

Why do we want to use Cron jobs?

1. The PWS_Dashboard collects data from over ten different sources. To download all that data when the website is visited will take considerable time. You will get better and more recent data by using a cron-job and cache all data so it can be used immediately when a visitor arrives.
2. When you decide not to use WeatherUnderground but your own website for the graphs-data, the cron-job is used to continuously save your weather-data in the files on your website.
3. Not all weather-programs or weather-nets deliver enough historical data. The cron-jobs take also care of comparing current data with historical min-max values and update the history if needed.

What is cron

A cron-**server** will execute at certain intervals a script on your website to do its tasks. The cron-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. PWS_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 and it will check your history file if updates are needed
2. PWS_cron_addtoyear.php
It needs to be run once / day at 23:55 to do its task. It will
 - a. **save** in one line the min-max values of that day into the yearly and monthly data-files if you are not using WeatherUnderground
 - b. and in that case also reset the daily file
 - c. It will also move todays high-lows to yesterdays high-lows and reset todays ones.
3. PWS_cron_empty.php
It needs to run just after midnight, example 00:10 (12:10 am)
For both the history file and the non-WU graphs files it needs to do daily housekeeping.

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/PWS_cron_addtoyear.php
2. the **www** version:
/usr/bin/GET http://- - -website- - -/pws07/PWS_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