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Daylight Savings Reminder

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 has changed the beginning of daylight savings to the second Sunday in March instead of the first Sunday in April, and the end of daylight savings to the first Sunday in November instead of the last Sunday in October. This year, daylight savings will begin on March 11th and end on November 3rd. Most modern computers (both servers and personal computers) automatically adjust the system time to accommodate daylight savings. If your systems are recent (less than 18 months old) or have been regularly patched, you probably will not experience problems with this year’s change. To ensure that you do not run into problems with your system time, please take some time to verify that your current release is compliant and apply any necessary patches as needed before daylight savings arrives.

AIX

For AIX users, additional information can be found at

<http://www14.software.ibm.com/webapp/set2/sas/f/enews/2006/10/DSTupdate.html>:

Setting your DST manually (to be used for out of support versions, such as AIX 4.3.3, or where the customer wants to update the system DST setting without applying any software fixes)

You can manually specify when to start and stop DST by setting the TZ environment variable in the /etc/environment file.

Examples for the four most common US time zones are as follows:

Timezone	TZ Variable Setting
Eastern US	TZ=EST5EDT,M3.2.0,M11.1.0
Central US	TZ=CST6CDT,M3.2.0,M11.1.0
Mountain US	TZ=MST7MDT,M3.2.0,M11.1.0
Pacific US	TZ=PST8PDT,M3.2.0,M11.1.0

In the TZ variable example above, the first three characters represent the name of the time zone when not observing DST, such as "EST" for "Eastern Standard Time". The first numeral to appear reflects the number of hours behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC); for example, EST is 5 hours behind UTC. The next three characters represent the name of the time zone when observing DST, such as "EDT" for "Eastern Daylight Time". Following the time zone names is a comma-separated rule for when the location begins and ends observance of DST:

"M3.2.0" means to begin observing DST starting in month 3 (March), week 2, and Day 0 (Sunday) = second Sunday in March. "M11.1.0" means to end observing DST on the first Sunday in November. If no DST rules are specified in the TZ variable, then the system will select the rules based on the US defaults. If a DST rule is manually specified, then the system defaults do not get used and the aforementioned APARs become unnecessary.

Since no time is specified, the default is 02:00:00 for the time change.

These correspond to the new US rules for 2007 and beyond. Once updated, the TZ environment variable will not need to be adjusted again (unless a new law changes the rules). Locations outside the US may need to set the rule to a different month or week number to reflect their own local DST observances.

More detail about setting the TZ variable can be found in the "[AIX documentation for /etc/environment](#)".

NOTE: Reboot the system before March 11, 2007 so all processes running will pick up the new time change.

To patch your system so it will correctly adjust for daylight savings, AIX 5.3 users should make sure they have filesets bos.rte.libc.5.3.0.40 and bos.adt.prof.5.3.0.40 or higher; AIX 5.2 users should make sure they have filesets bos.rte.libc.5.2.0.85 and bos.adt.prof.5.2.0.85 or higher. Please note, it is **not** necessary to make the environment change described above if you have the current filesets installed on your server.

RedHat Linux

For Linux users, information regarding changes to daylight savings can be found at http://kbase.redhat.com/faq/FAQ_80_7909.shtm. The exact steps to patch your system for the new daylight savings support or to manually adjust the system will depend on the release of RedHat installed on your server (and each has its own link on the referenced page.)

HP-UX

HP-UX users can refer to information at

<http://h20000.www2.hp.com/bizsupport/TechSupport/Document.jsp?lang=en&cc=us&objectID=c00832124> to determine what patch is required for your given release level.

Most other operating system providers (including Microsoft and Apple for your PC platforms) have also provided updates to accommodate the automatic switching of daylight savings for the new requirements. Please refer to your vendor's web site(s) to obtain additional, release specific information. In most cases if you are running a non-supported version of a product, you should be able to manually adjust the time by one hour when daylight savings begins on Sunday March 11th (and then it will probably need to be re-adjusted on Sunday April 1st when your system would try to automatically adjust for daylight savings.) If you manually adjust the time on your server, please be sure to reboot immediately so any memory resident processes will recognize the change (and also restart the online inventory processor and PLU processor phantoms if you have POS*Liberty.)

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If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please send them to Jessica at jksobonya@ratex.com.