

**NAME**

adjtimex, ntp\_adjtime – tune kernel clock

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/timex.h>
```

```
int adjtimex(struct timex *buf);
```

```
int ntp_adjtime(struct timex *buf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

Linux uses David L. Mills' clock adjustment algorithm (see RFC 5905). The system call **adjtimex()** reads and optionally sets adjustment parameters for this algorithm. It takes a pointer to a *timex* structure, updates kernel parameters from (selected) field values, and returns the same structure updated with the current kernel values. This structure is declared as follows:

```
struct timex {
    int  modes;           /* Mode selector */
    long offset;          /* Time offset; nanoseconds, if STA_NANO
                           status flag is set, otherwise
                           microseconds */
    long freq;            /* Frequency offset; see NOTES for units */
    long maxerror;        /* Maximum error (microseconds) */
    long esterror;        /* Estimated error (microseconds) */
    int  status;          /* Clock command/status */
    long constant;        /* PLL (phase-locked loop) time constant */
    long precision;       /* Clock precision
                           (microseconds, read-only) */
    long tolerance;       /* Clock frequency tolerance (read-only);
                           see NOTES for units */
    struct timeval time;  /* Current time (read-only, except for
                           ADJ_SETOFFSET); upon return, time.tv_usec
                           contains nanoseconds, if STA_NANO status
                           flag is set, otherwise microseconds */
    long tick;            /* Microseconds between clock ticks */
    long ppsfreq;         /* PPS (pulse per second) frequency
                           (read-only); see NOTES for units */
    long jitter;          /* PPS jitter (read-only); nanoseconds, if
                           STA_NANO status flag is set, otherwise
                           microseconds */
    int  shift;           /* PPS interval duration
                           (seconds, read-only) */
    long stabil;          /* PPS stability (read-only);
                           see NOTES for units */
    long jitcnt;          /* PPS count of jitter limit exceeded
                           events (read-only) */
    long calcnt;          /* PPS count of calibration intervals
                           (read-only) */
    long errcnt;          /* PPS count of calibration errors
                           (read-only) */
    long stbcnt;          /* PPS count of stability limit exceeded
                           events (read-only) */
    int  tai;             /* TAI offset, as set by previous ADJ_TAI
                           operation (seconds, read-only,
                           since Linux 2.6.26) */
    /* Further padding bytes to allow for future expansion */
};
```

```
};
```

The *modes* field determines which parameters, if any, to set. (As described later in this page, the constants used for **ntp\_adjtime()** are equivalent but differently named.) It is a bit mask containing a bitwise-*or* combination of zero or more of the following bits:

**ADJ\_OFFSET**

Set time offset from *buf.offset*. Since Linux 2.6.26, the supplied value is clamped to the range (−0.5s, +0.5s). In older kernels, an **EINVAL** error occurs if the supplied value is out of range.

**ADJ\_FREQUENCY**

Set frequency offset from *buf.freq*. Since Linux 2.6.26, the supplied value is clamped to the range (−32768000, +32768000). In older kernels, an **EINVAL** error occurs if the supplied value is out of range.

**ADJ\_MAXERROR**

Set maximum time error from *buf.maxerror*.

**ADJ\_ESTERROR**

Set estimated time error from *buf.esterror*.

**ADJ\_STATUS**

Set clock status bits from *buf.status*. A description of these bits is provided below.

**ADJ\_TIMECONST**

Set PLL time constant from *buf.constant*. If the **STA\_NANO** status flag (see below) is clear, the kernel adds 4 to this value.

**ADJ\_SETOFFSET** (since Linux 2.6.39)

Add *buf.time* to the current time. If *buf.status* includes the **ADJ\_NANO** flag, then *buf.time.tv\_usec* is interpreted as a nanosecond value; otherwise it is interpreted as microseconds.

**ADJ\_MICRO** (since Linux 2.6.26)

Select microsecond resolution.

**ADJ\_NANO** (since Linux 2.6.26)

Select nanosecond resolution. Only one of **ADJ\_MICRO** and **ADJ\_NANO** should be specified.

