



Setting Up Magento for Scheduling

Mercent Marketplace Price Optimizer

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Overview

This document is intended for a merchant's Magento site administrator who is setting up the Mercent Marketplace Price Optimizer extension. This document provides step-by-step instructions on ensuring your installation of Magento supports scheduling.

In order for Magento to automatically send feeds to Mercent, you need to enable your installation of Magento to run feeds on a schedule using "cron jobs". If you do not do this, Magento will not automatically send your feed to Mercent and you cannot use the Mercent Marketplace Price Optimizer tools in Mercent Retail. If you have ever installed and used a Magento extension that performs on a schedule, then you have probably enabled Magento to run cron jobs. If you are not sure if your installation of Magento can run cron jobs, follow the steps under [Verifying Magento support for cron jobs](#).

Verifying Magento support for cron jobs

1. Log on as an administrator to the server that is running Magento.
2. Open a command prompt.
3. Enter the following line and press Return:
crontab -l
4. If your installation of Magento supports cron jobs, the command window will include the following line, except instead of “MagentoRootDirectory” the line will include the path to the installation of Magento on your server:

```
*/5 * * * * /bin/sh / MagentoRootDirectory/cron.sh
```

If you do not see that line, complete the steps under “[Add support for cron jobs to Magento](#)”.

Add support for cron jobs to Magento

If you have never run a cron job through Magento you'll need to set up a cron job to look for Magento cron jobs. The job calls a script that sets up new Magento cron jobs. This enables Magento to set up a list of cron jobs, called a crontab, for users to configure cron jobs from the web.

1. Log on as an administrator to your server that is running Magento.
2. Open a command prompt.
3. To find out what kind of shell you use, enter the following line and press Return:
echo \$SHELL
4. Define your preferred editor for editing the crontab, by doing one of the following:
 - If you use a sh, ksh, or bash shell, enter the following line (replace YourEditorName with your preferred editor's name) and press Return:
export EDITOR=YourEditorName
 - If you use a csh or tcsh shell, enter the following line (replace YourEditorName with your preferred editor's name) and press Return:
setenv EDITOR YourEditorName
5. To open the crontab in your preferred editor, enter the following line and press Return:
crontab -e
6. In the crontab in your preferred editor, add the following line (replace MagentoRootDirectory with the path to the Magento installation on your server):
**/5 * * * * /bin/sh /MagentoRootDirectory/cron.sh*

Cron Reference Materials

- To see the crontab manual, enter the following command in your command prompt:
man crontab
- To see the manual page for ls, enter the following command in your command prompt:
man ls
- To learn more about configuring cron in Magento as a developer see:
[http://www.magentocommerce.com/wiki/1 -
installation and configuration/how to setup a cron job](http://www.magentocommerce.com/wiki/1-_installation_and_configuration/how_to_setup_a_cron_job)
- A good overview of cron and cron permissions in UNIX:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cron>