# WELCOME TO THE TIME ZONE

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#### Where this library fits

IANA tz database This talk "tz.h" concentrates here. "date.h" {My Cppcon 2015 talk was here. Yesterday's talk was here. <chrono> NTP Server OS hardware



#### Philosophy

 This library accurately parses all of the information in the IANA time zone database and presents it to the client with no errors.

http://www.iana.org/time-zones

No excuses.



#### Philosophy



DOMAINS NUMBERS PROTOCOLS ABOUT IANA

#### **Protocol Registries**

**Protocol Registries** 

**Time Zone Database** 

IANA's Performance

**IETF Draft Status** 

#### **Time Zone Database**

The Time Zone Database (often called tz or zoneinfo) contains code and data that represent the history of local time for many representative locations around the globe. It is updated periodically to reflect changes made by political bodies to time zone boundaries, UTC offsets, and daylight-saving rules. Its management procedure is documented in BCP 175: Procedures for Maintaining the Time Zone Database.

#### Latest version

Time Zone Data v. 2016f (Released 2016-07-05) tzdata2016f.tar.gz (305.9kb)
Time Zone Code v. 2016f (Released 2016-07-05) tzcode2016f.tar.gz (190.3kb)



What does "type safety" mean?

```
civil_time
f(int y, int m, int d, int h, int mn, int s)
{
    // Do some computations ...
    return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
}
```

Assuming civil\_time has a constructor taking 6 ints, this compiles.



What does "type safety" mean?

```
civil_time
f(int y, int m, int d, int h, int mn, int s)
{
    // Do some computations ...
    return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
}
```

Oops!
Run-time error!



What does "type safety" mean?

```
civil_time
f(year y, month m, day d, hours h, minutes mn, seconds s)
{
    // Do some computations ...
    return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
}
```

Assuming civil\_time has a constructor taking 6 different corresponding types, this **does not** compile.



What does "type safety" mean?

```
civil time
f(year y, month m, day d, hours h, minutes mn, seconds s)
    // Do some computations ...
    return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
        error: no viable conversion from 'minutes' to 'month'
            return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
        error: no viable conversion from 'month' to 'minutes'
            return {y, mn, d, h, m, s};
```



- What does "type safety" mean?
- "Type safety" means that if you accidentally mix concepts (units or whatever), the compiler catches the mistake for you, before it becomes a run-time error.
- Compile-time errors, Good.
- Run-time errors, Bad.

This library stresses type safety.



#### Extension of <chrono>

- This library is a logical extension of <chrono>.
- It does not replace <chrono>.
- It builds upon <chrono>.
- Thus it interoperates with <chrono> seamlessly.
- If you have trouble telling where <chrono> stops and this library begins, that is by design.



## Primary Concepts

- 1. Calendar: A field-based structure that names a day.
  - E.g.: {year, month, day}. No associated time zone.
- 2. sys\_time<D>: A chrono::time\_point based on system\_clock with precision D.
  - Unix Time, which is a very close approximation to UTC.
- 3. local\_time<D>: A chrono::time\_point based on 1970-01-01, with precision D, but *no* associated time zone.
- 4. time\_zone: A geographical area and its full history of time zone rules.
- 5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.



#### Calendars

- 1. Calendar: A field-based structure that names a day.
  - E.g.: {year, month, day}. No associated time zone.

These are all just different ways of giving human readable names to days.



## sys\_time<D>

- 2. sys\_time<D>: A chrono::time\_point based on system\_clock with precision D.
  - Unix Time, which is a very close approximation to UTC.

```
template <class D>
    using sys_time = time_point<system_clock, D>;
Convenience type aliases:
    using sys_seconds = sys_time<seconds>;
    using sys_days = sys_time<days>;
```

Calendar types implicitly convert to and from sys\_days. sys\_days is the *canonical* name for all days which all calendars must translate to and from.



#### local\_time<D>

3. local\_time<D>: A chrono::time\_point based on 1970-01-01, with precision D, but *no* associated time zone.

```
template <class D>
   using local_time = time_point<local_t, D>;
```

Convenience type aliases:

```
using local_seconds = local_time<seconds>;
using local_days = local_time<days>;
```

Calendar types explicitly convert to and from local\_days.

The exact same math is used for local\_days conversion as is used for sys\_days conversion.



#### time\_zone

4. time\_zone: A geographical area and its full history of time zone rules.

A time\_zone can be located with:

auto tz = locate\_zone("America/Los\_Angeles");

The computer's current time zone is:

auto tz = current\_zone();



5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.

A zoned\_time represents the local\_time in the time\_zone.

