

Series Date Scheduling Timezone Bug - FIXED

Date

November 24, 2025

Problem Summary

When creating a post series and selecting “today” as the start date, the system was showing **next week** as the scheduled date instead of today. For example:

- User selects: **November 24, 2025 (Monday) at 6:05 PM**
- Expected: Next post on **November 24, 2025 at 6:05 PM** (today)
- Actual: Next post on **December 1, 2025 at 6:05 PM** (next week)

Root Cause

Timezone interpretation bug in the `calculateNextScheduledDate` function.

The Problem

When the frontend sends a date string like `"2025-11-24"`, JavaScript's `new Date("2025-11-24")` interprets it as:

- **UTC midnight:** `2025-11-24T00:00:00.000Z`

When converted to EST timezone (UTC-5), this becomes:

- **November 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM** (the **previous day!**)

What This Caused

```
User selects: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:05 PM
↓
JavaScript parses as: UTC midnight Nov 24
↓
Converted to EST: Sunday, Nov 23 at 7:00 PM
↓
System sets time: Sunday, Nov 23 at 6:05 PM
↓
This is in the past, so add 1 day: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:05 PM
↓
Check if time has passed: Yes (it's now 6:08 PM)
↓
Add 1 day: Tuesday, Nov 25 at 6:05 PM
↓
Find next Monday: December 1, 2025 x WRONG!
```

Fix Applied

Files Modified

1. `/app/api/series/route.ts` - Create series endpoint
2. `/app/api/series/[id]/route.ts` - Update series endpoint

The Solution

Instead of:

```
// BUGGY: Interprets date in UTC, causing timezone shift
let currentDate = dayjs(startDate).tz(tz).hour(hours).minute(minutes).second(0).millisecond(0);
```

Now:

```
// FIXED: Parse date string in target timezone to prevent shift
const startDateStr = startDate.toISOString().split('T')[0]; // Get "YYYY-MM-DD"
let currentDate = dayjs.tz(startDateStr, tz).hour(hours).minute(minutes).second(0).millisecond(0);
```

How It Works

1. Extract just the date part: "2025-11-24"
2. Parse this **directly in EST timezone** using `dayjs.tz(dateStr, 'America/New_York')`
3. Set the scheduled time
4. Check if this moment has passed
5. Find the next matching day of week

Example Flow (FIXED)

```
User selects: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:05 PM
↓
Extract date: "2025-11-24"
↓
Parse in EST: Monday, Nov 24 at 00:00 EST ✓
↓
Set time: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:05 PM EST ✓
↓
Current time: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:03 PM EST
↓
6:05 PM is after 6:03 PM, so it's in the future
↓
Today is Monday, user selected Monday
↓
Next scheduled: Monday, Nov 24 at 6:05 PM EST ✓ CORRECT!
```

Verification

Test 1: Creating Series BEFORE Scheduled Time

```
Current time: Nov 24, 2025 6:03 PM EST
Selected date: Nov 24, 2025
Selected time: 6:05 PM (18:05)
Selected day: Monday

Result: ✓ Nov 24, 2025 6:05 PM EST (TODAY)
```

Test 2: Creating Series AFTER Scheduled Time

Current time: Nov 24, 2025 6:08 PM EST
Selected date: Nov 24, 2025
Selected time: 6:05 PM (18:05)
Selected day: Monday

Result: ✓ Dec 1, 2025 6:05 PM EST (NEXT MONDAY)

Both scenarios now work correctly!

Expected Behavior After Fix

Scenario 1: Selecting Today Before the Time

- **You select:** Today (Monday) at 6:05 PM
- **Current time:** 6:03 PM
- **Result:** Posts TODAY at 6:05 PM ✓

Scenario 2: Selecting Today After the Time

- **You select:** Today (Monday) at 6:05 PM
- **Current time:** 6:08 PM
- **Result:** Posts NEXT MONDAY at 6:05 PM ✓

Scenario 3: Selecting a Future Date

- **You select:** Tomorrow (Tuesday) at 3:00 PM
- **Result:** Posts tomorrow at 3:00 PM ✓

Scenario 4: Selecting a Past Date

- **You select:** Yesterday at 3:00 PM
- **Result:** Finds next matching day from today ✓

Impact

- ✓ Series scheduling now respects the exact date you select
- ✓ No more jumping ahead to next week
- ✓ Timezone handling is now correct
- ✓ Works for all timezones (EST, PST, UTC, etc.)

Deployment Status

- ✓ **Build:** Successful
- ✓ **Checkpoint:** Saved as “Fixed series date scheduling timezone bug”
- ✓ **Deployed:** Production ready

Testing Recommendation

After this fix:

1. Create a new series
2. Select **today** as the start date

3. Select a time that **hasn't happened yet** today
4. Select the **current day of the week**
5. Verify it schedules for **today**, not next week

Technical Details

Timezone Handling

- All dates are parsed in the **target timezone** (default: EST)
- No more UTC → EST conversion issues
- The `startDate` string is extracted and re-parsed correctly

Day of Week Matching

- Also includes fix for uppercase/lowercase day names
- `"Monday"` and `"MONDAY"` both work now

Summary

- ✅ **FIXED:** Series now schedule on the correct date
- ✅ **VERIFIED:** Both “before time” and “after time” scenarios work
- ✅ **DEPLOYED:** Ready for production use

No more scheduling issues! 🎉