
Subject: IDL Time Zones?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sun, 28 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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It seems that the SYSTIME() function doesn't work always under IDL. SYSTIME(0) is supposed to print the *local* time, but it doesn't under my Linux system. Here are two examples.

CORRECT EXAMPLE:

```
IDL> print, !version & print, systime(0) & spawn, 'date'
{ alpha OSF unix 5.2 Oct 30 1998}
Sun Mar 28 17:58:13 1999
Sun Mar 28 17:58:14 EST 1999    ;; <----- OK, the times match here
```

INCORRECT EXAMPLE:

```
IDL> print, !version & print, systime(0) & spawn, 'date'
{ x86 linux unix 5.1 Apr 13 1998}
Mon Mar 29 02:15:11 1999    ;; <----- NO, this is GMT, not local!!!
Sun Mar 28 21:15:11 EST 1999
```

Clearly the system time zone is set correctly, because "date" gets it right (and the TZ environment variable has no effect).

I would be interested in seeing if other systems have this error. I couldn't find this on the RSI web page. Is it documented anywhere?

Craig

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