

## 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
```

From <http://www.gentoo.org/news/en/gwn/20040329-newsletter.xml>

```
image:rdf newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rdf.png (null)
|
image:rss newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/rss.png (null)
|
image:Atom newsfeed / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/atom.png (null)
- Powered by
image:LeopardCMS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/leopardcms.png (null)
- Running on
image:Gentoo / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/gentoo.png (null)
-
Copyright 2004-2020 Sascha Nitsch Unternehmensberatung GmbH
image:Valid XHTML1.1 / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/xhtml1.png (null)
:
image:Valid CSS / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/css.png (null)
:
image:buttonmaker / //static.linuxhowtos.org/data/buttonmaker.png (null)
- Level Triple-A Conformance to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 -
- Copyright and legal notices -
Time to create this page: ms
<!--
image:system status display / /status/output.jpg (null)
-->
bodyloaded();
```