Network Time
Options for Updating Mac OS X
by Richard Glaser

New Time Servers

- New Time Server(s)
  - Campus Servers
    - time-a.utah.edu
    - time-b.utah.edu

  - DNS Round Robin
    - time.utah.edu

  - Old servers time service off on Feb 11
    - ns.utah.edu
    - fiber.utah.edu

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Why use campus service?

- Accurate time on client
- Better Support & Troubleshooting
  - Will be used with other centralized services
  - Easier to correlate issues
    - Log Files
    - Bandwidth Usage
    - Interface Statistics
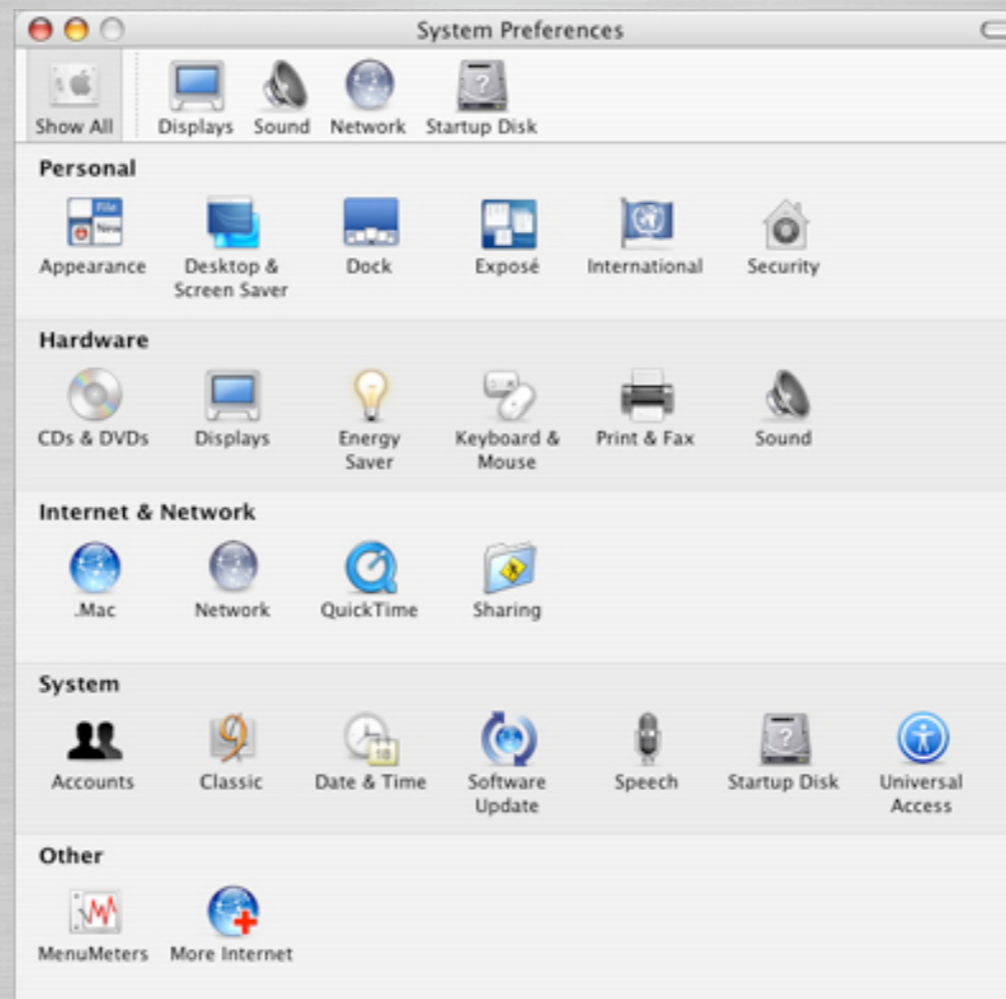   - Loss of Connectivity
    - Dropped Packets

