

## 2 Custom intervals

### Overview

It is possible to create custom rules regarding the times when an item is checked. The two methods for that are *Flexible intervals*, which allow to redefine the default update interval, and *Scheduling*, whereby an item check can be executed at a specific time or sequence of times.

### Flexible intervals

Flexible intervals allow to redefine the default update interval for specific time periods. A flexible interval is defined with *Interval* and *Period* where:

- *Interval* – the update interval for the specified time period
- *Period* – the time period when the flexible interval is active (see the [time periods](#) for detailed description of the *Period* format)

Up to seven flexible intervals can be defined. If multiple flexible intervals overlap, the smallest *Interval* value is used for the overlapping period. Note that if the smallest value of overlapping flexible intervals is '0', no polling will take place. Outside the flexible intervals the default update interval is used.

Note that if the flexible interval equals the length of the period, the item will be checked exactly once. If the flexible interval is greater than the period, the item might be checked once or it might not be checked at all (thus such configuration is not advisable). If the flexible interval is less than the period, the item will be checked at least once.

If the flexible interval is set to '0', the item is not polled during the flexible interval period and resumes polling according to the default *Update interval* once the period is over. Examples:

Interval	Period	Description
10	1-5,09:00-18:00	Item will be checked every 10 seconds during working hours.
0	1-7,00:00-7:00	Item will not be checked during the night.
0	7-7,00:00-24:00	Item will not be checked on Sundays.
60	1-7,12:00-12:01	Item will be checked at 12:00 every day. Note that this was used as a workaround for scheduled checks and starting with Zabbix 3.0 it is recommended to use scheduling intervals for such checks.

### Scheduling intervals

Scheduling intervals are used to check items at specific times. While flexible intervals are designed to redefine the default item update interval, the scheduling intervals are used to specify an independent checking schedule, which is executed in parallel.

A scheduling interval is defined as: **md**<filter>**wd**<filter>**h**<filter>**m**<filter>**s**<filter> where:

- **md** - month days

- **wd** - week days
- **h** - hours
- **m** - minutes
- **s** - seconds

<filter> is used to specify values for its prefix (days, hours, minutes, seconds) and is defined as: [<from>[-<to>]][/<step>][,<filter>] where:

- <from> and <to> define the range of matching values (included). If <to> is omitted then the filter matches a <from> - <from> range. If <from> is also omitted then the filter matches all possible values.
- <step> defines the skips of the number value through the range. By default <step> has the value of 1, which means that all values of the defined range are matched.

While the filter definitions are optional, at least one filter must be used. A filter must either have a range or the <step> value defined.

An empty filter matches either '0' if no lower-level filter is defined or all possible values otherwise. For example, if the hour filter is omitted then only '0' hour will match, provided minute and seconds filters are omitted too, otherwise an empty hour filter will match all hour values.

Valid <from> and <to> values for their respective filter prefix are:

Prefix	Description	<from>	<to>
md	Month days	1-31	1-31
wd	Week days	1-7	1-7
h	Hours	0-23	0-23
m	Minutes	0-59	0-59
s	Seconds	0-59	0-59

The <from> value must be less or equal to <to> value. The <step> value must be greater or equal to 1 and less or equal to <to> - <from>.

Single digit month days, hours, minutes and seconds values can be prefixed with 0. For example md01-31 and h/02 are valid intervals, but md01-031 and wd01-07 are not.

In Zabbix frontend, multiple scheduling intervals are entered in separate rows. In Zabbix API, they are concatenated into a single string with a semicolon ; as a separator.

If a time is matched by several intervals it is executed only once. For example, wd1h9;h9 will be executed only once on Monday at 9am.

Examples:

Interval	Will be executed
m0-59	every minute
h9-17/2	every 2 hours starting with 9:00 (9:00, 11:00 ...)
m0,30 or m/30	hourly at hh:00 and hh:30
m0,5,10,15,20,25,30,35,40,45,50,55 or m/5	every five minutes
wd1-5h9	every Monday till Friday at 9:00

Interval	Will be executed
wd1-5h9-18	every Monday till Friday at 9:00,10:00,...,18:00
h9,10,11 or h9-11	every day at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00
md1h9m30	every 1st day of each month at 9:30
md1wd1h9m30	every 1st day of each month at 9:30 if it is Monday
h9m/30	every day at 9:00, 9:30
h9m0-59/30	every day at 9:00, 9:30
h9,10m/30	every day at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30
h9-10m30	every day at 9:30, 10:30
h9m10-40/30	every day at 9:10, 9:40
h9,10m10-40/30	every day at 9:10, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40
h9-10m10-40/30	every day at 9:10, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40
h9m10-40	every day at 9:10, 9:11, 9:12, ... 9:40
h9m10-40/1	every day at 9:10, 9:11, 9:12, ... 9:40
h9-12,15	every day at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 15:00
h9-12,15m0	every day at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 15:00
h9-12,15m0s30	every day at 9:00:30, 10:00:30, 11:00:30, 12:00:30, 15:00:30
h9-12s30	every day at 9:00:30, 9:01:30, 9:02:30 ... 12:58:30, 12:59:30
h9m/30;h10	every day at 9:00, 9:30, 10:00

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