The duration D is always seconds or finer.

```
cout << make_zoned("America/Los_Angeles",
    local_days{2016_y/sep/20} + 16h + 45min) << '\n';</pre>
```

2016-09-20 16:45:00 PDT

make\_zoned is a factory function for zoned\_time which deduces the required precision.



5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.

sys\_time can also be used to construct a zoned\_time:

Both of these output the same time (in PDT).



5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.

Alternative calendars fold in seamlessly:

Both of these output the same time (in PDT).



5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.

Handle arbitrary precision seamlessly:

Both of these output the same time (in PDT).



5. zoned\_time<D>: A pairing of a local\_time<D> and a time\_zone.

This outputs the current local time in Los Angeles:

This outputs the current local time in the current local time zone:

2016-09-20 17:23:56.048936 PDT



# Convert One Time Zone to Another

2016-05-02 14:00:00 BST

When a zoned\_time is constructed from another zoned\_time, their UTC equivalents are matched.



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 05:15 PM PDT



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

```
auto pdt_now = make_zoned(current_zone(), utc_now);
cout << format("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z\n", pdt_now);</pre>
```

Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 05:15 PM PDT

```
auto lt_now = pdt_now.get_local_time();
cout << format("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z\n", lt_now);</pre>
```

std::runtime\_error: Can not format local\_time with %Z



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

```
auto pdt_now = make_zoned(current_zone(), utc_now);
cout << format("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z\n", pdt_now);</pre>
```

Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 05:15 PM PDT

```
auto lt_now = pdt_now.get_local_time();
cout << format("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p\n", lt_now);</pre>
```

Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 05:15 PM



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

- format can format:
  - sys\_time<D>
  - zoned\_time<D>
  - local\_time<D>
    - Exception thrown if %Z or %z is used with local\_time.



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

Prefix your format calls with any std::locale your OS supports.

The global locale is the default.

Ti, Syy 20 2016 at 05:15 pm



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

%S and %T output fractional seconds to the precision of the input time point.

```
cout << format("%F %T\n", utc_now);
2016-09-21 00:15:37.269308</pre>
```

```
cout << format("%F %T\n", floor<seconds>(utc_now));
2016-09-21 00:15:37
```



The function format takes strftime-like format flags and a time point, and returns a std::string.

"Wide" format strings return "wide" std strings.

```
wcout << format(L"%F %T\n", utc_now);
2016-09-21 00:15:37.269308</pre>
```



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

```
system_clock::time_point utc_tp;
istringstream in{"Wed, Sep 21 2016 at 12:15 AM UTC"};
in >> parse("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z", utc_tp);
cout << utc_tp << '\n';</pre>
```

2016-09-21 00:15:00.000000

The istream iostate flags will be set accordingly (which may throw ios\_base::failure).



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

```
istringstream in{"Wed, Sep 21 2016 at 12:15 AM UTC"};
in >> parse("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z", utc_tp);
```

%Z requires a time zone abbreviation but has no impact on the value parsed.



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

```
std::string s;
istringstream in{"Wed, Sep 21 2016 at 12:15 AM UTC"};
in >> parse("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %Z", utc_tp, s);
```

One can optionally recover the abbreviation parsed by %Z into a basic\_string<CharT, Traits>.

s == "UTC"



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

```
system_clock::time_point utc_tp;
istringstream in{"Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 5:15 PM -0700"};
in >> parse("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M %p %z", utc_tp);
cout << utc_tp << '\n';</pre>
```

2016-09-21 00:15:00.000000

Use of %z combined with a sys\_time<D> will interpret the input data as a local time and will use the offset to convert to UTC.



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

Use of %z combined with a local\_time<D> will interpret the input data as a local time, requires the offset to be parsed, but then ignores it in assigning the local time value.



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

Optionally one can supply a minutes duration to parse into.



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

```
local_time<milliseconds> local_tp;
istringstream in{"Tue, Sep 20 2016 at 5:15:37.002 PM"};
in >> parse("%a, %b %d %Y at %I:%M:%S %p", local_tp);
cout << local_tp << '\n';</pre>
```

2016-09-20 17:15:37.002

%S and %T will parse sub-second precision if the input time\_point has sub-second precision.



The function parse parses a basic\_istream<CharT, Traits> according to a basic\_string<CharT, Traits> format, into a sys\_time<D> or local\_time<D>.

- parse can parse:
  - sys\_time<D>
  - local\_time<D>



## local\_time Arithmetic

local\_time arithmetic across daylight saving boundaries is safe and easy.