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Setting Network Time

- System Preferences

- Apple Remote Desktop 2.x

- Directly edit ntp.conf

- Script
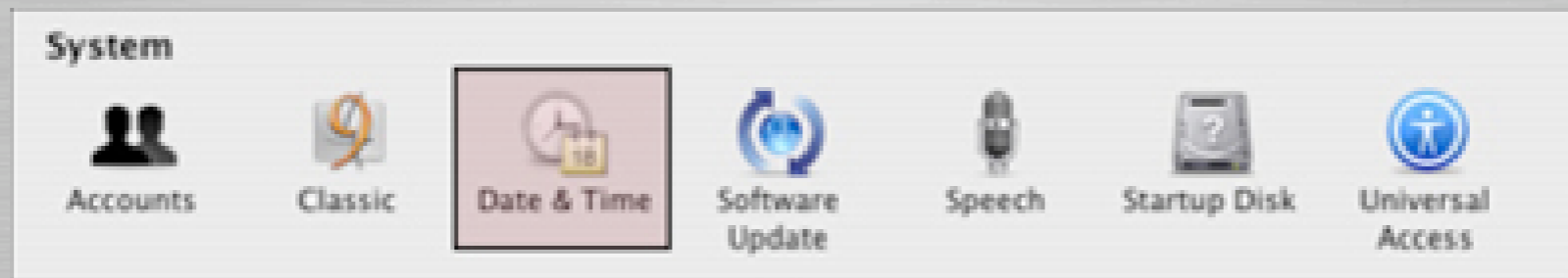
- Etc.

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System Preferences

- Open System Preferences

System Preferences
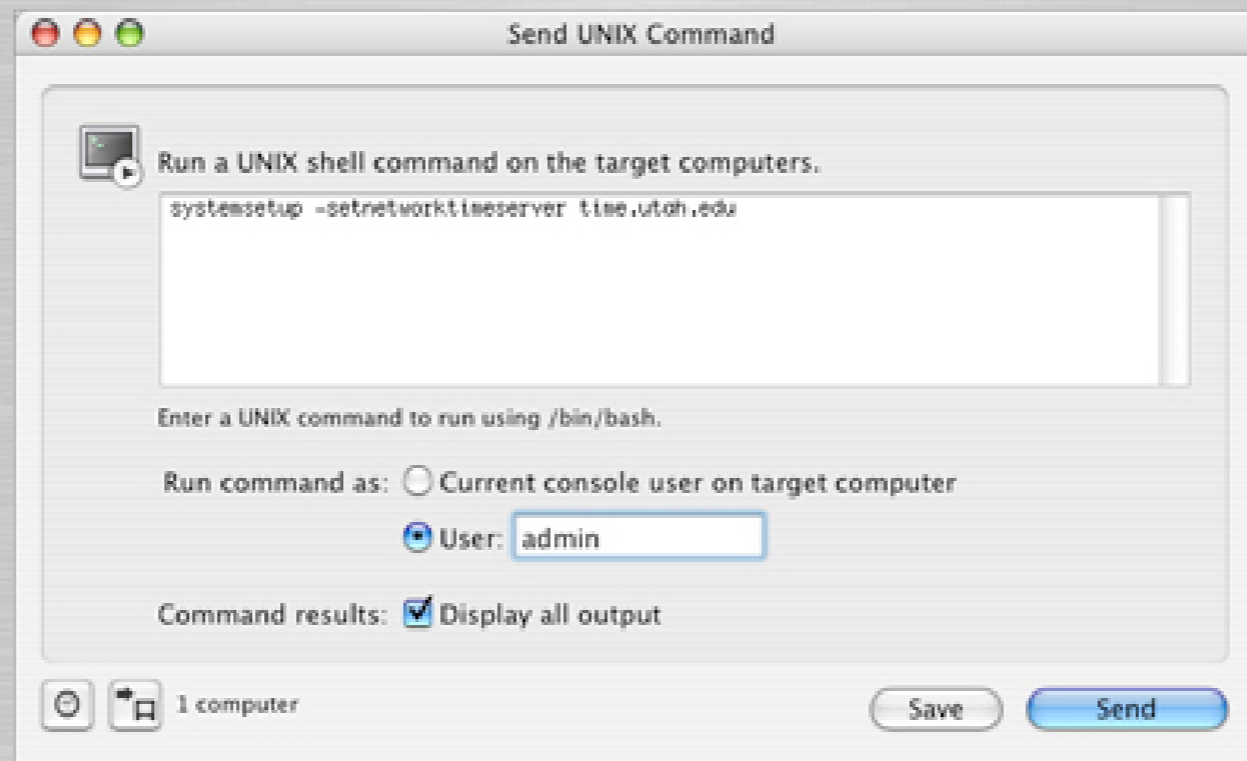
- Select "Date & Time" icon...

