

## 56 - Kommandos später ausführen mit **at** & **batch**

**at** Runs a command only once at a predetermined time.

**batch** command is only a script and does the same as **at** except that it executes commands when system load levels permit; in other words, when the load average drops below 0.8

### Syntax:

```
at [options] time
batch [options] time
```

### How to launch an AT job:

1. Type **at** and any **options** and **time** of execution
2. Enter the command(s) you want to run (press Enter after each command)  
Note: The commands **MUST** contain the full path of the command.
3. Press Ctrl-D to save the job(s).

### • at options:

- **-b** Run command only when the system load is low
- **-d jobNr** Delete an at job from queue (same as atrm)
- **-f filename**  
Read job from a specified file
- **-l** List all jobs for that user. If user is root, shows all jobs.
- **-m** Mails user when job completes.
- **-q queueName**  
Send the jobs to a specific queue.  
Queue names are single letters: **a** to **z** and **A** to **Z**  
**a** is the default and set highest AT priority (nice=2).  
**b** is the default for batch command queues.  
The higher the letter the higher the nice value  
(less priority). nice of: a=2 b=4 c=6 d=8 etc.

### • Time formats

- **now** Well...NOW!
- **17:00** At 17:00 hours
- **+3 hours** In 3 hours from now
- **+2 minutes** In 2 minutes from now
- **+2 days** Same time as now but In 2 days
- **+3 months** Same time as now but In 3 months
- **19:15 12.03.01** On 12 march 2001 at 19:15  
allowed formats:  
MMDDYY, MM/DD/YY, DD.MM.YY
- **now,noon,teatime (4pm),midnight,today,tomorrow**
- **4PM** At 4 pm today if not too late  
otherwise tomorrow at 4PM
- **16:00 + 3 days** At 16:00 hous in 3 days
- **mon** Next Monday same time. Days are:  
non,tue,wed,thu,fri,sat,sun
- **18:25 31 march 2001** On march 31 2001 at 18:25

- **atq** Show the AT jobs queue of user. Incl jobsNumbers  
If user is root, shows all jobs. Same as at -l

- **atrm** *jobNr* [*jobNr*] ... Deletes an AT job from the jobs queue
- AT Command on one line**(useful in scripts):

```
echo "command1;comman2;..." | at time
```

eg.

```
xhost + localhost
echo "xmessage -display :0 'It works'" | at +1 minutes
watch -n1 atq
```

### Files involved:

<code>/var/spool/atjobs</code>	Where the jobs are stored. <b>at</b> Produces jobs starting with a if queue is not given (-q). These jobs is a snapshot of environment variables plus the commands given.
<code>/var/spool/atspool</code>	Same as <code>/var/spool/atjobs</code>
<code>/proc/loadavg</code>	Average system load value that gives a one line display of the following information: The current time, how long the system has been running, how many users are currently logged on, and the system load averages for the past 1, 5, and 15 minutes.
<code>/var/run/utmp</code>	Uptime of the processes list in binary format. Used to determine the system load averages.
<code>/etc/at.allow</code>	List of users that are allowed to use the commands <code>batch</code> and <code>at</code> . If present: <code>/etc/at.deny</code> is ignored (If at all present) and all the users that are not listed here are NOT allowed.
<code>/etc/at.deny</code>	List of users that are NOT allowed to use the command <code>batch</code> and <code>at</code> . If present and <code>/etc/at.allow</code> is NOT present, then all users are allowed except the ones listed here.

Alternatives to **at** and **Batch**: consider another batch system like **nqs**.