"no matter where you are, everyone is always connected"

Crontabs and Aliases

What is a Crontab?

Crontabs are files that schedule certain commands to run at a certain time.

Every minute, the *cron* daemon checks all crontab files to see if a command is due to run, then runs the command.

Let's view an example crontab file.

Example Crontab

```
30 16 * * 5 cp /srv/file /srv/backups/
```
time to run   *command to run*

Each line of a crontab file has the desired time for the command to run, then the command itself.

The time is formatted as five values in this order:
- minute
- hour
- day
- month
- day of the week

Where to find Crontabs

Cron checks these files and directories:

> /etc/crontab
>> system crontab. Nowadays the file is empty by default. Originally it was usually used to run daily, weekly, monthly jobs.
>
> /etc/cron.d/
>> directory that contains system cronjobs stored for different users.
>
> /var/spool/cron
>> directory that contains user crontables created by the crontab command.

Aliases

```
# alias cd=c
# c /etc

# unalias c
```

Aliases are command shortcuts. You can assign a command to an alias so that using that alias would run the command assigned to it.

Initialization Scripts

```
alias c=cd
alias nano=reboot
alias sudo=echo "nope!"
```

The .bashrc file is a startup script that is run every time you open an new terminal. In this file, aliases can be saved for reuse. There is a system-wide startup script stored at
    /etc/bash.bashrc

and user-specific scripts stored in
    ~/.bashrc

Malicious Aliases

Aliases can be used to change good commands into evil commands. Be sure to check the startup script for any bad aliases.