

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [Bind dns](#)

BIND: Clocks are Unsynchronized Error and Solution

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>



Q. I've configured [BIND named TSIG as documented here](#) ^[2]. It worked for some time, but my `/var/log/messages` got the errors as follows:

```
zone example.org/IN: refresh: failure trying master 71.22.11.22#53 (source
0.0.0.0#0): clocks are unsynchronized: 9 Time(s)
zone example.org/IN: refresh: failure trying master 71.22.11.22#53 (source 71.22.11.22#0): clocks are
unsynchronized: 9 Time(s)
```

How do I fix these errors under Debian Linux 64 bit etch server?

A. BIND and many other UNIX / Linux / BSD services depends upon accurate timings. You need to use the Network Time Protocol (NTP), which is a protocol for synchronizing the clocks of computer systems over packet-switched, variable-latency data networks. NTP uses UDP port 123 as its transport layer. It is designed particularly to resist the effects of variable latency by using a jitter buffer. Under Linux / UNIX you can use `ntpd` or `openntpd` software implementation to sync clock.

To install `ntpd` under Debian, enter:

```
# apt-get update
# apt-get install ntp
```

You need `ntp` installed and configured on both master and slave DNS server. Once installed it will automatically sync clock using server specified in `/etc/ntp.conf` file:

```
server 0.debian.pool.ntp.org iburst
server 1.debian.pool.ntp.org iburst
server 2.debian.pool.ntp.org iburst
server 3.debian.pool.ntp.org iburst
```

Once `ntpd` started bind should work without a problem. Reload named to push pending updates:

```
# bind reload
```

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/bind-dns/>

[2] BIND named TSIG as documented here: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/unix-linux-bind-named-configuring-tsig/>