

## Cron jobs

**Question:** Why do we want to use cron-jobs?

1. The HWS-template page contains data from up to ten different sources. To download all that data when the page is visited will take considerable time. Therefore you will get better and more recent data on the page by using a cron-job
2. When you decide not to use WeatherUnderground but your own website for the graphs-data, the cron-job is the script to continuously save your weather-data in the files on your website.

### What is cron

A cron-**server** will execute at certain intervals a script on your website to do its tasks. The server acts as a robot typing in the command in a browser at the exact interval you want it to do so.

A cron-**job** is the script at your website which is started by the cron-server.

More to read and learn at [Wikipedia](#)

### Which cron-jobs do you need

1. w34\_cron\_\*\*stationcron\*\*.php which should be started every 5 to 10 minutes
  - a. It will load all needed external files, such as METAR, DarkSky forecast
  - b. If you use your local data for the graphs, it will, every time it runs, save your current weather-data to a daily file
2. w34\_cron\_\*\*addtoyear\*\*.php  
This cron is only used when you are not using WeatherUnderground data in the graphs. It will
  - a. ONCE a day, at 23:55 local time,
  - b. **save** in one line the min-max values of that day into the yearly and monthly data-files
  - c. and reset the daily file.

### Which cron-server to use => your weather-program.

First of all, the cron-server should be reliably running 24/7

If you are using WeatherDisplay the cron-server is built into WD, check the WD-api documentation

If you are using Meteobridge, it can run scheduled HTTP/HTTPS jobs and so act as a reliable cron-server also.

Maybe other weather-programs have those facilities also

### Which cron-server to use => your hosting company.

Most website hosting probably has (check your cPanel) all kind of cron -facilities. Often you can run multiple cron-jobs at intervals as short as a few minutes.

There are two ways to run a cron-job at your provider, sometimes one of them will not work correctly

1. the **internal php** version which looks like:  
`/usr/local/bin/php /home/. . ./public_html/pws07/w34_cron_addtoyear.php`
2. the **www** version:  
`/usr/bin/GET http://- -website- -/pws07/w34_cron_addtoyear.php`

Ask the support people of your provider about that.

### Which cron-server to use => a free or paid-for external company.

There are really a dozen or more companies specialised in running cron-jobs.

They call the cron-job using the www