

V1016 How to write a cronscript

Applies to:

IQeye 5xx, 7xx, 8xx, Alliance Domes

Summary:

A Cron Script allows you to configure a camera to perform tasks at specified times and dates. To do this, create a text file named crontab with the commands you want the camera to perform, load the file onto the camera, and the camera will check for that file every minute to see if it needs to perform any specified tasks.

Contents:

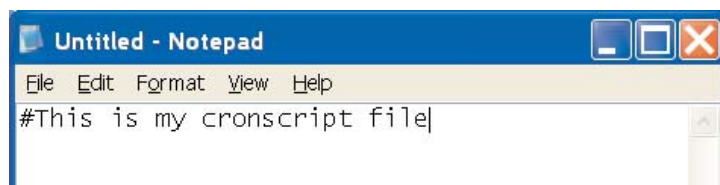
- Creating a crontab file
- Writing command lines
- Putting a cronscript into the camera

Creating the crontab file

The crontab file is created using Notepad, so first thing is to open a new notepad window.

Notepad can be found by clicking the Start menu / All Programs / Accessories / Notepad

You can add comment tags in the file by using the “#” sign as seen below. The ‘#’ symbol tells the script to ignore the entire line (usually used for describing the entire cronscript or a specific command).

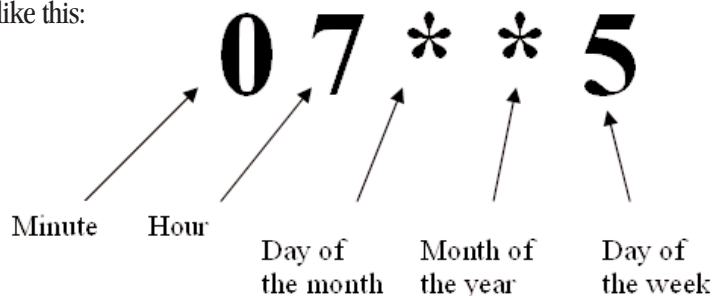


Writing the command lines

When writing the command lines, each line starts specifying when the command should take place. The time/date fields are:

- Minute (0-59)
- Hour (0-23)
- Day of the month (1-31)
- Month of the year (1-12)
- Day of the week (0-6 with 0=Sunday)

The time and date looks like this:



The “*” sign can be used as a wildcard which indicates that the particular field is all inclusive. You can also think of the “*” as stating ‘ANY’. In the above example, the command would execute at 07:00 on Fridays.

Next, you would write the command (just like you would write a telnet command) of what you would like to have happen. So if using the example above, you could write a cron script such as:

```
0 7 * * 5 set image overlay 1 text "Happy Friday"
```

Spelled out this script is saying “on the ‘0’ minute of the ‘7th’ hour on ‘any’ day of the month on ‘any’ week of the year on the ‘5th’ day of the week only, set the first image overlay text to ‘Happy Friday’”

So every Friday at 07:00, the text “Happy Friday” will appear on the camera. You can include as many lines in the crontab file as you would like. As soon as you are done writing your last cron script line, you must hit “enter” in order for the crontab file to work.

Placing the cron script in your camera

FTP into your camera by opening Windows Explorer (not Internet Explorer) and typing in the address bar:

```
ftp://<camera ip address>
```

When connected, ensure the folder is highlighted. Click on “File / Login as...” and type the user name and password of the camera (default = root/system). You will know you are logged in as the “root” account by seeing ‘user: root’ at the bottom of the Windows Explorer window.

Double-click the “flash” folder and paste the crontab file into the flash folder.

Important things to remember:

- When writing a cron script, you must always use notepad.
- The camera checks the /Flash/ directory for a cron script every minute to see if it needs to run a command.
- Always end the cron script with a carriage return (press enter to leave a blank line).
- The “*” asterisk is similar to a wildcard where the camera will “ignore” or say “Any” for a specific fields value.
- You can enter as many commands per line as necessary to complete the job, you will simply want to separate each command by a semicolon (;).
- Multiple dates and/or times can be separated by a comma (,) or if in succession, by a dash (-).
- There can be only one cronscript loaded into the /Flash directory at any time.
- The file must be named ‘crontab’ with no file extension.