System Preferences

- Enter time.utah.edu...

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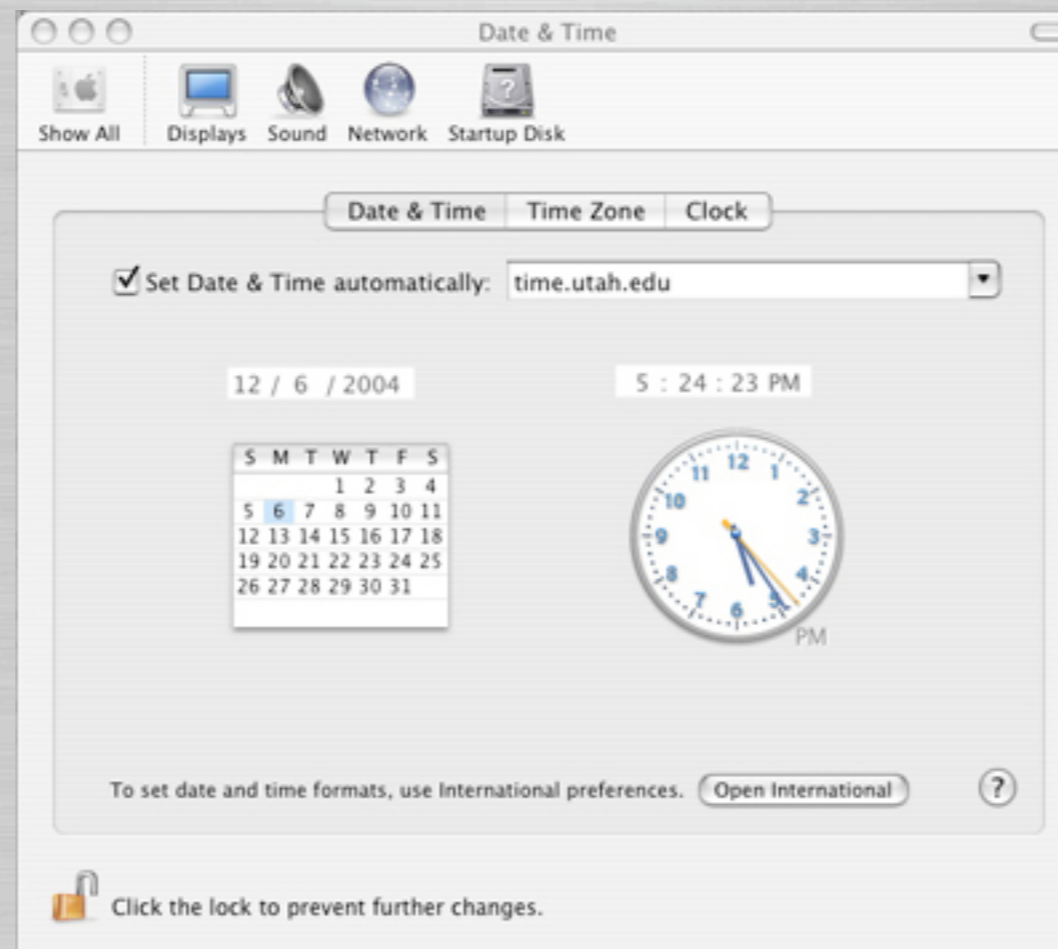
ARD 2.x

- Use Send Remote UNIX Command

systemsetup -setnetworktimeserver time.scl.utah.edu

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ARD 2.x

Other useful commands...

- Display whether network time is on or off
  systemsetup -getusingnetworktime

- Set using network time to either <on> or <off>
  systemsetup -setusingnetworktime <on off>

