

How to Set the Timezone on Ubuntu 24.04

Learn how to set the timezone on Ubuntu 24.04 with step-by-step instructions for both GUI and command line methods. Keep your system time accurate and synchronized.

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Introduction

Setting the timezone on Ubuntu 24.04 allows you to ensure the correct system time for time-sensitive tasks such as log management, creating CronJobs, running applications, and user-specific tasks. A timezone determines the system's clock settings necessary to perform tasks at correct intervals.

This article explains how to set the timezone on Ubuntu 24.04. You will use the `timedatectl` utility to check and set the timezone to align with your region or application-specific needs.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, you need to:

- Have access to an [Ubuntu 24.04 instance](#).

Check the Active Timezone

Check and verify the active timezone before changing the timezone on Ubuntu 24.04 to recover the initial configuration in case of any errors. `timedatectl` is a built-in utility that lets you view and manage timezones on Ubuntu. Follow the steps below to check the active timezone on your Ubuntu 24.04 workstation.

1. Check the active timezone and time synchronization status.

CONSOLE

```
$ timedatectl
```

Output:

```
Local time: Thu 2025-01-08 14:35:22 UTC
Universal time: Thu 2025-01-08 14:35:22 UTC
RTC time: Thu 2025-01-08 14:35:22
```

```
Time zone: Etc/UTC (UTC, +0000)
System clock synchronized: yes
NTP service: active
RTC in local TZ: no
```

Based on the above output, `Etc/UTC` UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) is the active timezone and the primary time standard on Ubuntu. If the active timezone does not match your needs, follow the sections below to find all available time zones and change the timezone.

List Timezones on Ubuntu 24.04

Follow the steps below to list all available timezones on Ubuntu 24.04.

1. Use the following command to display all available timezones:

CONSOLE

```
$ timedatectl list-timezones
```

Press Space to browse the list of available timezones in your output similar to the one below.

```
Africa/Abidjan
Africa/Accra
.....
America/Adak
America/Anchorage
.....
Antarctica/Troll
Antarctica/Vostok
Arctic/Longyearbyen
.....
Asia/Ashgabat
Asia/Atyrau
Asia/Baghdad
.....
```

2. Run the following command to filter the output using the `grep` command to search for a specific timezone or location. For example, `Bogota`.

CONSOLE

```
$ timedatectl list-timezones | grep "Bogota"
```

Output:

```
America/Bogota
```

Set the Timezone on Ubuntu 24.04

Follow the steps below to set the timezone on your Ubuntu 24.04 workstation.

1. Use the `set-timezone` option to specify a timezone to change on your system.

CONSOLE

```
$ sudo timedatectl set-timezone YOUR_TIMEZONE
```

For example, run the following command to set the timezone to `America/Bogota`.

CONSOLE

```
$ sudo timedatectl set-timezone America/Bogota
```

2. View the active timezone information and verify that the new change is applied.

CONSOLE

```
$ timedatectl
```

Output:

```
Local time: Sun 2025-01-12 22:19:15 -05
Universal time: Mon 2025-01-13 03:19:15 UTC
RTC time: Mon 2025-01-13 03:19:15
Time zone: America/Bogota (-05, -0500)
System clock synchronized: yes
NTP service: active
RTC in local TZ: no
```

Based on the above output, the active timezone is `America/Bogota`.

Conclusion

You have set the timezone on Ubuntu 24.04 using the `timedatectl` utility. Accurate timezone information ensures that your system applications and utilities use accurate time to perform specific tasks. You can [synchronize your system clock with an NTP](#) (Network Time Protocol) server to update the time depending on your needs. For more configuration options, run the `man` `timedatectl` command to view the `timedatectl` manual page.



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