

A history of cron

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```
root@maverick-Inspiron-5548: /home/maverick
root@maverick-Inspiron-5548:/home/maverick# crontab -u maverick -l
# Edit this file to introduce tasks to be run by cron.
#
# Each task to run has to be defined through a single line
# indicating with different fields when the task will be run
# and what command to run for the task
#
# To define the time you can provide concrete values for
# minute (m), hour (h), day of month (dom), month (mon),
# and day of week (dow) or use '*' in these fields (for 'any').#
# Notice that tasks will be started based on the cron's system
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.
#
# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).
#
# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts
# at 5 a.m every week with:
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/
#
# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)
#
# m h dom mon dow  command
root@maverick-Inspiron-5548:/home/maverick#
```

Hello CronCon!

What is cron?

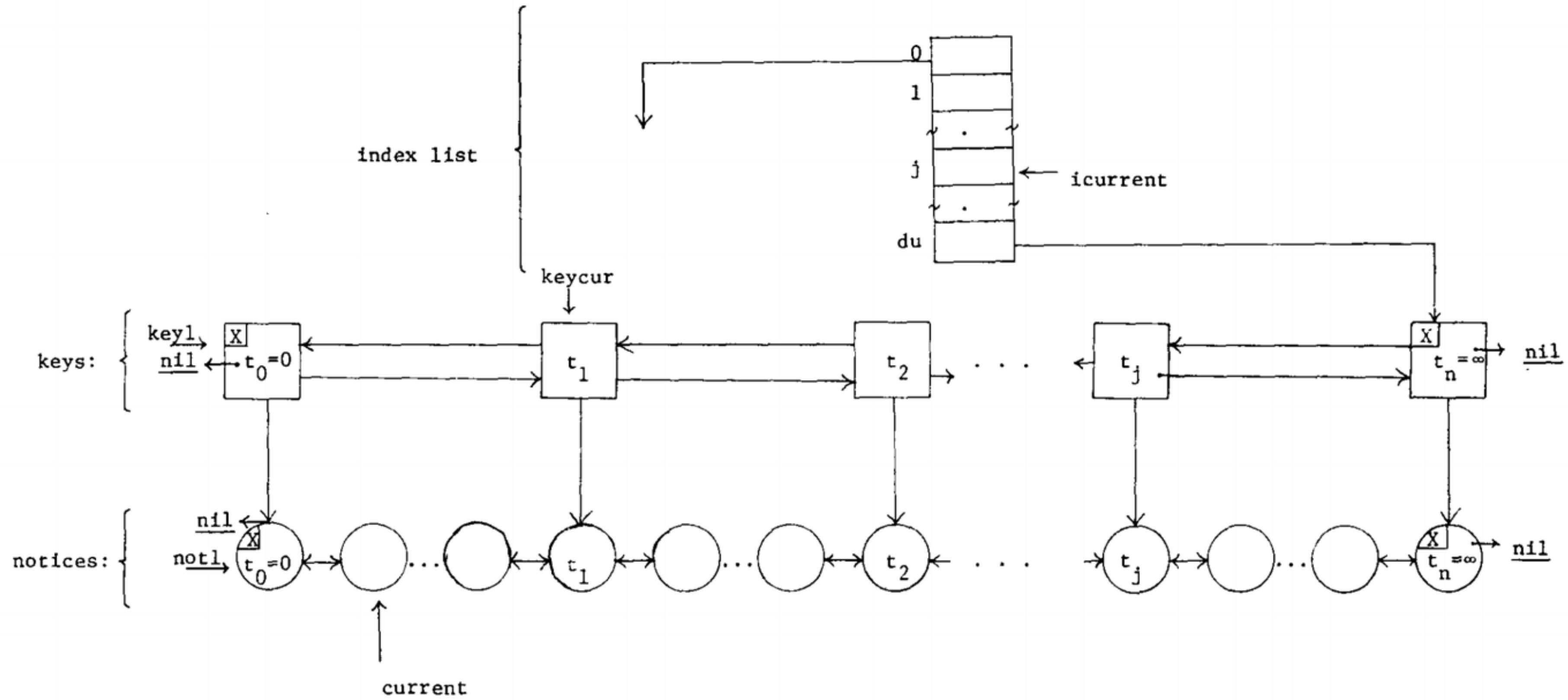
- time-based scheduler for software on POSIX-compliant computer systems
- used for timing: backups, bots, and more
- derives from the Greek χρόνος meaning “time”

Computer history
is important!

The Early Days

- Original cron only supported root!
- Franta-Maly Event List Manager (*Communications of the ACM*, Aug 1977)
- Robert Brown and Keith Williamson, Purdue University
1979

Fig. 1. Data structure for the two-level algorithm.



X denotes a dummy key or event notice

Cron is everywhere!

- not just backups
- scan for malware
- scheduled reboots
- rsync
- log scanning
- maintenance
- static site generation
- rotating banner ads

Thank you!