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## Howto: Linux server change or setup the timezone

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**Q.** My timezone is pointing to wrong timezone. How do I setup or change the timezone under Linux operating systems?

**A.** Unix time, or POSIX time, is a system for describing points in time: it is the number of seconds elapsed since midnight UTC on the morning of January 1, 1970, not counting leap seconds.

The definition for time zones can be written in short form as UTC±n (or GMT±n), where n is the offset in hours.



[1]

## Change Linux timezone

Select the method as per your Linux distribution:

### If you are using **Fedora / RHEL / Cent OS Linux**

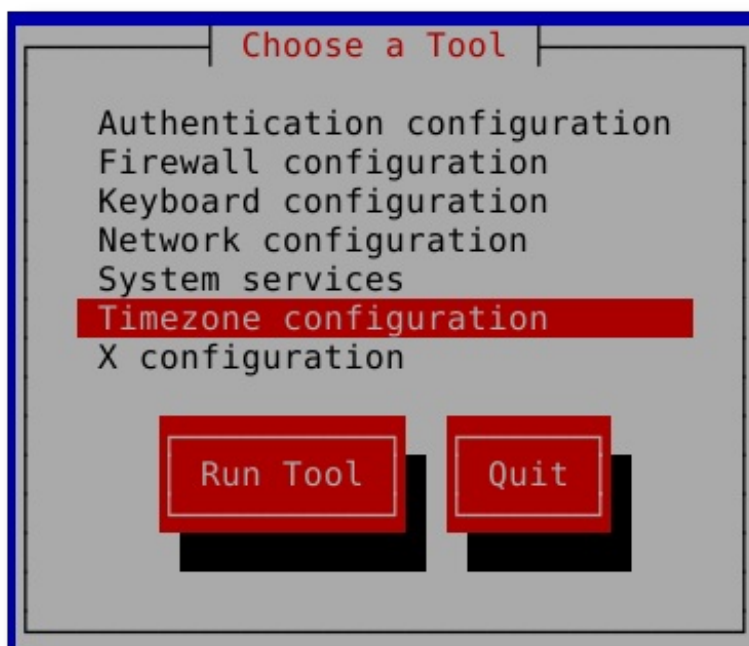
Type the redhat-config-date command at the command line to start the time and date properties tool.

```
# redhat-config-date
```

OR type setup and select time zone configuration (good for remote ssh text based Linux server sessiob)

```
# setup
```

Select timezone configuration



[2]

Fig.01: Redhat / CentOS Server Setting Up Timezone

Now, just follow on screen instructions to change timezone.

## Set timezone using `/etc/localtime` configuration file [any Linux distro]

Often `/etc/localtime` is a symlink to the file `localtime` or to the correct time zone file in the system time zone directory.

### Generic procedure to change timezone

Change directory to `/etc`

```
# cd /etc
```

Create a symlink to file `localtime`:

```
# ln -sf /usr/share/zoneinfo/EST localtime
```

OR some distro use `/usr/share/zoneinfo/dirname/zonefile` format (Red hat and friends)

```
# ln -sf /usr/share/zoneinfo/EST localtime
```

OR if you want to set up it to IST (Asia/Calcutta):

```
# ln -sf /usr/share/zoneinfo/Asia/Calcutta localtime
```

Please note that in above example you need to use directory structure i.e. if you want to set the timezone to Calcutta (India) which is located in the Asia directory you will then have to setup using as above.

Use `date` command to verify that your timezone is changed:

```
$ date
```

Output:

```
Tue Aug 27 14:46:08 EST 2006
```

### Use of environment variable

You can use `TZ` environment variable to display date and time according to your timezone:

```
$ export TZ=America/Los_Angeles  
$ date
```

Sample Output:

```
Thu Aug 27 11:10:08 PST 2006
```

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