

Hands-on Lab

Remote Server Timezone Configuration



Linux Academy



Cloud Assessments

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In this lab, you will learn how to fix a timezone discrepancy for a server outside of your current location.

Find Your Timezone

Log in to the server using the credentials provided on the Hands-on Lab page.

Before you can update your server's timezone, you must first find out what your current timezone configuration is. To do so, look up your computer's date as the `*root*` user using `date`.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 ~]# date
```

Your server's date, time, and timezone information will appear.

You can also locate your timezone based on the timezone offset `date +%z`. This command shows you the difference between your timezone and the UTC timezone. By default, we are set in the UTC timezone, meaning the time will report back as `+0000`.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 ~]# date +%z  
+0000
```

The second thing you need to do is review the `TZ` variable to see how the timezone is set.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 ~]# echo $TZ
```

If nothing is set, enter the following:

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 ~]# ls -al /etc/localtime
```

You will get a corresponding answer with your date and time pointing to your personal zone information:

```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 23 Jun 25 20:51 /etc/localtime -> /usr/  
share/zoneinfo/UTC
```

To find the timezone you want to change to, use `cd /usr/share/zoneinfo` to change the provided directory and review the timezones you can change your server to.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 ~]# cd /usr/share/zoneinfo  
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 zoneinfo]# ll
```

From the list, select the time zone that matches your needs. For this example, we will change the directory to `America`.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 zoneinfo]# cd America
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 America]# ll
```

All possible timezones for both North and South America will appear. For this example, we want to designate North America, specifically the United States. To do so, we need to change the directory to the `US`.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 America]# cd ..
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 zoneinfo]# ll
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 zoneinfo]# cd US
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 US]# ll
```

Update the Timezone

To finish updating the timezone, you must create a new symbolic link, as a new link cannot overwrite a previously created one. To create a link between the desired directory timezone and your central file, remove the current symlink, then use the `ln` command to set a new one. For this example, we are using Central time.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 US]# rm /etc/localtime
rm: remove sybolic link `/etc/localtime' ? y
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 US]# ln -s /usr/share/zoneinfo/US/Central /etc/
localtime
```

Once you have created the link, run the `date` command again to make sure that the timezone has updated.

```
[root@ip-10-0-1-216 US]# date
```

The information that appears will reflect your selected timezone.

Review

Making sure that your system reflects the correct timezone is important to keeping your systems on track. All of this information is accessible through graphical applications such as Aptitude and Synaptic, but the LPIC exam will test your knowledge of how to change the timezone from the command line.

Congratulations! You've completed the lab on configuring your remote server timezone!