

Anacron FAQ

What has changed in this release?

The package has been configured to work with the launchd daemon in MacOS 10.4 (Tiger). Earlier versions of anacron will not work on MacOS 10.4, and this version will not install on versions of MacOS earlier than 10.4. Version 3.1 reduces the log clutter of anacron start/stop messages.

Do I need to know a bunch of terminal commands to install or use Anacron?

Anacron requires no configuration or setup. Once installed, it runs as a background daemon and needs no attention. Installing this version of Anacron will upgrade an older installation, including removing obsolete startup files and editing `/etc/crontab` to remove entries that are no longer used.

How do I know Anacron is working?

Anacron logs entries in `/var/log/system.log` when it runs the periodic tasks. (Versions of anacron before 3.1 log entries when anacron checks for pending tasks every sixty minutes.) You can look at the `system.log` with *Console.app*, with *more* in a terminal, or with an editor.

Can I use Anacron to run jobs other than the periodic scripts?

Yes. To run local commands as part of the periodic jobs, edit or create the files `/etc/daily.local`, `/etc/weekly.local` and/or `/etc/monthly.local` as executable shell scripts. To add other jobs, see *man anacron* and *man anacrontab*.

After I installed Anacron I started seeing error messages in the system.log?

It means Anacron is doing its job! Messages reading "*cp: error processing extended attributes: Operation not permitted*" are from an error in Apple's periodic script. To get rid of the messages, carefully edit `/usr/sbin/periodic` to substitute

```
> $tmp_output
```

in place of

```
cp /dev/null $tmp_output
```

How do I disable or remove anacron?

To disable anacron, run the following commands in a terminal:

```
cd /Library/LaunchDaemons
sudo launchctl unload -w ./anacron.plist
cd /System/Library/LaunchDaemons
sudo launchctl load -w ./com.apple.periodic-daily.plist
sudo launchctl load -w ./com.apple.periodic-weekly.plist
sudo launchctl load -w ./com.apple.periodic-monthly.plist
```

To completely remove anacron from your system, delete (trash):

```
/usr/local/sbin/anacron
/usr/local/share/man/man5/anacrontab.5
/usr/local/share/man/man8/anacron.8
/Library/LaunchDaemons/anacron.plist
/etc/anacrontab
/var/spool/anacron
/Library/Receipts/Anacron.pkg
```