

# **Cron Job Manual for Joomla 4rss Extension Cron job**

**4RSS Version 1.5**

**Date: May 31, 2010**

A cron job allows you to run a certain command at times set by the job. For example, you could set a cron job to delete temporary files every week so that your disk space is not being used up by those files or a job that executes a set of commands like fetching rss feeds daily or weekly.

4rss cron job gives you the power to automate the fetching of RSS feeds and save them as a Joomla content/articles so that you will not have to login to the admin panel and manually click the buttons.

This manual covers the setting up the cron job on a Linux server using different type of hosting environment.

### **Getting the CRON script path**

When you install the 4RSS component, it automatically copies a cron file within your website root directory called 4rsscron.php [FTP your website to verify if such a file exists in the root directory like httpdocs or public\_html or html. If such a file does not exist then try to re-install the component.

Now, login to the back-end [admin panel] and go to components => 4RSS, then click the last tab called 4RSS Cron.

There, you would see two options –

**Cron Key** – a key a strong 16 digit characters which is used to run the cron file from front end. If key is not used then anybody can access the cron file randomly that may results in lots of articles being copied from RSS feeds.

You can re-generate the key by clicking on the button. After you re-generate the key, make sure you click on SAVE button so that new key would be saved and is used to run the cron script.

**Cron URL** – Cron URL textbox has a path name of the cron file that actually calls the function to fetch the 4rss feeds and you need to copy this path to set the CRON.

Suppose the CRON URL is /home/userxxx/public\_html/4rsscron.php then you will have to type the following command to execute the cron script –  
php /home/userxxx/public\_html/4rsscron.php

### **CRON configuration on Cpanel**

Fortunately most shared web hosts are running Cpanel which makes setting up a cron job a very easy task. It's not going to take you more than 5 minutes. We'll cover using the "Standard" procedure, because it's easier to understand and follow.

Enter the Cpanel control panel of your website (usually by loading <http://yourdomain.com/cpanel> in the browser) and locate the "Cron Jobs" icon. If you can't see it immediately, press Control+F and type "cron". Your browser will locate the icon for you.

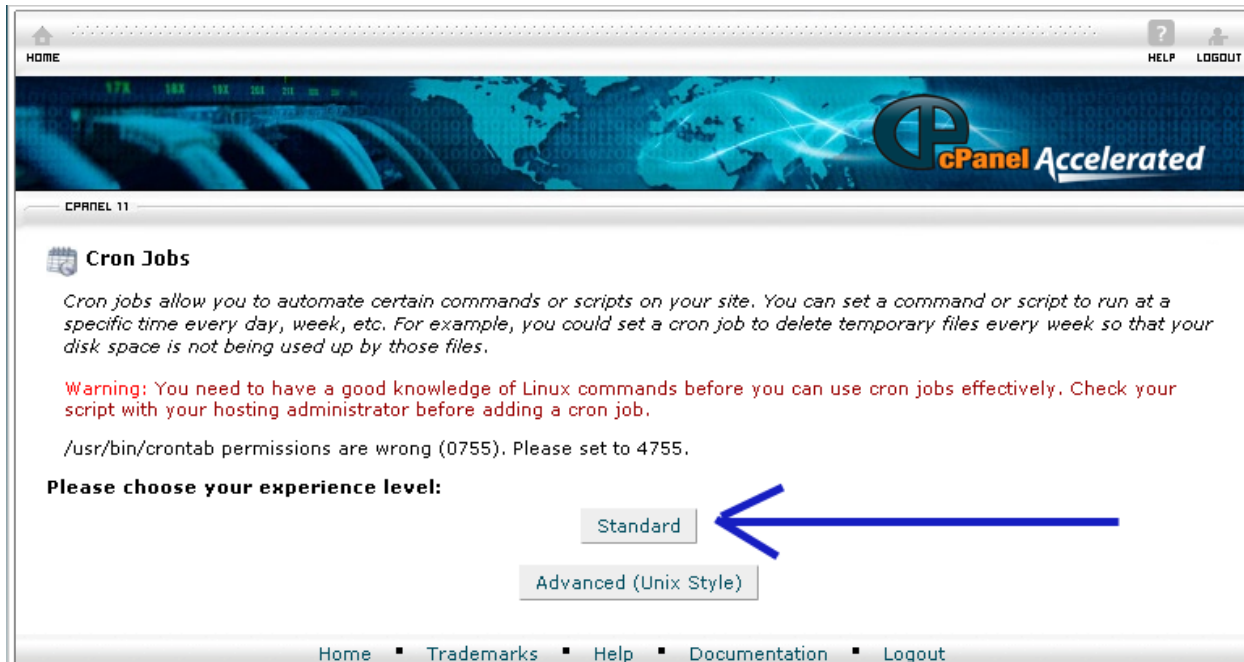
Operating system	Linux
Dedicated Ip Address	75.125.137.195
Path to sendmail	/usr/sbin/sendmail
Path to PERL	/usr/bin/perl
Kernel version	2.6.18-128.4.1.el5
cPanel Pro	1.0 (RC1)
Service Status	<a href="#">Click to View</a>