This outputs the time of a 9am meeting for 4 days across a daylight saving boundary.



## local\_time Arithmetic

```
auto meeting = make_zoned("America/New_York",
                          local_days\{mar/11/2016\} + 9h);
for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i)
    cout << meeting << " == "</pre>
         << format("%F %T %Z\n", meeting.get_sys_time());
    meeting = meeting.get_local_time() + days{1};
   2016-03-11 09:00:00 EST == 2016-03-11 14:00:00 UTC
   2016-03-12 09:00:00 EST == 2016-03-12 14:00:00 UTC
   2016-03-13 09 00:00 EDT == 2016-03-13 13 00:00 UTC
   2016-03-14 09:00:00 EDT == 2016-03-14 13:00:00 UTC
```



## local\_time Arithmetic

If your local\_time arithmetic results in an ambiguous or non-existent local time, an exception will be thrown.

Otherwise it will do what is intuitively the right thing.

sys\_time arithmetic will unapologetically do exactly what it advertises to do, never resulting in an exception.



## sys\_time Arithmetic

```
auto meeting = make_zoned("America/New_York",
                           local_days\{mar/11/2016\} + 9h);
for (int i = 0; i < 4; ++i)
    cout << meeting << " == "</pre>
         << format("%F %T %Z\n", meeting.get_sys_time());
    meeting = meeting.get_sys_time() + days{1};
   2016-03-11 09:00:00 EST == 2016-03-11 14:00:00 UTC
   2016-03-12 09:00:00 EST == 2016-03-12 14:00:00 UTC
   2016-03-13 10.00:00 EDT == 2016-03-13 14.00:00 UTC
   2016-03-14 \10.00:00 EDT == 2016-03-14 \14.00:00 UTC
```



Given: 2016-09-20 17:15:37 PDT

How do you convert "PDT" into a time zone?

In general, you can't.

But this library gives you enough tools to give you a fighting chance.

```
istringstream in{"2016-09-20 17:15:37 PDT"};
local_seconds tp;
string abbrev;
parse(in, "%F %T %Z", tp, abbrev);
auto v = find_by_abbrev(tp, abbrev);
```



```
template <class Duration>
auto
find_by_abbrev(local_time<Duration> tp, const string& abr) {
 vector<zoned_time<common_type_t<Duration, seconds>>> r;
 for (auto const& z : get_tzdb().zones) { // Wow!!
    auto i = z.get_info(tp);
    switch (i.result) {
      case local_info::unique:
      case local_info::ambiguous:
      case local_info::nonexistent:
  return r;
```



```
auto i = z.get_info(tp);
switch (i.result) {
  case local_info::unique:
    if (i.first.abbrev == abr)
      r.push_back(make_zoned(&z, tp));
    break;
  case local_info::ambiguous:
  case local_info::nonexistent:
}
```



```
auto i = z.get_info(tp);
switch (i.result) {
  case local_info::unique:
  case local_info::ambiguous:
    if (i.first.abbrev == abr)
      r.push_back(make_zoned(&z, tp, choose::earliest));
    else if (i.second.abbrev == abr)
      r.push_back(make_zoned(&z, tp, choose::latest));
    break;
  case local_info::nonexistent:
```



```
auto i = z.get_info(tp);
switch (i.result) {
  case local_info::unique:
  case local_info::ambiguous:
   case local_info::nonexistent:
     break;
}
```



```
istringstream in{"2016-09-20 17:15:37 PDT"};
local_seconds tp;
string abbrev;
parse(in, "%F %T %Z", tp, abbrev);
auto v = find_by_abbrev(tp, abbrev);
for (auto const& zt : v)
 cout << format("%F %T %z ", zt)</pre>
       << zt.get_time_zone()->name() << '\n';
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Dawson
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Los_Angeles
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Tijuana
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Vancouver
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Whitehorse
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 PST8PDT
```



Perhaps you can choose among these timezones with some additional information about your situation.

```
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Dawson
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Los_Angeles
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Tijuana
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Vancouver
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 America/Whitehorse
2016-09-20 17:15:37 -0700 PST8PDT
```



Say you get a time\_zone without knowing its name:

```
auto tz = current_zone();
auto zt = make_zoned(tz, system_clock::now());
```

Is there a way to serialize this time such that its time\_zone can be recovered 100% of the time?



Say you get a time\_zone without knowing its name:

```
auto tz = current_zone();
auto zt = make_zoned(tz, system_clock::now());
```

Is there a way to serialize this time such that its time\_zone can be recovered 100% of the time?

Time zone abbreviations (%Z) can be ambiguous.

