
Subject: Re: Get time and date from a server using a socket
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Fri, 27 Feb 2009 09:19:51 GMT
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bernat wrote:

> Thanks Allan,
>
> Ok, I can reject NTP to get the time from external server.
> That's true that maybe is the firewall who blocks the communication
> but I think that my code (read a simple string on port 13) should
> works. The IDL help, shows this same example and I wanna find my
> purpose
>
> More suggestions ?
>
>

The following works for me:

```
IDL> socket, lun, 'time-a.nist.gov', 13, /get_lun
IDL> mystring=""
IDL> readf, lun, mystring
IDL> readf, lun, mystring
IDL> free_lun, lun
IDL> print, mystring
54889 09-02-27 08:52:23 00 0 0 807.6 UTC(NIST) *
```

Note that this timeserver seems to first return a blank line and then on the next line it returns the actual time. I don't know if daytime is supposed to do this or not. Maybe that is what was causing you a problem.

For port 37, I guess the way to go is something like this:

```
IDL> socket, lun, 'time-a.nist.gov', 37, /get_lun,/swap_endian
IDL> data=0ul
IDL> readu, lun, data
IDL> free_lun, lun
IDL> print, data
3444714975
IDL> print, data / 60 / 60 / 24 / 365.26
109.152
```

where data is the number of seconds since 1/1/1900. The 109 and a wee-bit years seems sensible. YMMV with the need to use /swap_endian.

Maybe there is a function to do the (non-trivial) conversion for you in IDL, I'm not sure - it's certainly not a case of just assuming there are 365.26 days in a year (which may not even be true).

Thanks,

Allan
