

\FAQ:

Daylight Saving Time (DST) Frequently Asked Questions: Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Q1. What caused the need to change the Daylight Saving Time rules for our hardware and software products?

A1. In the U.S., the Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed the rules for Daylight Saving Time (DST). These new rules will go into effect in March 2007. Canada and Bermuda made similar changes to their DST rules to be consistent with the U.S. time changes. DST rules affect date and time processing functions in computers and applications. If not set properly, the time could be incorrect by one hour for four weeks each year. Since DST rules have been relatively stable in these countries for many years, people have come to rely upon automated adjustments in time in connection with their information technology. In order to support the new DST schedule, updates to affected IBM hardware and software are being provided.

Q2. What are the new dates for the Daylight Saving Time schedule in the U.S., Canada and Bermuda?

A2. Starting in 2007, Daylight Saving Time for the U.S., Canada and Bermuda will be extended by four weeks, starting three weeks earlier on the second Sunday in March and ending one week later on the first Sunday in November. In 2007, DST will start on Sunday, 11 March and will end on Sunday, 4 November.

Q3. Is this an IBM-only issue?

A3. No, Daylight Saving Time rules changes could affect any computers, applications and electronic devices that have built-in DST rules for date and time processing. This is not a vendor specific issue.

Q4. What is affected by the DST changes?

A4. Computers and applications in the U.S., Canada and Bermuda with date and time processing functions will be affected. Computers and applications in other countries that are not implementing the DST changes also could be impacted if they support users, transactions or applications in the countries that are changing DST. Computers and applications that interact with the U.S., Canada or Bermuda on a time sensitive basis should be updated.

Q5. I have no end users in countries which are making the DST change, and all my computers and applications are in a country not making the DST change. Do I need to implement DST changes?

A5. If your computers and applications have no interactions with impacted countries, there may be no immediate need to apply changes for the DST rules. However, it is a good practice to remain current by applying standard maintenance when it is available. All users should assess their systems for possible impact and take appropriate action.

Q6. If I implement DST rules changes in a country which does not need them, will it impact my users?

A6. Properly applied maintenance, with DST rule changes included, are intended to have no negative impact on users.

Q7. I understand that in various parts of the world DST rules have changed many times in

the past. Why is this change different?

A7. This has been a concern in the past. For example, Australian clients had to take action when their DST rules were changed to accommodate the Commonwealth Games in early 2006. This U.S. Energy Act change is likely to impact a high proportion of users because of the economic size of the countries involved in changing DST rules and the number of systems that may have time-sensitive interactions with these countries. In addition, as time goes on, more systems are supporting users in multiple countries. These factors combine to make this a good time to understand this issue, assess the impact on your computers and applications (if any), and plan appropriate action.

Q8. How will I determine if I need to apply changes to my computers, and the software that runs on them?

A8. You should assess your own inventory of software, hardware and operating systems to determine if changes are required to accommodate the DST rules change. You can check your inventory of IBM-sourced products against the list of affected IBM products at this support site, <http://www.ibm.com/support/alerts/us/>. In addition, the keyword **DST2007** has been created for use in support databases, such as RETAIN. Clients accustomed to accessing and searching for specific maintenance changes directly can use this keyword to identify DST rules changes easily.

Q9. Are all of the IBM product changes to DST rules available now?

A9. Some IBM products have changes that can be applied now. For some IBM products, DST rules changes are planned to be available in the next regularly scheduled release of maintenance. For others, the DST rules changes are planned to be available independent of the next regularly scheduled maintenance release. Specific information on the IBM products impacted, along with schedules for product maintenance to include DST changes, are available at this IBM support site, <http://www.ibm.com/support/alerts/us/>

Q10. Will DST rules changes be made available for all IBM hardware and software products?

A10. DST rules changes will be made available for all affected IBM products that currently are supported. Customers who have purchased extended support from IBM should contact the IBM Support Center regarding updates for the new DST rules for those products.

Q11. Can the DST change be made by simply updating the system clock?

A11. This is not recommended. If the former DST rules still are defined in your system, a simple change of the clock will not change the DST rules that are used in time and date calculations. Required changes for IBM supported products are provided at this IBM Support site <http://www.ibm.com/support/alerts/us/>

Q12. My system time is kept up to date by an external time service. Do I need to do anything?

A12. External time services normally only update your system clock and do not change DST rules kept in other parts of your computer or applications. The DST rules need to be changed in all of the places where the rules may be currently kept. Required changes for IBM supported products are provided at this IBM support site, <http://www.ibm.com/support/alerts/us/>

Q13. What will happen if I am not able to complete the DST changes on all of the computers and applications across my enterprise prior to 11 March 2007?

A13. Computers and applications that use local time may be off by one hour for the three weeks in March and one week in November. For example, transaction receipts and other time-sensitive data may have incorrect times for the affected period. Each enterprise must assess whether they

have applications that are time-sensitive with an appropriate level of attention given to any critical work performed. For IBM product specific details see <http://www.ibm.com/support/alerts/us/>

Changes to Daylight Saving Time in 2007

Background information

A provision of the U.S. Energy Policy Act of 2005, extends Daylight Saving Time (DST) in the US by four weeks, beginning in 2007. Systems and applications that process dates and times using the U.S. DST rules will be affected by this change.

How do I know if my systems could be affected?

Date and time processing functions in systems and applications in countries implementing the new DST rules (U.S., Canada, Bermuda) are affected. Systems and applications in countries not implementing the DST changes could be affected if they support users, transactions, or applications involving countries that are implementing the new DST rules. For example, scheduling or synchronizing problems may arise where systems use date or time stamps relating to transactions in other countries. Applications or systems that interact with the U.S. involving calendar notices should be updated. Any time-sensitive functions could be impacted by this change.

What do I need to do to protect my systems and applications?

Many systems and applications can be changed now. This site will help you find the necessary information for affected IBM products, so that you can plan updates to help reduce the risk of application and system failure resulting from this change.