

# How to trigger AFT! jobs from the command line

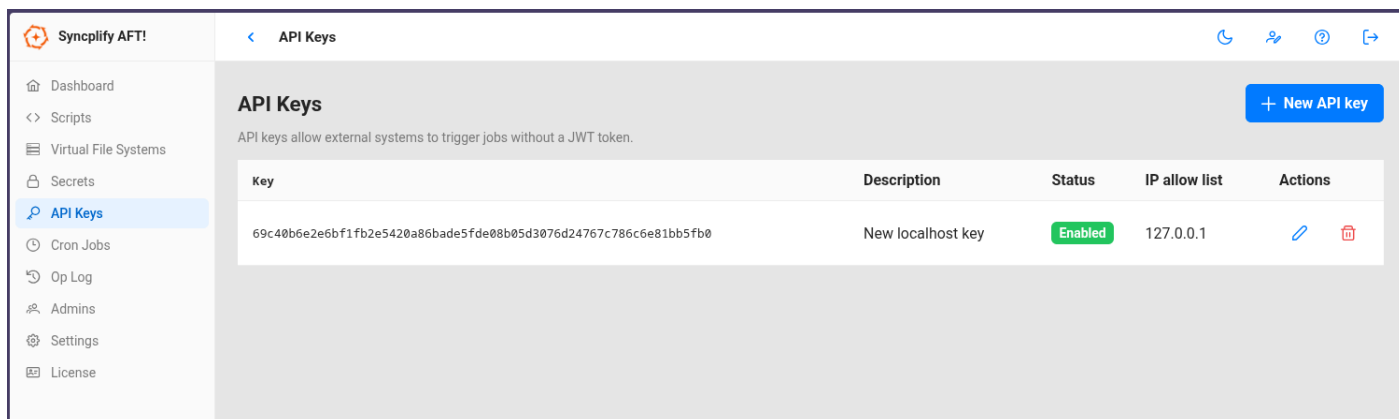
AFT! provides two commands for running scripts from a shell or a CI/CD pipeline.

Command	What it does
<code>aft start</code>	Calls the REST API of a running AFT! instance and queues the job there. The script runs inside the service, with full access to the VFS Library and secrets. Returns immediately; the job runs in the background.
<code>aft run</code>	Executes a <code>.syncjs</code> file directly in the calling shell process. No API key needed. The script runs to completion before the command returns.

`aft start`: trigger a stored script via API

## Prerequisite

Create an API key in the AFT! web UI under Settings > API Keys. Make sure the key's IP allowlist includes the machine you will be calling from. For calls from the same machine, 127.0.0.1 is sufficient.



## Minimal example

Linux/MacOS:

```
./aft start -n "My Backup Job" -a "xiM2ruBm2QZkhTSN6BPd9BqmxVEBVbrgNYVMkNQb6hfj"
```

Windows (PowerShell):

```
.\aft.exe start -n "My Backup Job" -a "xiM2ruBm2QZkhTSN6BPd9BqmxVEBVbrgNYVMkNQb6hfj"
```

Script names are matched case-insensitively.

## With parameters and a remote instance

Linux/MacOS:

```
aft start \  
-n "My Backup Job" \  
-a "xiM2ruBm2QZkhTSN6BPd9BqmxVEBVbrgNYVMkNQb6hfj" \  
--params '{"character":"goofy"}' \  
--host "192.168.1.10:44399"
```

Windows (PowerShell):

```
.\aft.exe start \  
-n "My Backup Job" \  
-a "xiM2ruBm2QZkhTSN6BPd9BqmxVEBVbrgNYVMkNQb6hfj" \  
--params '{"character":"goofy"}' \  
--host "192.168.1.10:44399"
```

Inside the script, read the parameter with `Param("character")`.

`--host` defaults to `127.0.0.1:44399` when omitted.

## `aft run`: execute a script file directly

The **Allow CLI Run** option must be enabled in AFT! Settings. It is **disabled by default** but an administrator can enable it.

## Minimal example

Linux/MacOS:

```
./aft run -f "/opt/scripts/my-transfer.syncjs"
```

Windows (PowerShell):

```
.\aft.exe run -f "C:\Scripts\my-transfer.syncjs"
```

## With parameters

Linux/macOS:

```
./aft run -f "/opt/scripts/my-transfer.syncjs" -p '{"destination":"/archive/2026"}'
```

Windows (PowerShell):

```
.\aft.exe run -f "C:\Scripts\my-transfer.syncjs" -p '{"destination":"D:\Archive\2026"}'
```

## Notes

- `aft run` executes **synchronously**: the command blocks until the script finishes and exits with code 0 on success, or code 1 if the script crashes or fails.
- If `aft serve` is running on the same machine, `aft run` automatically delegates to the running service so the script has full access to the VFS Library and secrets. If `aft serve` is not running, it opens the local database directly.
- This makes `aft run` a natural fit for OS-cron jobs, CI/CD pipelines, and shell scripts that need a definitive exit code.

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Revision #2

Created 22 July 2023 23:00:50 by DevTeam

Updated 12 April 2026 22:00:30 by DevTeam