

Unix manual pages are gathered into several sections. A section is related to a given topic:

- * section 1: user commands that may be started by everyone
- * section 2: system calls, that is, functions provided by the kernel
- * section 3: subroutines, that is, library functions
- * section 4: devices (files in /dev)
- * section 5: file format descriptions, e.g. /etc/passwd
- * section 6: games
- * section 7: miscellaneous
- * section 8: system administration tools that only root can execute
- * section 9: another (Linux specific) place for kernel routine documentation
- * section l: (deprecated) new documentation, that may be moved to a more appropriate section
- * section n: (deprecated) old documentation, that may be kept for a grace period
- * section o: (deprecated) local documentation referring to this particular system

As two different sections can contain two man pages with the same name, we note manuals as follows: `man_page(section)`. Therefore, `crontab(5)` identifies the `crontab` manual from the section 5 (to be opposed to `crontab(1)`).