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
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
Setting Network Time

- System Preferences
- Apple Remote Desktop 2.x
- Directly edit ntp.conf
- Script
- Etc.
System Preferences

Open System Preferences

[Image of System Preferences window]
System Preferences

Select “Date & Time” icon...
System Preferences

Enter time.utah.edu...
ARD 2.x

Use Send Remote UNIX Command

```
systemsetup -setnetworktimeserver time.scl.utah.edu
```
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`
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
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
Script

Could use a script

Useful if you aren’t managing clients

• ARD 2.x

• Radmind

GUI Wrapper

• More end-user friendly
#!/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/
Questions & Answers

Any questions or answers?