The screenshot displays the Cpanel control panel interface. On the left is a sidebar with system information. The main area is divided into sections: 'Subdomains', 'Databases', 'Advanced', and 'Software / Services'. The 'Advanced' section contains icons for various tools, with 'Cron jobs' highlighted and a blue arrow pointing to it.

Section	Item
Subdomains	Subdomains
	Addon Domains
	Parked Domains
	Redirects
Databases	MySQL@ Databases
	MySQL@ Database Wizard
	phpMyAdmin
	Remote MySQL
	PostgreSQL Databases
	PostgreSQL Database Wizard
phpPgAdmin	
Advanced	Apache Handlers
	Image Manager
	Index Manager
	Error pages
	Cron jobs
	FrontPage@ Extensions
	Network Tools
	Submit a Support Request
	Virus Scanner
	MIME Types
WHM WebHost Manager	
Software / Services	

Click on it and see the following screen, then Click on “Standard” button.



On the following screen, you can enter your email address where you will receive the cron notification.

In the textbox, you have to type the command as shown there the full path of your file.

In command to run, a sample command would be:

```
php /home/userxxx/public_html/4rsscron.php
```

Replace `/home/userxxx/public_html/4rsscron.php` by the actual path that you see from 4RSS CRON tab in the back-end.

There are many options to select the time when the script is to be executed. If you want to run the script every 5 minutes then select **5** from the **Minute (s)** Listbox.

If you want to run the script every Monday at 2 AM then select **Monday** from **Weekday (s)** listbox and **2 = 2 AM** from **Hour (s)** listbox.

Click on Save crontab after you set the desired time & days/date.

**Standard Cron Manager**

*This is a web interface to the crontab program. It allows you to run commands at an interval you specify. Enter the command you would like to run as well as running times.*

Please enter an email address where the cron output will be sent:

**NOTE:** You will receive a message every time this job runs. Using your main e-mail address is not recommended.

**Entry 1**

Command to run:

Minute(s):  
Every Minute  
Every Other Minute  
Every Five Minutes  
Every Ten Minutes  
Every Fifteen Minutes  
0  
1  
2  
3  
4

Hour(s):  
Every Six Hours  
0 = 12 AM/Midnight  
1 = 1 AM  
2 = 2 AM  
3 = 3 AM

Month(s):  
Every Month  
January  
February  
March  
April

Day(s):  
Every Day  
1  
2  
3  
4

Weekday(s):  
Every Week Day  
Sunday  
Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday

## Editing a cron job

To edit a cron job:

- Locate the cron job you wish to edit.
- Click Edit.
- Edit the settings you wish to change.
- Click Edit line



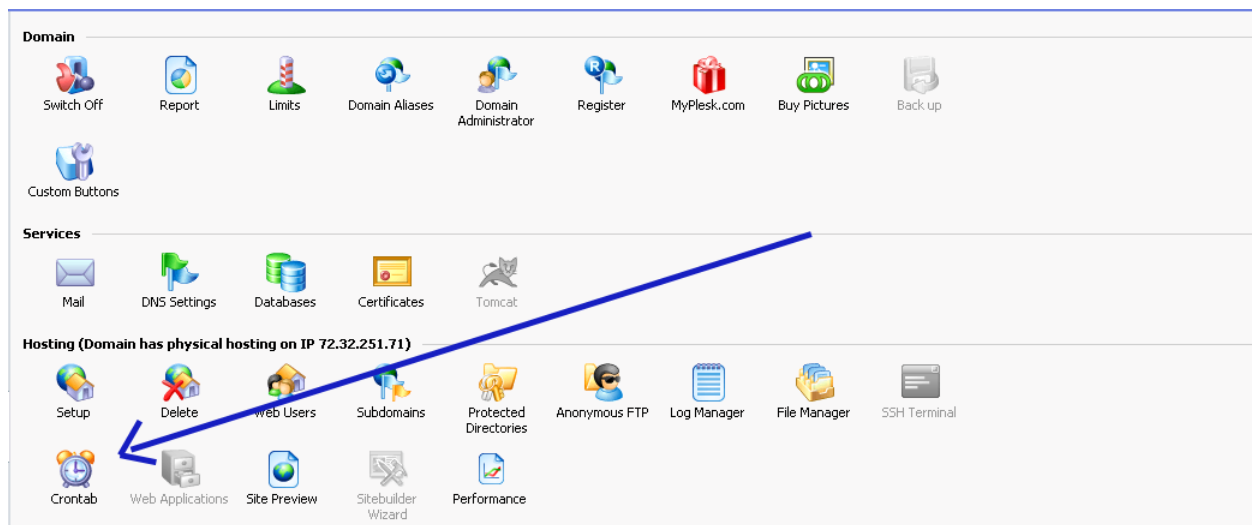
## Deleting a cron job

To delete a cron job:

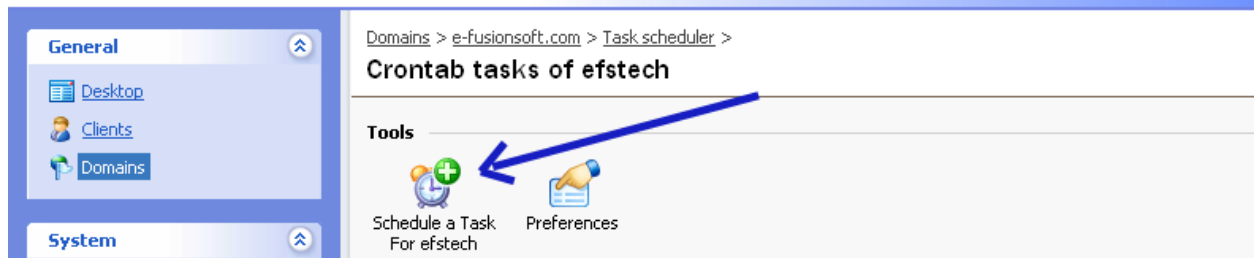
- Locate the cron job you wish to delete.
- Click Delete.
- Confirm that you wish to delete the cron job by clicking Delete again.

## CRON Configuration on Plesk Server

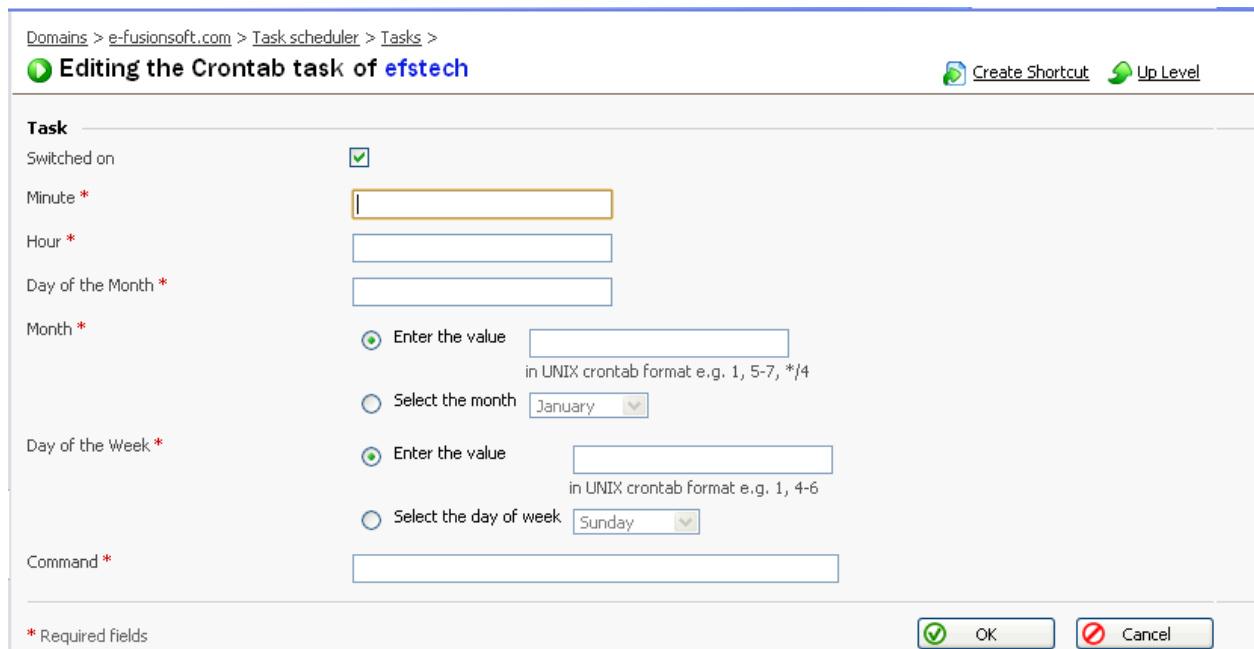
Login to your plesk hosting account and look for the “Crontab” button, as shown in the following screen –



