

Linux System Variables

Date, time, language

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Locale, Date & Time

Locale

In Linux, a locale is a set of environment variables that defines the language, country, and character encoding settings for a user's environment. Locales affect various aspects of a program's behavior, such as the way dates and times are displayed, the format of numbers, the sort order of strings, and the language used for messages.

View locale configuration

```
localectl
```

and

```
locale
```

View specific locale variable option

```
locale LC_NUMERIC
```

View available locales

```
localectl list-locales
```

Setting locale

```
localectl set-locale LANG=fr_FR.utf8
```

(reboot may be required)

Time

Check system time

```
date
```

or for more detail

```
timedatectl
```

NTP

View current NTP configuration:

```
timedatectl show-timesync --all
```

Enable NTP

```
timedatectl set-ntp on
```

Disable NTP

```
timedatectl set-ntp off
```

NTP Server selection

Most mainstream Linux distributions come with NTP servers preconfigured, these can be altered however, this is done via the `/etc/systemd/timesync.conf` file. Simply add a new line to the file formatted as follows:

```
NTP=NTPSERVERHOSTNAME
```

Timezone

Check available timezones

```
timedatectl list-timezones
```

Set server timezone

```
timedatectl set-timezone timezonename
```

Hostname

Show current server hostname:

```
hostname
```

Show current server hostname, and other useful info:

```
hostnamectl status
```

example output:

```
root@test:~# hostnamectl status
Static hostname: test
    Icon name: computer-vm
    Chassis: vm
    Machine ID: 8c1d97558b594586af68685af4a049c9
    Boot ID: c2478c600d2b43f0bf58682f1df01013
Virtualization: kvm
Operating System: Ubuntu 22.04.3 LTS
    Kernel: Linux 5.15.0-106-generic
    Architecture: x86-64
Hardware Vendor: QEMU
Hardware Model: Standard PC _i440FX + PIIX, 1996_
```

Change server hostname: