

Re: ?????

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From: Dan Rempel (*hurty_at_flurty*)

Date: 08/01/04

Date: Sun, 01 Aug 2004 08:50:11 -0700

Kevin Wayne Williams wrote:

> *Dan Rempel wrote:*

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>> *Kevin Wayne Williams wrote:*

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>>> *necoandjeff wrote:*

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>>>> *"Joseph Irwin" <gtg519g@NOSPAMmail.gatech.edu> wrote in message*

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>>>>> *Funny story about clocks and Japanese electricity... Let's just say,*

>>>>> *never depend on an American alarm clock that doesn't use batteries if*

>>>>> *you're in Tokyo and want to wake up on time. Luckily I woke up anyway,*

>>>>> *but it could have been bad.*

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>>>> *Must have been one of those old analog clocks.*

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>>> *Many digital AC clocks will do that. The cheapest and most stable*

>>> *readily available timing source is the 60Hz timing from the wall socket.*

>>> *Every 120 zero crossings is a second, and power companies make sure it*

>>> *stays accurate. Used to be that they would even run very slightly fast*

>>> *to compensate after brief outages, but I think the modern interconnected*

>>> *power grids have made that trick impossible.*

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>> *FWIW, I think they are still able to do that out here on the left coast:*

>> *the clock on my microwave stays accurate to within a second for months*

>> *on end (using WWV as a reference).*

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> *Sure. When it's working, its accurate everywhere, even out here in*

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sci.lang.japan: Re: ?????

- > *California. Used to be that the power company could run at 60.5 Hz for a*
- > *while to make up for being out for a few seconds, and everyone's*
- > *electromechanical clocks would catch up. I don't think they can do that*
- > *anymore. It wouldn't make much sense to, anyway. Most clocks just go*
- > *into blink mode after an outage these days, and won't catch up at all.*

Right. Now that I'm awake, I realize that even if Hydro played the frequency-shift game, it wouldn't affect something like a digital clock in my microwave; must be an especially good crystal in the thing. Still, I thought the companies were still mandated to provide the correction, even if it's no longer possible (jeez, is this off topic).

Dan