

# Making Cronjobs work in Windows

---

I am writing this tutorial using a Windows Server 2008 environment, but the basic premise should be the same for other versions of Windows (Vista, 7, 8, 8.1 and server versions). Also I am going to attempt to write it so someone with little or no experience can follow it.

Open Task Scheduler (Start | All Programs | Accessories | System Tools | Task Scheduler - or run taskschd.msc)

Click on Task Scheduler Library, and in the right pane, click "Create Task"

## *GENERAL TAB*

Name it whatever you want, and put in a quick description so you remember what it is when you look back at it in 6 months. Under "Security Options", select "Run whether user is logged on or not". Do not check the "Do not store password" box. If your user account has admin rights, use that. Otherwise, Click "Change user or Group" and select an account with administrator privileges.

All the other boxes can be left alone.

General	Triggers	Actions	Conditions	Settings	History
Name:	server_status_update				
Location:	\				
Author:	[Redacted]				
Description:	This task updates the PHP Server Monitor server checks. If this task is not set to run, you will have to click the update button each time you want the status updated.				
Security options					
When running the task, use the following user account:					
[Redacted]					
<input type="radio"/>	Run only when user is logged on				
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Run whether user is logged on or not				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not store password. The task will only have access to local resources				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Run with highest privileges				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hidden	Configure for:	Windows Vista™, Windows Server™ 2008		

### TRIGGERS TAB

Under “Triggers” click “New”. Next to “Begin the task:” Select “on a schedule”, and select “One time”. Use the current date and time here.

Check only the following boxes under “Advanced Settings”

- Repeat task every: (put whatever you want in here, I set mine to 5 minutes) “for a duration of”, select “indefinitely”
- Stop task if it runs longer than: (This shouldn’t happen because PHPServerMonitor’s cronjob is set to time out, but in case windows encounters an error with the task itself, choose 30 minutes to be safe)
- Enabled

General Triggers Actions Conditions Settings History

When you create a task, you can specify the conditions that will trigger the task.

Trigger	Details	Status
One time	At 9:29 PM on 7/11/2014 - After triggered, repeat every 5 minutes indefinitely.	Enabled

New... Edit... Delete

Begin the task: On a schedule

Settings

One time    Start: 7/11/2014 9:29:17 PM     Synchronize across time zones  
 Daily  
 Weekly  
 Monthly

Advanced settings

Delay task for up to (random delay): 1 hour  
 Repeat task every: 5 minutes for a duration of: Indefinitely  
 Stop all running tasks at end of repetition duration  
 Stop task if it runs longer than: 30 minutes  
 Expire: 8/14/2015 12:07:06 AM     Synchronize across time zones  
 Enabled

## ACTIONS TAB

Under “Actions” click “New”.

