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## Linux, UNIX set the time zone on a per user basis

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Q. We are developing Linux based application and we would like to set the time zone on a per user basis for an individual user.

How do I configure Fedora Core Linux to set the time zone on a per user basis?

A. A time zone is a region of the Earth that has adopted the same standard time, usually referred to as the local time. Most adjacent time zones are exactly one hour apart, and by convention compute their local time as an offset from Greenwich Mean Time.

You can set the time zone [system-wide](#) using this method. However use following instructions to set the time zone on a per user basis.

Most Unix based systems, including Linux and Mac OS X, keep system time as UTC. Rather than having a single timezone set for the whole computer, timezone offsets can vary for different processes. Standard library routines are used to calculate the local time based on the current timezone, normally supplied to processes through the TZ environment variable. This allows users in multiple timezones to use the same computer, with their respective local times displayed correctly to each user. Timezone information is most commonly stored in a timezone database known as zoneinfo

### Procedure - set the time zone on a per user basis

Open user ~/.bashrc or ~/.bash\_profile file using vi text editor and set up TZ environment variable. Append or SET TZ as follows:

```
export TZ="/usr/share/zoneinfo/{TIMEZONE-DIRECTORY}/{TIMEZONE_FILE}>"
```

If your username is vivek and you would like to set TZ to Asia/Calcutta (INDIA IST) type command:

```
# vi /home/top/.bashrc
```

Append following

```
export TZ="/usr/share/zoneinfo/Asia/Calcutta"
```

Save and close the file.

### See also

=> Set the time zone [system-wide](#) using this /etc/localtime file

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