

Re: GPS Unit for Timekeeping on Linux?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2004-11/0874.html>

From: W. Watson (wolf_tracks_at_invalid.inv)

Date: 11/15/04

Date: Mon, 15 Nov 2004 11:08:33 GMT

Seagull wrote:

> W. Watson <wolf_tracks_at_invalid.inv> wrote:
>
>>Doesn't that imply that I'm in constant communication with some remote
>>device, or on a global network? I need the accurate time 7/24.
>
>
> Not necessarily constant.
>
> I guess it comes down to, exactly what kind of accuracy do you require,
> and for what application? GPS will get you time to within a second,
> but it's more expensive than occasionally syncing your PC to a network
> time server which can do the same. If you have a particularly nasty clock
> drift problem, sync more often (1/day instead of 1/week).
>
> Now, if you can't ever connect to a global network, then something like
> GPS is a good option. But we see a lot of people on here asking to
> use GPS for getting the time for applications where something like NTP
> can do the job for free. So, it's only natural that the regulars here
> question the initial assumption.
>
>
> Cheers,
> --+JLS
>

I have a meteor application that operates a camera from sundown to sunrise, and the more accurate the times the better. Right now the drift is in the order of several minutes per month. Syncing once a day might do the trick, but I'd like to see it automated, so that I wouldn't have to dial up the internet. If the application were near my most frequently used computer, the one in my house, I'd probably be inclined to manually update the time by the network every day; however, it is a building 100 feet away and going out there every day is not something I think about much.

I know there are manual techniques in Linux to refine the times, but I don't presently have a lot of confidence in them. In particular, it appears if Linux goes down unexpectedly, one gets to start all over with the refinement. My system seems to crash about once every two weeks. I could be wrong about having to start almost from

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scratch on the refinement. It's something I should explore.

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(121.015 Deg. W, 39.262 Deg. N) GMT-8 hr std. time)
Obz Site: 39° 15' 7" N, 121° 2' 32" W, 2700 feet
(Formerly Homo habilis, erectus, heidelbergensis and now sapiens)
"The only title in our democracy superior to that of President
is the title of citizen." -- Louis D. Brandeis
Web Page: <home.earthlink.net/~mtnviews>