

## Getting started with BQplus

Before you get going with BQplus it would be a good idea to spend five minutes reading this guide and getting a brief understanding of how the software operates so that you can get up and running as quickly as possible.

### Overview

BQplus has a command line interface and a menu system ('bqmenu') which will work on most terminals with a UNIX terminfo definition, VT100 etc.

For the purposes of this guide however we will just look at the command line interface which has two main programs :

**/usr/bq+/bin/batchq** : **add, modify, list and delete jobs from the BQplus queue**

**/usr/bq+/bin/bcon** : **start, stop and control the BQplus system**

### How it works :

BQplus has any number of BQplus queues into which you can place your BQplus jobs. A process called the BQplus Controller will start and monitor the jobs when it is correct to do so.

*BQplus replaces the UNIX CRON system and does not depend on it in any way.*

That's not so bad is it? Right, let's just go through a few simple examples which will show you how to control BQplus and run a few simple jobs.

### Starting BQplus

Before any BQplus jobs will run you must start BQplus.

**\$ bcon -start**

Having started BQplus the 'BQplus Controller' process will run jobs found in the BQplus queue.

### Checking the status of BQplus

To check that BQplus is started and to see how many jobs are currently being executed you can use the following commands.

**\$ bcon -status**

**\$ bcon -list**

### Running a BQplus job

To run a job in BQplus you have to issue a command that places a job in a BQplus queue. Once in the queue BQplus will run the job when it is possible to do so.

**\$ batchq /bin/date -log tty -queue immediate**

This command will place a job in the immediate queue which will issue the UNIX date command. All output from the job (stdout and stderr) will be sent to your terminal - this has been requested by the use of the 'tty' reserved keyword. If you like, you could replace 'tty' with a file or pathname of a log file which would be created when the job executes.

### Need more help?

For a complete list of all the BQplus options you should refer to the BQplus user guide which can be found on the 'download' page of the Software Innovations website.



For a brief overview of all 'batchq' and 'bcon' options you can issue the following commands :

**\$ batchq -help**  
**\$ bcon -help**

To try out the BQplus menus you should use the following command :

**\$ bqmenu**

## Running a BQplus job at a set time

You may want a BQplus job to start at a specific time, for example out of working hours. This is a very straight forward process.

```
$ batchq /bin/date -log /tmp/date.log -queue immediate -start 19:00
```

This command will place a job in the queue which will run at 7pm and will issue the UNIX date command. All output from the job (stdout and stderr) will be put in the file '/tmp/date.log'.

## Listing the BQplus jobs

To view all the BQplus jobs in all the BQplus queues you should use the following command.

```
$ batchq -list
```

## Modifying a BQplus job

You may want to modify a BQplus request that is already in the BQplus queue. To achieve this you must know the BQplus job number, which can be found by listing the BQplus jobs (as above).

```
$ batchq -mod 10 -start 20:00
```

This command will change the start time of the BQplus job number 10 to be 8pm.

## Deleting a BQplus job

You may want to delete a BQplus job from the queue either before it has run or perhaps while it is doing so.

```
$ batchq -del 10
```

If the job is already running it will be sent a series of UNIX signals instructing it to abort, culminating in a 'SIGKILL' if the process remains running.

## Environment variables

You may want your BQplus job to inherit all your current environment variables (as shown by the UNIX 'set' command).

```
$ batchq /bin/date -log tty -queue immediate -envs
```

A copy of your environment variables will be taken and stored by BQplus and will be restored when the job is started.

Ok, that's the end of your first BQplus experience. We hope you found this guide useful and would like to refer you to the BQplus user guide for more information and if you have any more questions please contact us at [support@softwareinnovations.co.uk](mailto:support@softwareinnovations.co.uk) or +44 (0) 20 905 1800.