

Task A

Step 1.) I created the user **Alice** with a home directory.

```
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo useradd -m -d /home/Alice -s /bin/bash Alice  
sudo passwd Alice  
  
New password:  
Retype new password:  
passwd: password updated successfully
```

Verified its privileges.

```
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ id Alice  
ls -ld /home/Alice  
  
uid=1010(Alice) gid=1011(Alice) groups=1011(Alice)  
drwx----- 5 Alice Alice 4096 Nov  9 07:57 /home/Alice
```

Step 2.) I created the file utilizing **vim**.

```
File Actions Edit View Help  
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo vim /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh  
  
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh
```

I gave the file executable privileges by using **chmod + x**

```
File Actions Edit View Help  
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo vim /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh  
  
(derek@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh
```

I executed the script to verify that it is working properly, and that the backup saved in the correct location

```
# /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh
Enter your MIDAS (e.g., dhill036): dhill036
Enter current date value (e.g., 2025.11.09-14.05.00): 11-9-2025
Created: /var/backups/dhill036-11-9-2025.tar.gz

(root@kali)-[~]
# ls -lh /var/backups | grep dhill036

-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov  9 08:12 dhill036-11-9-2025.tar.gz
```

Below are the contents of the script.

```
(derek@kali)-[~]
$ cat /usr/local/bin/backup_alice.sh
#!/bin/bash
set -euo pipefail

# Require root so we can write to /var/backups without sudo inside the script
if [[ $EUID -ne 0 ]]; then
    echo "ERROR: Run this script with sudo or as root." >&2
    exit 1
fi

# — a) Two inputs: MIDAS and current date (you must enter both) —
read -p "Enter your MIDAS (e.g., dhill036): " midas
read -p "Enter current date value (e.g., 2025.11.09-14.05.00): " datestr

if [[ -z "${midas}" || -z "${datestr}" ]]; then
    echo "ERROR: Both MIDAS and date are required." >&2
    exit 1
fi

# a) filename = MIDAS-date.tar (we'll compress to .tar.gz in /var/backups)
filename="${midas}-${datestr}.tar"

src="/home/Alice"
dest="/var/backups"
tmp="/tmp/${filename}"

# sanity checks
if [[ ! -d "${src}" ]]; then
    echo "ERROR: ${src} does not exist. Create the user/home first." >&2
    exit 1
fi

mkdir -p "${dest}"
```

```
mkdir -p "${dest}"

# a) Create tar of /home/Alice with the chosen filename
tar -cf "${tmp}" -C "/" "home/Alice"

# b) Move tar to /var/backups
mv "${tmp}" "${dest}/"

# c) Compress the tar in /var/backups (choose one algo - using gzip)
gzip -f "${dest}/${filename}" # results in ${filename}.gz

echo "Created: ${dest}/${filename}.gz"
```

Step 3.) I created the cronjob to back up the system and verified that it worked.

```
#
# m h dom mon dow  command
* * * * * echo -e "dhill036\n$(date +%Y.%m.%d-%H.%M.%S)" | /usr/local/bin/ba>
```

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov 9 08:30 '-e dhill036-2025.11.09-08.30.01.tar.gz'
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov 9 08:31 '-e dhill036-2025.11.09-08.31.01.tar.gz'
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov 9 08:32 '-e dhill036-2025.11.09-08.32.01.tar.gz'
```

Step 4.) I deleted the cron job and verified its deletion.

```
(derek@kali)-[~]
$ sudo crontab -l

# Edit this file to introduce tasks to be run by cron.
#
# Each task to run has to be defined through a single line
# indicating with different fields when the task will be run
# and what command to run for the task
#
# To define the time you can provide concrete values for
# minute (m), hour (h), day of month (dom), month (mon),
# and day of week (dow) or use '*' in these fields (for 'any').
#
# Notice that tasks will be started based on the cron's system
# daemon's notion of time and timezones.
#
# Output of the crontab jobs (including errors) is sent through
# email to the user the crontab file belongs to (unless redirected).
#
# For example, you can run a backup of all your user accounts
# at 5 a.m every week with:
# 0 5 * * 1 tar -zcf /var/backups/home.tgz /home/
#
# For more information see the manual pages of crontab(5) and cron(8)
#
# m h dom mon dow  command

```

Task B

Extra Credit.

I created the backup script utilizing **vim**, executed **chmod +x** to make the file executable, executed the script and verified the contents of the **/var/backups** folder.

```
(derek@kali)-[~]
$ sudo vim /usr/local/bin/cleanup_backups.sh

(derek@kali)-[~]
$ sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/cleanup_backups.sh

(derek@kali)-[~]
$ sudo /usr/local/bin/cleanup_backups.sh
Found 5 backups. Threshold = 3.
Deleting 2 old backup(s):
- /var/backups/dhill036-2025.11.09-08.34.01.tar.gz
- /var/backups/dhill036-11-9-2025.tar.gz
Cleanup complete.

(derek@kali)-[~]
$ ls -lh /var/backups | grep dhill036

-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov  9 08:35 dhill036-2025.11.09-08.35.01.tar.gz
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov  9 08:36 dhill036-2025.11.09-08.36.01.tar.gz
-rw-r--r-- 1 root root 11K Nov  9 08:37 dhill036-2025.11.09-08.37.01.tar.gz
```

Below are the contents of the clean-up script.