

How to Change the Timezone on the Linux Server?

written by sysadmin | 21 February 2025

When you install Linux on a server for the first time, you are asked to select the regional zone where the server is located so that Linux will create the date and the time on the server based on that zone. But sometimes you want to change the timezone on your Linux server.

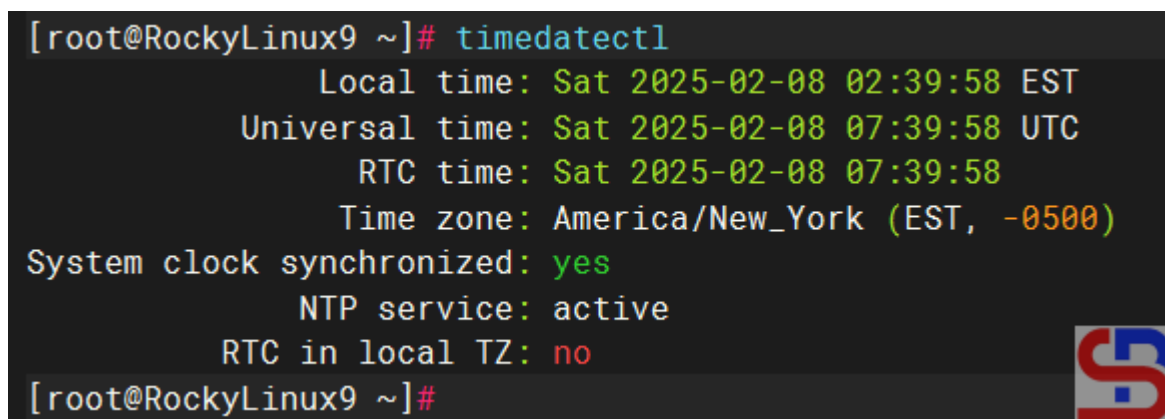
Problem

How to change the timezone on the Linux server?

Solution

To see the timezone currently used on the server, you can use the command:

```
timedatectl
```



```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]# timedatectl
    Local time: Sat 2025-02-08 02:39:58 EST
    Universal time: Sat 2025-02-08 07:39:58 UTC
    RTC time: Sat 2025-02-08 07:39:58
    Time zone: America/New_York (EST, -0500)
System clock synchronized: yes
    NTP service: active
    RTC in local TZ: no
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]#
```

The timedatectl command

From the image above, the server's time zone is in the American region in the New York area. To see the timezone provided by Linux, use the following command:

```
timedatectl list-timezones
```

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]# timedatectl list-timezones
```

```
Africa/Abidjan  
Africa/Accra  
Africa/Addis_Ababa  
Africa/Algiers  
Africa/Asmara  
Africa/Asmera  
Africa/Bamako  
Africa/Bangui  
Africa/Banjul  
Africa/Bissau  
Africa/Blantyre  
Africa/Brazzaville  
Africa/Bujumbura  
Africa/Cairo  
Africa/Casablanca  
Africa/Ceuta  
Africa/Conakry
```



List of timezones

If you want to change the timezone to Singapore, then you can type the command below:

```
timedatectl set-timezone Asia/Singapore
```

Then the time on the server will change to Singapore time, as in the image below:

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]# timedatectl set-timezone Asia/Singapore
```

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]#
```

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]# timedatectl
```

```
Local time: Sat 2025-02-08 15:42:03 +08
```

```
Universal time: Sat 2025-02-08 07:42:03 UTC
```

```
RTC time: Sat 2025-02-08 07:42:03
```

```
Time zone: Asia/Singapore (+08, +0800)
```

```
System clock synchronized: yes
```

```
NTP service: active
```

```
RTC in local TZ: no
```

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]#
```



After updating the timezone

Note

Apart from using the `timedatectl` command, you can also use the command below:

```
tzselect
```

There is a list of the continents. Select the number that corresponds to the zone you want. For example, I choose Singapore as the timezone on my server, then I will choose number 5 for Asia, and will choose Singapore in the country selection, as in the image below:

```
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]# tzselect
Please identify a location so that time zone rules can be set correctly.
Please select a continent, ocean, "coord", or "TZ".
 1) Africa                7) Europe
 2) Americas              8) Indian Ocean
 3) Antarctica            9) Pacific Ocean
 4) Asia                  10) coord - I want to use geographical coordinates.
 5) Atlantic Ocean        11) TZ - I want to specify the timezone using the Posix TZ format.
 6) Australia
#? 4
Please select a country whose clocks agree with yours.
 1) Afghanistan          11) Christmas Island    21) Iraq                 31) Lebanon              41) Qatar                51) Thailand
 2) Antarctica           12) Cocos (Keeling) Islands 22) Israel                32) Macau                42) Russia               52) Turkmenistan
 3) Armenia              13) Cyprus               23) Japan                33) Malaysia            43) Réunion              53) United Arab Emirates
 4) Azerbaijan           14) East Timor           24) Jordan               34) Mongolia            44) Saudi Arabia         54) Uzbekistan
 5) Bahrain              15) French S. Terr.      25) Kazakhstan          35) Myanmar (Burma)     45) Seychelles           55) Vietnam
 6) Bangladesh          16) Georgia              26) Korea (North)       36) Nepal                46) Singapore            56) Yemen
 7) Bhutan               17) Hong Kong            27) Korea (South)       37) Oman                 47) Sri Lanka
 8) Brunei               18) India                28) Kuwait               38) Pakistan            48) Syria
 9) Cambodia             19) Indonesia            29) Kyrgyzstan          39) Palestine            49) Taiwan
10) China                20) Iran                 30) Laos                 40) Philippines          50) Tajikistan
#? 46
The following information has been given:
Singapore
peninsular Malaysia
Therefore TZ='Asia/Singapore' will be used.
Selected time is now: Sat Feb 8 15:44:52 +08 2025.
Universal time is now: Sat Feb 8 07:44:52 UTC 2025.
Is the above information OK?
 1) Yes
 2) No
#? 1
You can make this change permanent for yourself by appending the line
TZ='Asia/Singapore'; export TZ
to the file '.profile' in your home directory; then log out and log in again.
Here is that TZ value again, this time on standard output so that you
can use the /usr/bin/tzselect command in shell scripts:
Asia/Singapore
[root@RockyLinux9 ~]#
```

Alternative to change the timezones

Once finished, the script in the red box must be inserted into the **.profile** or **.bashrc** file (if there is no **.bashrc** file on the server, then create the file manually). After that, use the command:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

Then the timezone on the server will change.

References

linuxize.com

wikihow.com

baeldung.com

askubuntu.com

superuser.com