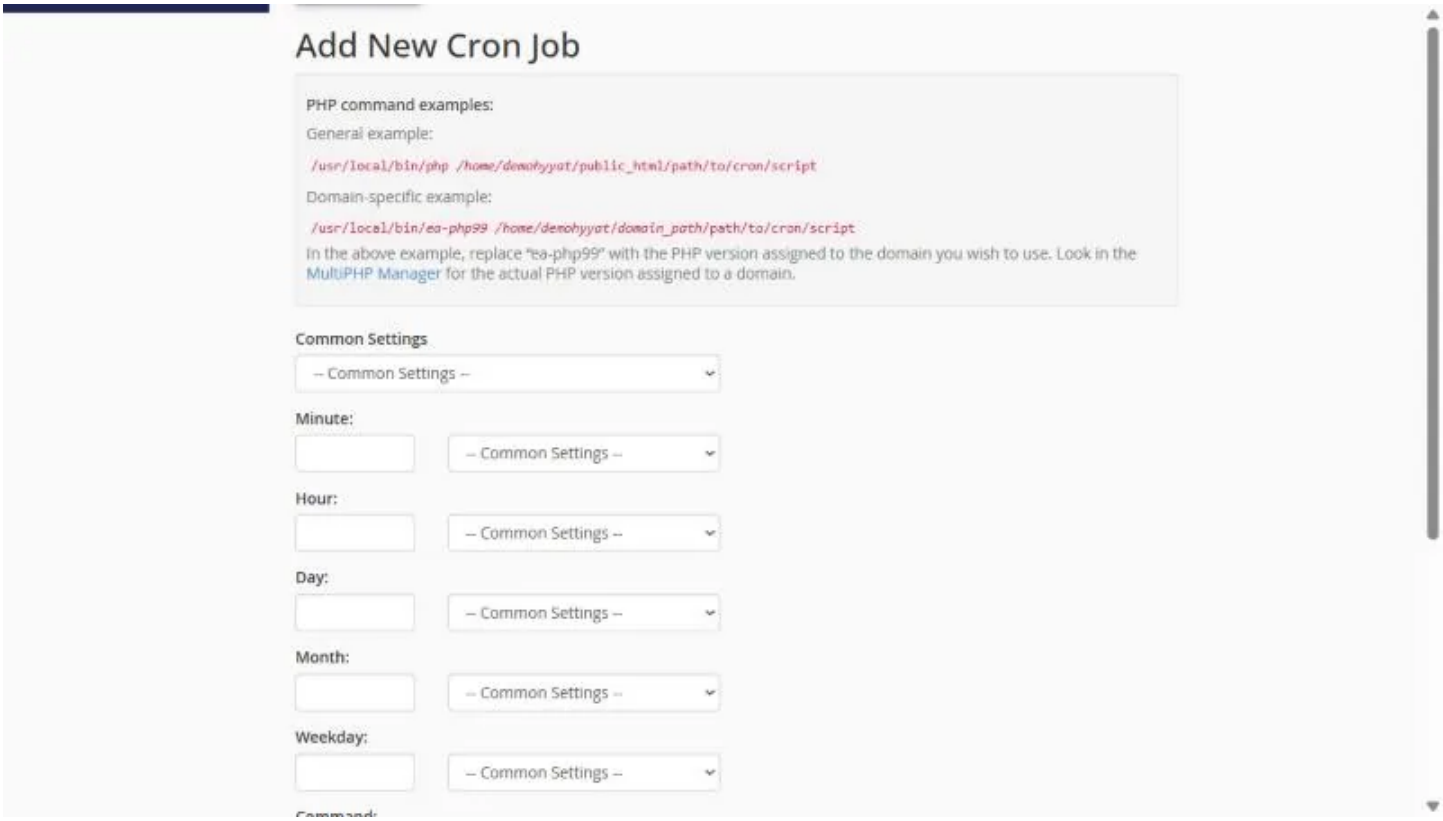
The parts of the Cron Jobs page

Section	Purpose
Cron Email	The address that receives the output of each run
Add New Cron Job	The timing and the command
Current Cron Jobs	Existing jobs with edit and delete buttons



Adding a job

1. **Open Cron Jobs** in the Advanced section of cPanel.
2. **Choose from Common Settings** such as Once Per Hour or Once Per Day. The fields fill in for you.
3. **Or set the fields by hand** minute, hour, day, month and weekday.
4. **Type the command** see the examples below.
5. **Click Add New Cron Job** it appears in the list at the bottom.



Reading the timing fields

Timing	Minute	Hour	Day	Month	Weekday
Every 15 minutes	*/15	*	*	*	*
Every day at 6 am	0	6	*	*	*
Every Sunday at midnight	0	0	*	*	0
The first of every month	0	3	1	*	*

An asterisk means "every", and times are server time, not yours. Avoid busy moments such as minute zero of every hour unless needed; pick a random minute such as 17.

Ready-made commands

Run a PHP file; the full path with your account name is shown on the Cron page itself:

```
/usr/local/bin/php /home/USER/public_html/script.php >/dev/null 2>&1
```

Call a URL on your site, handy for plugins that give you a trigger link:

```
wget -q -O - "https://example.com/cron-url" >/dev/null 2>&1
```

WordPress: a real wp-cron

WordPress runs its scheduled tasks when someone visits, so quiet sites run them late and busy sites run them too often. The cleaner fix:

1. **Add to wp-config.php** the line `define('DISABLE_WP_CRON', true);` above the "That's all" line.
2. **Create a job every 15 minutes** with a command that runs `wp-cron.php` in the site folder.

```
/usr/local/bin/php /home/USER/public_html/wp-cron.php >/dev/null 2>&1
```

Replace `USER` with your cPanel username and `public_html` with the domain folder for an addon domain. For a domain-specific PHP version use the path the page suggests, such as `/usr/local/bin/ea-php83`; check the version in MultiPHP Manager.

Common problems

Problem	Fix
An email arrives after every run	Add `>/dev/null 2>&1`, or clear the address in Cron Email
The job does not run	Use full paths and check the file permissions
The site slows down at job time	Spread the timing; many close jobs use up account resources

From our support desk

- **A customer set a job every minute** to copy the database, resource usage climbed and the site slowed. Once a night was plenty.
- **A mailbox filled up** with thousands of cron emails because the command did not redirect its output. Adding `>/dev/null 2>&1` stopped the flood.
- **A job never ran** because it used a relative path such as `php script.php`. Full paths for the file and PHP fixed it.

Frequently asked questions

Which time zone do jobs use?

Server time, which may differ from your country.

How many jobs can I add?

There is no practical limit for sensible jobs, but bunching them uses account resources.

How do I pause a job?

Edit it and put # at the start of the command, or delete it and add it again later.

Does a normal WordPress site need cron?

Not strictly, but it makes scheduled tasks more accurate and lightens the load.

How do I know the job runs?

Put your email in Cron Email for a while to get the output, then remove it once sure.

Can I run a Python script?

If it is supported on your server, by its full path like any command; ask support for the right path.

Related guides

- Change Your PHP Version in cPanel and Turn On Extensions: MultiPHP and Select PHP Version
- Resource Usage in cPanel: Reading CPU, Memory, Processes and What Faults Mean
- Track Website Errors and Logs in cPanel: the Errors and Raw Access Tools
- cPanel File Manager: Open It, Show Hidden Files, Change Permissions and More
- The Domains and Software Sections in cPanel: Domains, HTTPS Redirect, Zone Editor and PHP Version

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