

KNOWLEDGE BASE · PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Cron job e-mails flooding your inbox: MAILTO and where the output should go

cPanel & WHM

CODE

RLX-INT-KB-5934

VERSION

v2026.10.15

COUNTRY · LANGUAGE

International · English

MozOut International

RLX Holdings (Pty) Ltd. · Group RLX Holdings

Tax no. (SARS) 943 907 6234 · Registration no. (CIPC) 2025/667953/07

<https://www.my.mozout.com/knowledgebase/5934>



The short answer: whenever a scheduled task (cron job) writes anything to the screen, the system **e-mails that text** to the cron address. A task that runs every five minutes can send hundreds of messages a day. The fix is to tell the task where the output goes: **to a file, or nowhere**.

Where the output goes

End of the command	What happens
<code>>/dev/null 2>&1</code>	Throws everything away, errors included. Total silence. Careful: it hides failures.
<code>>/dev/null</code>	Throws away the normal output, but errors are still e-mailed . Usually the best.
<code>>> /home/account/cron.log 2>&1</code>	Keeps everything in a file, to read when you need. Remember to clear it now and then.
Nothing	Everything the task writes goes by e-mail.
Changing the address	In cPanel, the “Cron Email” field is at the top of the cron jobs page. On a VPS, it is the MAILTO= line at the start of the crontab.

Step by step

1

Open scheduled tasks (Cron Jobs, in cPanel) and see the “Cron Email” field at the top. Choose an address you read, or leave it empty.

2

Decide what you want to know: only errors, or nothing, or everything in a file.

3

Edit the task's command and add the right ending, for example:

```
/usr/bin/php /home/account/script.php >/dev/null
```

Running a PHP script from a cron job.

4

On a VPS, put `MAILTO=""` at the start of the crontab to switch e-mail off for all of them, or the address you want.

5

Clear the mailbox and confirm, days later, that the messages stopped: **Mailbox full.**

Do not hide everything from a task you never tested. If the output goes nowhere and the task fails, nobody knows. First confirm it works, then silence it: **A cron job that does not run.**

For the schedule syntax: **Schedule examples.** A task every five minutes is not always needed: **Cron jobs worth setting up.** On WordPress: **WP-Cron for a real cron job.**

Getting hundreds of cron messages and do not know which task? Open a ticket with the subject of one of them.

[Open a support ticket](#)

SEE ALSO

[Cron jobs: what they are for and how to create one](#)

[A cron job that does not run or sends no output: a checklist](#)

[Cron schedule examples: every 15 minutes, weekdays at 8, the first of the month](#)

[Running a PHP script from a cron job](#)

[Swapping WP-Cron for a real server cron job](#)

[Your mailbox is full: what to delete and how to stop it happening](#)



Online version of this document

MozOut is a leading internet services company, with a mission to help businesses to be born and prosper through technology.

2020

FOUNDED

37,000+

CLIENTS

130+

SIGN-UPS A DAY

MozOut International

RLX Holdings (Pty) Ltd. • Group RLX Holdings

TAX NO. (SARS)

943 907 6234

REGISTRATION NO.
(CIPC)

2025/667953/07

REGISTERED OFFICE

1111 Olive Street
Saint Louis 63101, Missouri, United States

CONTACT

info@mozout.com • +27 78 823 3325 • www.mozout.com

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM
Saturday & Sunday - Closed

RLX-INT-KB-5934 • v2026.10.15 • Generated on 16/10/2026 10:05