

## The Industry Standard in IT Infrastructure Monitoring

### Purpose

This document describes how to configure Nagios Reactor to automatically execute event chains at specific times using schedules and allow Nagios Reactor administrators to configure Crons that all users have access to.

### Target Audience

This document is intended for use by Nagios Reactor users who want to add schedules to their event chains. Crons are only configurable by administrators who are usually tasked with managing event chains.

### Schedules Overview

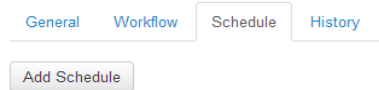
Schedules are an easy method for users to automatically schedule event chains to execute at specific times. Very similar to crons, schedules are designed to be used by end-users of Nagios Reactor so they can manage their chains.

Schedules can be created by accessing an event chain in the **Event Chains** tab on the navigation bar. Enter a specific event chain and you will see the *General*, *Workflow*, *Schedule* and *History* tabs above the content section.

Select the **Schedule** tab and click the **Add Schedule** button to create a new schedule for the event chain you are currently viewing.

Once there, you will see a similar window to the right. To set how often you'd like the event chain to run, give the schedule a name, description, and specify any context variables that should be passed to the event chain when it is executed.

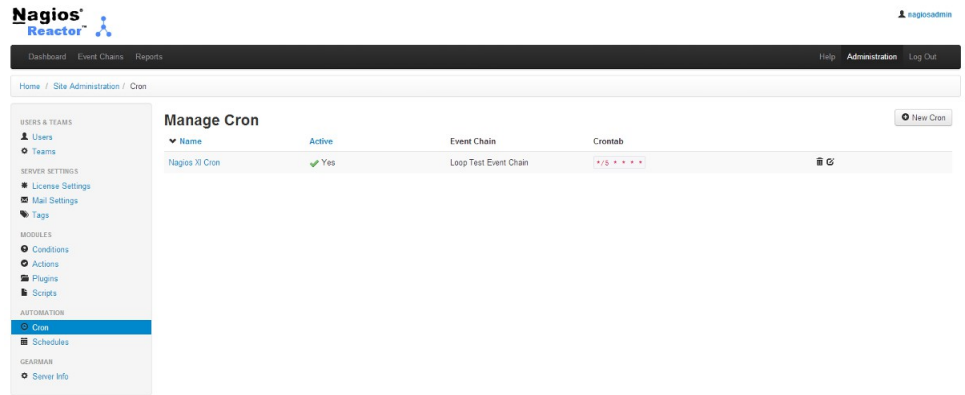
Specify only one context variable per line. Each line should contain a variable/value pair, separated by a colon.

A screenshot of the 'Add Schedule' form. The form has a title 'Add Schedule' and a subtitle 'Run event chain \*'. The 'Run event chain \*' field is set to 'Every' with a dropdown menu showing 'minute'. Below this are three text input fields: 'Name \*', 'Description \*', and 'Context'. Below the 'Context' field is a small note: 'Separate var/value pairs with a colon, e.g.: foo:bar.'. At the bottom of the form, there is an 'Active \*' checkbox which is checked, with a note: 'All schedules (including inactive) will still show up but only active schedules will be run.'. At the very bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Save Schedule'.

## Crons Overview

Crons are a simple method for administrators to automatically schedule event chains to execute at pre-determined times and intervals. Crons are triggered in Nagios Reactor and work in a similar fashion as cron jobs on Linux/Unix systems and scheduled tasks on Windows machines.

Crons can be defined and managed by clicking the **Cron** option in the administration interface under the **Automation** section.



## Adding a Cron

To define a new Cron to execute an event chain at a specific time, click the **New Cron** button on the cron management page.

When adding a new cron, make sure to specify the following:

- Check the **Active** option to enable the cron
- Give the cron a descriptive **Name**
- Add a useful **description** of the cron so other admins understand what it does
- Select the **event chain** that the trigger should execute
- Select the user the event chain should **run as** when executed

Next, specify any context variables that optionally should be passed to the event chain when it is executed.

Specify only one context variable per line. Each line should contain a variable/value pair, separated by a colon.

(*ex: hostname:www.nagios.com*)

### Add Cron

Finally, define the schedule that the cron should use for executing the chain.

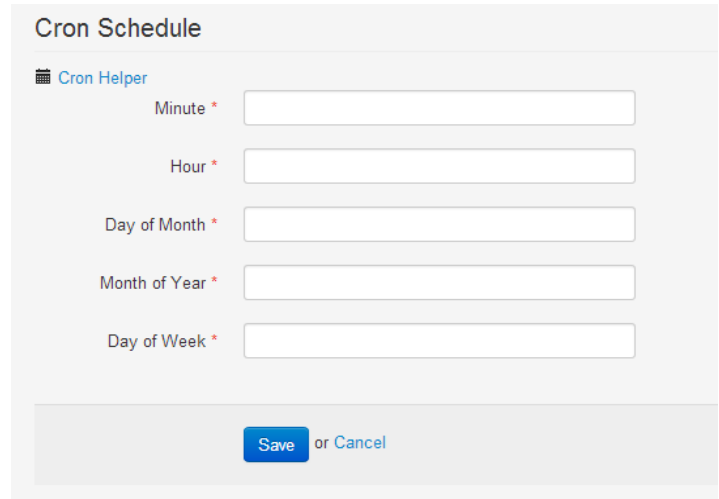
You can click the **Cron Helper** icon to bring up a user-friendly cron helper if you're not familiar with cron scheduling.

For the technically inclined who desire control over advanced scheduling, you can find cron times described in more detail at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cron>

When you're finished defining all required fields for the crons, click **Save**.

The event chain you configured will now be automatically executed on the schedule you defined in the cron.

Congratulations!



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Cron Schedule". Below the title is a "Cron Helper" icon. The form contains five input fields, each with an asterisk indicating it is required: "Minute", "Hour", "Day of Month", "Month of Year", and "Day of Week". At the bottom of the form, there is a blue "Save" button followed by the text "or Cancel".

## Finishing Up

That completes the overview of how to automatically execute event chains on a regular basis using schedules and crons. If you have questions about using schedules and crons, contact our support team via our online forum at <http://support.nagios.com/forum>