

Systemd Hilfe

The system scheduler

In both Debian 9 (stretch) and Debian 10 (buster), the process is started by the following two systemd timers:

- **apt-daily.timer**, which via apt-daily.service calls /usr/lib/apt/apt.systemd.daily update to update the package lists (apt-get update), and
- **apt-daily-upgrade.timer**, which via apt-daily-upgrade.service calls /usr/lib/apt/apt.systemd.daily install to install the upgrades (unattended-upgrade).

(The anacron job /etc/cron.daily/apt-compat still exists, but exits if it detects systemd. Without systemd, it will run /usr/lib/apt/apt.systemd.daily without sub-command, which means both update and install. See other answers or anacron documentation on changing the schedule if you don't use systemd.)

The systemd timers can be set to trigger at a higher frequency, in your example every four hours, by overriding the default schedule. First, for updating the package list:

```
$ systemctl edit apt-daily.timer
This creates /etc/systemd/system/apt-daily.timer.d/override.conf. Fill it as follows:

[Timer]
OnCalendar=*-*-* 0,4,8,12,16,20:00
RandomizedDelaySec=15m
```

Then, for the actual upgrades 20 minutes later:

```
$ systemctl edit apt-daily-upgrade.timer

[Timer]
OnCalendar=*-*-* 0,4,8,12,16,20:20
RandomizedDelaySec=1m
```

To check your work:

```
$ systemctl cat apt-daily{,-upgrade}.timer
$ systemctl --all list-timers apt-daily{,-upgrade}.timer
```

(Taken partly from [Debian Wiki: UnattendedUpgrades](https://wiki.debian.org/UnattendedUpgrades).)

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