**ADJ\_TAI** (since Linux 2.6.26)

Set TAI (Atomic International Time) offset from *buf.constant*.

**ADJ\_TAI** should not be used in conjunction with **ADJ\_TIMECONST**, since the latter mode also employs the *buf.constant* field.

For a complete explanation of TAI and the difference between TAI and UTC, see *BIPM* (<http://www.bipm.org/en/bipm/tai/tai.html>)

**ADJ\_TICK**

Set tick value from *buf.tick*.

Alternatively, *modes* can be specified as either of the following (multibit mask) values, in which case other bits should not be specified in *modes*:

**ADJ\_OFFSET\_SINGLESHOT**

Old-fashioned **adjtime()**: (gradually) adjust time by value specified in *buf.offset*, which specifies an adjustment in microseconds.

**ADJ\_OFFSET\_SS\_READ** (functional since Linux 2.6.28)

Return (in *buf.offset*) the remaining amount of time to be adjusted after an earlier **ADJ\_OFFSET\_SINGLESHOT** operation. This feature was added in Linux 2.6.24, but did not work correctly until Linux 2.6.28.

Ordinary users are restricted to a value of either 0 or **ADJ\_OFFSET\_SS\_READ** for *modes*. Only the superuser may set any parameters.

The *buf.status* field is a bit mask that is used to set and/or retrieve status bits associated with the NTP

implementation. Some bits in the mask are both readable and settable, while others are read-only.

**STA\_PLL** (read-write)

Enable phase-locked loop (PLL) updates via **ADJ\_OFFSET**.

**STA\_PPSFREQ** (read-write)

Enable PPS (pulse-per-second) frequency discipline.

**STA\_PPSTIME** (read-write)

Enable PPS time discipline.

**STA\_FLL** (read-write)

Select frequency-locked loop (FLL) mode.

**STA\_INS** (read-write)

Insert a leap second after the last second of the UTC day, thus extending the last minute of the day by one second. Leap-second insertion will occur each day, so long as this flag remains set.

**STA\_DEL** (read-write)

Delete a leap second at the last second of the UTC day. Leap second deletion will occur each day, so long as this flag remains set.

**STA\_UNSYNC** (read-write)

Clock unsynchronized.

**STA\_FREQHOLD** (read-write)

Hold frequency. Normally adjustments made via **ADJ\_OFFSET** result in dampened frequency adjustments also being made. So a single call corrects the current offset, but as offsets in the same direction are made repeatedly, the small frequency adjustments will accumulate to fix the long-term skew.

This flag prevents the small frequency adjustment from being made when correcting for an **ADJ\_OFFSET** value.

**STA\_PPSSIGNAL** (read-only)

A valid PPS (pulse-per-second) signal is present.

**STA\_PPSJITTER** (read-only)

PPS signal jitter exceeded.

**STA\_PPSWANDER** (read-only)

PPS signal wander exceeded.

**STA\_PPSERROR** (read-only)

PPS signal calibration error.

**STA\_CLOCKERR** (read-only)

Clock hardware fault.

**STA\_NANO** (read-only; since Linux 2.6.26)

Resolution (0 = microsecond, 1 = nanoseconds). Set via **ADJ\_NANO**, cleared via **ADJ\_MICRO**.

**STA\_MODE** (since Linux 2.6.26)

Mode (0 = Phase Locked Loop, 1 = Frequency Locked Loop).

**STA\_CLK** (read-only; since Linux 2.6.26)

Clock source (0 = A, 1 = B); currently unused.

Attempts to set read-only *status* bits are silently ignored.

#### **ntp\_adjtime()**

The **ntp\_adjtime()** library function (described in the NTP "Kernel Application Program API", KAPI) is a more portable interface for performing the same task as **adjtimex()**. Other than the following points, it is identical to **adjtimex()**:

- \* The constants used in *modes* are prefixed with "MOD\_" rather than "ADJ\_", and have the same suffixes (thus, **MOD\_OFFSET**, **MOD\_FREQUENCY**, and so on), other than the exceptions noted in the following points.
- \* **MOD\_CLKA** is the synonym for **ADJ\_OFFSET\_SINGLESLOT**.
- \* **MOD\_CLKB** is the synonym for **ADJ\_TICK**.
- \* There is no synonym for **ADJ\_OFFSET\_SS\_READ**, which is not described in the KAPI.

