

ADAMS

Advanced Data mining And Machine learning System

Module: adams-cron



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Chapter 1

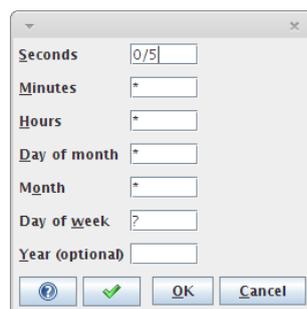
Cron jobs

Cron jobs are a very convenient way of performing background jobs that are only executed once in a while at specific times. For instance, a “clean up” job could run once every night, or a “backup” job every Friday night.

The *Cron* standalone can be used to *trigger* and execute these jobs. You can either place the actors that the job consists of below the *Cron* itself¹ or place them under a *Flow* control actor inside the *Events* standalone and call this event then using the *TriggerEvent* control actor.²

Since the cron jobs get executed at fixed times, we need to have a flow that is running forever, unless stopped by the user (or the cron job itself). This can be implemented using the *WhileLoop* control actor with an enclosed *Sleep actor*. To simplify this setup, there is already a sub-flow template available that generates such a flow: *EndlessLoop*.

The format for the cron job execution is not very intuitive when you look at it for the first time. In order to make it easier, you can use the editor that ADAMS offers (see Figure 1.1). This editor allows you to check the current input as well as opening a web page with a detailed description of the format (see [2]).



The image shows a dialog box for editing cron job execution times. It has a title bar with a close button (X) and a dropdown arrow. The fields are: Seconds (0/5), Minutes (+), Hours (+), Day of month (+), Month (+), Day of week (?), and Year (optional). At the bottom are buttons for help (question mark), a green checkmark, OK, and Cancel.

Figure 1.1: The editor for entering the execution time of a cron job.

¹adams-cron_displaying_directory_contents1.flow

²adams-cro_displaying_directory_contents2.flow

Bibliography

- [1] *ADAMS* – Advanced Data mining and Machine learning System
<https://adams.cms.waikato.ac.nz/>
- [2] *Cron format* – detailed explanation of format
<http://www.quartz-scheduler.org/docs/tutorials/crontrigger.html>