

Re: Alternative clock display

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- *From:* Tim Hubberstey <bogus@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 08 Jun 2005 16:42:28 GMT
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Jim Thompson wrote:

On Wed, 08 Jun 2005 04:10:44 GMT, Tim Hubberstey <bogus@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

If you're running Windows 2000 (and probably XP), there is an NTP client built into the OS (called W32time, IIRC). All you need to do is enable it and point it at a server.

All I can find on my Win2K system is w32time.dll

How do you use it?

Socketwatch queries multiple servers. It's presently showing 11 active servers.

Sorry, I don't remember the exact process for setting it up. I'll tell you what I remember.

1. w32time.dll runs as a service named "Windows Time". In addition to syncing with a NTP server, it also figures out a fudge factor for your PC's clock and applies it to maintain accuracy between server queries. Find it in the Admin Tools -> Services tool and change the startup type to "Automatic".

2. Open a DOS box and type:
NET TIME /SETSNTP[:ntp server list]

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You may need to reboot to have this take effect. If things are working, you should have registry entries something like this:

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[HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\W32Time\Parameters]
"LocalNTP"=dword:00000000
"Period"="SpecialSkew"
"type"="NTP"
"ntpserver"="timelord.uregina.ca"
"Adj"=dword:0001873c
"msSkewPerDay"="603.0000"
```

There is a white paper on setting up the service on the Micro\$oft website. I think I found it by searching for NTP or SNTP. There is also documentation in the Windows help system.

I was using the US Navy NTP server (TICK/TOCK...), but I found it to be very unreliable. It is possible (and not unreasonable) that it was filtering out-of-country requests so YMMV.

It was a bit of a pain to setup initially, but it has been chunking along without intervention for quite a while now.

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