

## Re: Cron Daemon backup message too big

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  - *Date:* Mon, 31 Mar 2008 20:09:46 +1100
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On 31/03/2008, Haines Brown <[brownh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:brownh@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

Someone kindly communicated to me privately, and I realized that I was not being sufficiently complete regarding my problem.

In my backup script, I have the line:

```
find / -print | egrep -v "^/media|..." 2>&1 | cat -vt
```

What this command does is to concatenate stdout + errors and redirect them to a terminal. This works fine when I call the command # backup.

However, when cron calls it, there's no terminal to which to send the stdout, and so apparently it is redirected by default to a mail message.

Could I avoid this by terminating the command line instead like this:

```
2>&1 /home/brownh/backup.log | cat -vt
```

Hey,

Almost right, though you need a redirect to the file too like so: `2>&1 1>/home/brownh/backup.log``. Note the '1' for stdout is optional, if it is left off it is assumed. This will send absolutely nothing through to ``cat``.

If passing through ``cat`` is necessary for formatting your output then use something like this:

```
`2>&1 | cat -vt > /home/brownh/backup.log`
```

This passes both stderr and stdout through cat and then into the log file.

``2>&1`` means literally send stderr to where stdout is going now.

The order matters here, if you use ``2>&1 >/home/brownh/backup.log`` then stderr will be coming out to where stdout defaulted to (in this case

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to cron's mail) and stdout will be going to the file. This could also be desirable.

Also, with `cat -vt` the arg '-t' == '-vT' making your argument string play out to '-vvT'. At a guess you are either after just '-t' or trying to explicitly give '-vT'.

HTH,  
cheers,  
Owen.

Here I clobber the contents of backup.log, which is what I want. Is the

syntax right? Will it avoid sending stdout to a mail message?

My guess is that when I upgraded to etch, cron stdout was redirected by default to a mail message. That's OK, except in this case it causes exim4 to complain about the size of the message and terminate the find command.

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Haines Brown, KB1GRM

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