- Display network time server
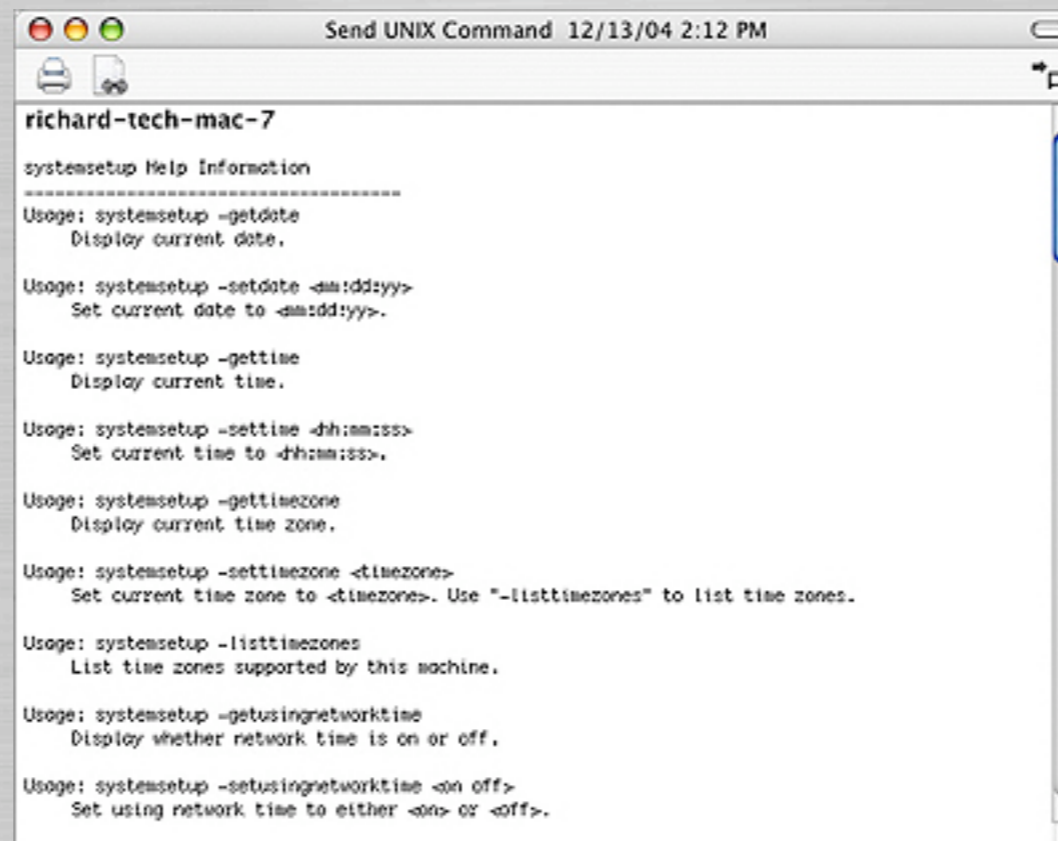 systemsetup -getnetworktimeserver

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ARD 2.x

More useful commands...

- Display current time zone
  systemsetup -gettimezone

- Set current time zone to <timezone>
  systemsetup -settimezone <timezone>

- List time zones supported by this machine
  systemsetup -listtimezones

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ARD 2.x

- More info on systemsetup
  systemsetup -help

Edit ntp.conf

- Use favorite text editor

- Edit /private/etc/ntp.conf

- Basic format:
  server <timeserver> minpoll <#> maxpoll <#>

- Example:
  server time.utah.edu minpoll 12 maxpoll 17

- Could use ARD or Radmind to distribute

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Script

- Could use a script

- Useful if you aren't managing clients

  - ARD 2.x

  - Radmind

- GUI Wrapper

  - More end-user friendly

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Script

```
#!/bin/sh
#
# script to enable time syncing on Mac OS X.

if  [ `uname -s` != "Darwin" ]; then
     echo "error: script must only be run on Darwin systems"
     exit 1
fi

# set  this to the NTP server hostname
TIMESERVER=time.utah.edu

# ntp.conf data
TIMECONFIG="$TIMESERVER minpoll 12 maxpoll 17"

# set proper values in NetInfo for ntpd (Mac OS X 10.0 and 10.1?)
niutil -create / /config/ntp
niutil -createprop / /config/ntp server $TIMECONFIG
niutil -resync /

# and set file data, just in case (Mac OS X 10.2?)
echo "server $TIMECONFIG" > /etc/ntp.conf

# enable  timesyncing in startup preferences file
if grep ^TIMESYNC /etc/hostconfig >/dev/null; then
     perl -i -ple 's/-NO-/-YES-/ if /^TIMESYNC/' /etc/hostconfig
else
     echo "TIMESYNC=-YES-" >> /etc/hostconfig
fi
```

Resources

- U of U - Netcom

  http://www.netcom.utah.edu/helpdesk/computerhelp/ntpconfig.html

- U of U - Mac Mgrs

  http://www.macos.utah.edu/ntp/

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Questions & Answers

Any questions or answers?