## RETURN VALUE

On success, **adjtimex()** and **ntp\_adjtime()** return the clock state; that is, one of the following values:

**TIME\_OK** Clock synchronized, no leap second adjustment pending.

**TIME\_INS** Indicates that a leap second will be added at the end of the UTC day.

**TIME\_DEL** Indicates that a leap second will be deleted at the end of the UTC day.

**TIME\_OOP** Insertion of a leap second is in progress.

**TIME\_WAIT**

A leap-second insertion or deletion has been completed. This value will be returned until the next **ADJ\_STATUS** operation clears the **STA\_INS** and **STA\_DEL** flags.

**TIME\_ERROR**

The system clock is not synchronized to a reliable server. This value is returned when any of the following holds true:

- \* Either **STA\_UNSYNC** or **STA\_CLOCKERR** is set.
- \* **STA\_PPSSIGNAL** is clear and either **STA\_PPSFREQ** or **STA\_PPSTIME** is set.
- \* **STA\_PPSTIME** and **STA\_PPSJITTER** are both set.
- \* **STA\_PPSFREQ** is set and either **STA\_PPSWANDER** or **STA\_PPSJITTER** is set.

The symbolic name **TIME\_BAD** is a synonym for **TIME\_ERROR**, provided for backward compatibility.

Note that starting with Linux 3.4, the call operates asynchronously and the return value usually will not reflect a state change caused by the call itself.

On failure, these calls return **-1** and set *errno*.

## ERRORS

**EFAULT**

*buf* does not point to writable memory.

**EINVAL** (kernels before Linux 2.6.26)

An attempt was made to set *buf.freq* to a value outside the range  $(-33554432, +33554432)$ .

**EINVAL** (kernels before Linux 2.6.26)

An attempt was made to set *buf.offset* to a value outside the permitted range. In kernels before Linux 2.0, the permitted range was  $(-131072, +131072)$ . From Linux 2.0 onwards, the permitted range was  $(-512000, +512000)$ .

**EINVAL**

An attempt was made to set *buf.status* to a value other than those listed above.

**EINVAL**

An attempt was made to set *buf.tick* to a value outside the range  $900000/\text{HZ}$  to  $1100000/\text{HZ}$ , where **HZ** is the system timer interrupt frequency.

**EPERM**

*buf.modes* is neither 0 nor **ADJ\_OFFSET\_SS\_READ**, and the caller does not have sufficient privilege. Under Linux, the **CAP\_SYS\_TIME** capability is required.

**ATTRIBUTES**

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes(7)**.

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>ntp_adjtime()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

**CONFORMING TO**

Neither of these interfaces is described in POSIX.1

**adjtimex()** is Linux-specific and should not be used in programs intended to be portable.

The preferred API for the NTP daemon is **ntp\_adjtime()**.

**NOTES**

In struct *timex*, *freq*, *ppsfreq*, and *stabil* are ppm (parts per million) with a 16-bit fractional part, which means that a value of 1 in one of those fields actually means  $2^{-16}$  ppm, and  $2^{16}=65536$  is 1 ppm. This is the case for both input values (in the case of *freq*) and output values.

The leap-second processing triggered by **STA\_INS** and **STA\_DEL** is done by the kernel in timer context. Thus, it will take one tick into the second for the leap second to be inserted or deleted.

**SEE ALSO**

**settimeofday(2)**, **adjtime(3)**, **ntp\_gettime(3)**, **capabilities(7)**, **time(7)**, **adjtimex(8)**, **hwclock(8)**

NTP "Kernel Application Program Interface" (<http://www.slac.stanford.edu/comp/unix/package/rtems/src/ssrlApps/ntpNanoclock/api.htm>)

**COLOPHON**

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