

Re: Do you think 12:00pm is noon or midnight?

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- *From:* Seán O'Leathlóbhair <jwlawler@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jul 2007 04:04:31 -0700
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On 12 Jul, 09:31, "Paul J Kriha" <paul.nospam.kr...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

"Harlan Messinger" <hmessinger.removet...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:5fk5h0F3cr2bpU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:5fk5h0F3cr2bpU1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Seán O'Leathlóbhair wrote:

Does 12:00 necessarily mean the period 12:00:00 to 12:00:59.999... rather than 11:59:30 to 12:00:29.999...? In other words, does a time in whole minutes necessarily represent a truncation rather than a rounding of the true time?

Are you sure you didn't mean time just after 11:59:30 to 12:00:30 exactly.. :-)

We are in danger of wandering too deep into maths here. If you read my 999... as an endless sequence of 9s then it will be the same as 12:00:30. What I was trying to informally indicate was the range  $11:59:30 \leq \text{time} < 12:00:30$  so that the lower limit was included but the upper was not. With the most common form of rounding, 12:00:30 would go to 12:01.

Suppose it's 2:04 or so, and you have a digital clock reading hours and minutes that you want to synch with a source that shows the time in seconds. I think most people would try to arrange it so that 2:06 on the clock kicks in when the source shows 12:06:00 rather than when it shows 12:05:30.

Hey, rounding is more PC.  
Unfortunately it leads to vicious wars over the methods of rounding.

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It can matter with money, fractions of a penny or cent can add up to a significant amount in a bank's accounts.

However, in this case, I just wanted to point out that for an analogue device, rounding was more likely than truncation. For example, when the two hands of my watch are both on 12 (as far as I can tell) then the time is close to 12:00 but may be slightly before as well as slightly after. With a digital device, it would as Harlan says, 12:00 or slightly after but not before.

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Seán Ó Leathlóbhair

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