

Why do we need 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 **high / low 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](#)

CHANGED From release 2009 onwards **only 1 cron-job** is needed, not 3 as in previous versions

PWS_cron_stationcron.php should be started every 5 minutes

- a. It will load all needed external files, such as METAR, forecasts, AQ-data
- 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
- c. It will update the high-low values in the history
- d. It will do start- and end-of-day cleaning.

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) some 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 only one will work

1. the **internal php** version which looks like:

```
/usr/local/bin/php /home/. . /public_html/pws07/PWS_cron_stationcron.php
```

2. the **www** version:

```
/usr/bin/GET http://- - -website- - /pws07/PWS_cron_stationcron.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 which is often the most easiest way.

Be aware that you use the correct times for your timezone !