Click on the “Crontab” button to go to the next page, where you would see the list of the users of your hosting account. Click on one of the users (for which you want to set the cron) to see a screen similar to this –



Click on “Schedule a task for user” button to see the following screen –



Switched On: Let it be checked.

Minute: Enter the value between (1-60) i.e. minute when the script should run. If you enter 40 then script will run on 40<sup>th</sup> minute.  
If you want to run the script every minute then put \*.

Hour: Enter the value between (1-23) i.e. hour when the script should run. If you enter 22 then script will run at 10 PM. If you want script to run every hour then enter \*.

Day of the Month: You can enter a value between (1-31) in this textbox. Enter \* to execute the script every day.

Month: You can enter a value (1-12) in the textbox. Alternatively, you can select the the month name from the dropdown.

Other options e.g. 1-5: it will execute the script from January – May. \*/4 will execute the script every 4 months.

\* will execute the script every month.

Day of the week – This takes the value between (1-7), one for Monday and 7 for Sunday.

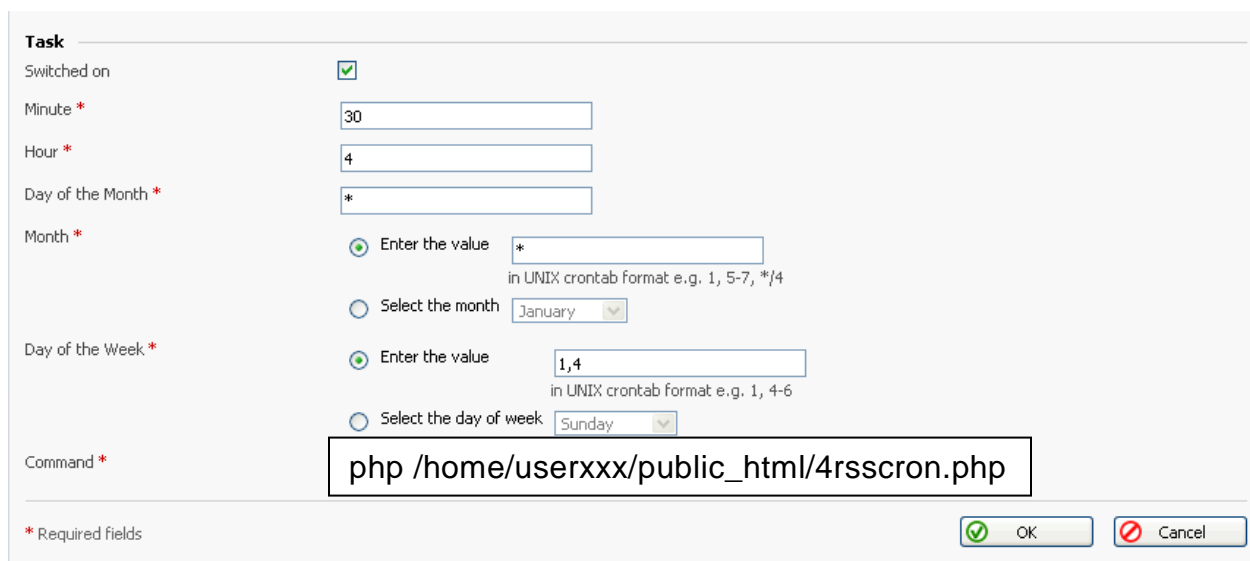
\* will execute the script on all the week days.

Command text box: Type `php /home/userxxx/public_html/4rsscron.php`

And click on OK button to save the cron task.

Example –

If you want to run the script on Monday and Thursday at 4:30 AM then you would set the values as in the following screenshot –



**Task**

Switched on

Minute \*

Hour \*

Day of the Month \*

Month \*  
 Enter the value   
in UNIX crontab format e.g. 1, 5-7, \*/4  
 Select the month

Day of the Week \*  
 Enter the value   
in UNIX crontab format e.g. 1, 4-6  
 Select the day of week

Command \*

\* Required fields