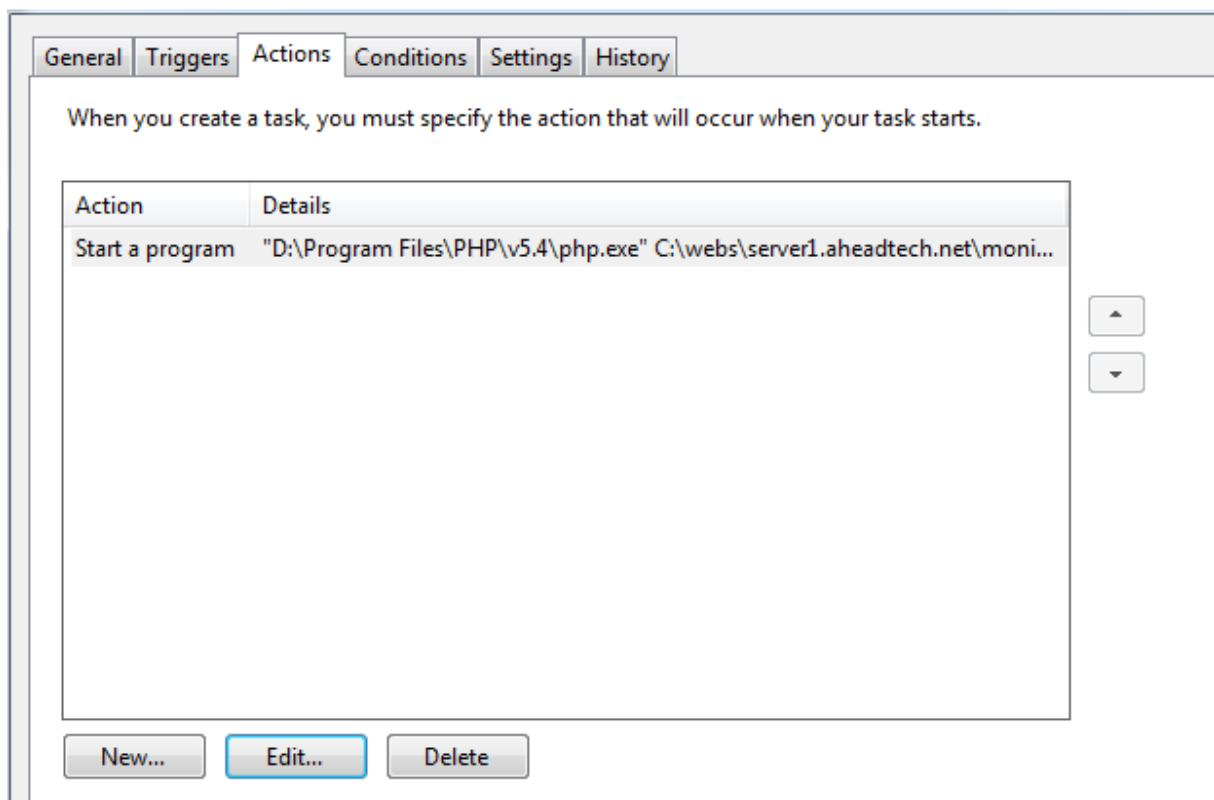
Under “Action” select “Start a program”.

The program you are going to use is “php.exe”. Depending on your PHP installation, for 32 bit versions of Windows, it will most likely be found in “C:\Program Files\PHP\v5.4\php.exe” (my version of PHP is 5.4, yours may be different).

For 64 bit versions of Windows, it will most likely be found in “C:\Program Files (x86)\PHP\v5.4\php.exe” (my version of PHP is 5.4, yours may be different)

Click “Browse”, navigate to the folder where you found “php.exe” and click “Open”.

In the “Add arguments” box, enter the location of “status.cron.php” from your installation of PHP Server Monitor. The location of my file is shown below; however yours will be different.



You must specify what action this task will perform.

Action:

Settings

Program/script:

Add arguments (optional):

Start in (optional):

**C:\webs\server1.aheadtech.net\monitor\cron\status.cron.php**

CONDITIONS TAB

Uncheck all the boxes here, unless you don't want the task to run if the computer is on battery back-up (or if you're using a laptop). All other boxes can be left alone.

General Triggers Actions **Conditions** Settings History

Specify the conditions that, along with the trigger, determine whether the task should run. The task will not run if any condition specified here is not true.

Idle

Start the task only if the computer is idle for: 10 minutes

Wait for idle for: 1 hour

Stop if the computer ceases to be idle

Restart if the idle state resumes

Power

Start the task only if the computer is on AC power

Stop if the computer switches to battery power

Wake the computer to run this task

Network

Start only if the following network connection is available:

Any connection

### SETTINGS TAB

Check only the following boxes

- Allow task to be run on demand
- Stop the task if it runs longer than: (1 hour will suffice, anything more is overkill)
- If the running task does not end when requested, force it to stop

Under “If the task is already running, then the following rule applies” select “Stop the existing instance”

NOTE: If you have a large amount of websites (500 or more) be sure to increase the frequency that the task runs to more than 5 minutes. Failure to do so will result in the task being forcefully stopped while it is still running because of the above setting.

General Triggers Actions Conditions Settings History

Specify additional settings that affect the behavior of the task.

- Allow task to be run on demand
- Run task as soon as possible after a scheduled start is missed
- If the task fails, restart every:
- Attempt to restart up to:  times
- Stop the task if it runs longer than:
- If the running task does not end when requested, force it to stop
- If the task is not scheduled to run again, delete it after:

If the task is already running, then the following rule applies:

You should now be done. Click OK and make sure the task shows up. Log into PHP Server Monitor and check the status page after 5 minutes (or whatever value you entered in “repeat task every:”) and it should have auto-updated.

*Tutorial written by: Robert Inzano*

<http://www.robinzano.com>

8/14/2014