

Machine management: Why do machines not show the correct time?

Symptom:

Machines show arbitrary system times, often days or weeks in the past.

Probable Causes:

There are a few common causes for this problem ...

- Machines synchronise their system (software) clocks with the hardware clock on the servers on booting up. If the hardware clock is set incorrectly, the system clock gets arbitrary values.
- Machines can be configured to use the **Network Time Protocol** to keep times in sync. Either the machine is not configured to use NTP, or the NTP server pointed to is unreachable or defunct.

Recommendations:

Corresponding to the reasons outlined above here are a few steps that can be followed to resolve the issue

- Set the correct time/timezone on the hardware clock of the server and configure the machine to read the hardware clock as local time (not UTC).
- Set up the machine to use an NTP server for synchronization. The {avatar_c} server comes pre-configured as an NTP server you can use for this purpose.
- [Configure a Windows machine to read the hardware clock as local time](#)

Unique solution ID: #1062

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Last update: 2012-03-07 05:44