

Timezone conversion using date

Many users may already use `date` to check the time from a console, but this week we're going to show you how it can be used to convert timezones. For example, most Gentoo announcements are timestamped in UTC. To convert a time to your timezone, use the following, which uses `/etc/localtime` to determine the target timezone:

Code Listing 1: Converting to the local timezone

```
% date -d '17:00 UTC'
Sun Mar 28 12:00:00 EST 2004
```

If you want to convert to a different timezone, you can set the `TZ` environment variable to the appropriate timezone. There's a pitfall here: if GNU `date` doesn't find `TZ` in `/usr/share/zoneinfo`, it'll fall back to `/etc/localtime` without warning or error, so be careful. Here's an example of doing the reverse conversion from the previous example:

Code Listing 2: Converting to UTC

```
% TZ=UTC date -d '12:00 EST'
Sun Mar 28 17:00:00 EST 2004
```

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