Time zone offsets (%z) can give you the correct UTC time but still don't give you the time zone. To relate past and future time stamps known to be in the same time zone, you need to know the time zone rules.



Say you get a time\_zone without knowing its name:

```
auto tz = current_zone();
auto zt = make_zoned(tz, system_clock::now());
cout << format("%F %T ", zt) << tz->name() << '\n';
2016-09-20 17:15:37.151362 America/Los_Angeles</pre>
```

Use the time\_zone name instead of an abbreviation.



Now you can parse it back in like this:

By using the name of the time\_zone in place of the abbreviation you've recovered 100% of the information about this time stamp and how it relates to past and future time stamps in the same time\_zone.



- system\_clock (sys\_time<D>) ignores the existence of leap seconds (as if the clock stops ticking during the leap second). This is unspecified, but the de facto standard.
- Thus sys\_time<D> subtraction across a leap second insertion doesn't count the leap second.
- Leap second insertion dates are part of the IANA timezone database.
- This library presents that data as utc\_clock, utc\_time<D>, and conversions between utc\_time<D> and sys\_time<D>.



```
auto start = to_utc_time(sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} - 400ms);
auto end = start + 2s;
for (auto utc = start; utc < end; utc += 200ms) {
    auto sys = to_sys_time(utc);
    std::cout << utc << " UTC == " << sys << " SYS\n";
 2015-06-30 23:59:59.600 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.600 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:59.800 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.800 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.000 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.999 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.200 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.999 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.400 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.999 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.600 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.999 SYS
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.800 UTC == 2015-06-30 23:59:59.999 SYS
 2015-07-01 00:00:00.000 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:00.000 SYS
 2015-07-01 00:00:00.200 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:00.200 SYS
```



```
auto t0 = sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} - 200ms;
auto t1 = sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} + 200ms;
cout << t1 - t0 << '\n';</pre>
```

#### 400ms

```
auto t0 = to_utc_time(sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} - 200ms);
auto t1 = to_utc_time(sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} + 200ms);
cout << t1 - t0 << '\n';</pre>
```

1400ms



```
auto t0 = sys_days{2016_y/jul/1} - 200ms;
auto t1 = sys_days{2016_y/jul/1} + 200ms;
cout << t1 - t0 << '\n';</pre>
```

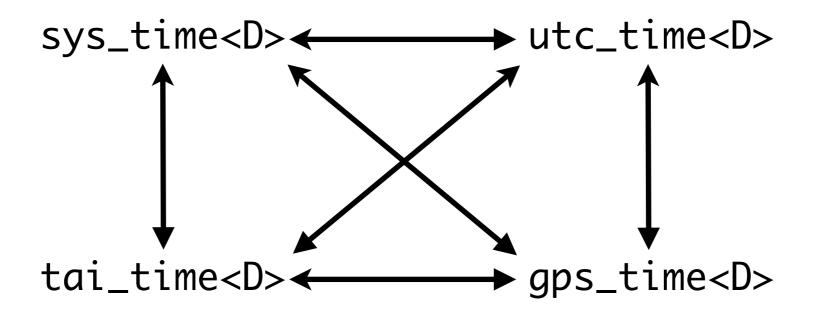
#### 400ms

```
auto t0 = to_utc_time(sys_days{2016_y/jul/1} - 200ms);
auto t1 = to_utc_time(sys_days{2016_y/jul/1} + 200ms);
cout << t1 - t0 << '\n';</pre>
```

400ms



- There also exists tai\_clock and gps\_clock.
- Bidirectional conversions exist between all four time\_points via to\_xxx\_time(t) free functions.





```
auto start = to_utc_time(sys_days{2015_y/jul/1} - 400ms);
auto end = start + 2s;
for (auto utc = start; utc < end; utc += 200ms) {
    auto tai = to_tai_time(utc);
    std::cout << utc << " UTC == " << tai << " TAI\n";
 2015-06-30 23:59:59.600 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:34.600 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:59.800 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:34.800 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.000 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:35.000 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.200 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:35.200 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.400 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:35.400 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.600 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:35.600 TAI
 2015-06-30 23:59:60.800 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:35.800 TAI
 2015-07-01 00:00:00.000 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:36.000 TAI
 2015-07-01 00:00:00.200 UTC == 2015-07-01 00:00:36.200 TAI
```



## Summary

- A timezone library has been presented which is:
  - An extension of <chrono>.
  - Type safe.
  - Full functionality.
  - Presents all IANA TimeZone data.
  - Leap-second aware.
  - https://howardhinnant.github.io/date/tz.html

