# How to fix clock on Slackware / Slackware and this old incorrect BIOS time troubles

**Author :** admin

There two main reasons which cause incorrect clock settings on Slackware Linux.
One common reason for incorrectly set time is improper clock and timezone settings during Slackware install.

On install, one of the ncruses install menus asks an ambigious dialog question reading

**HARDWARE CLOCK SET TO UTC?**
*Is the hardware clock set to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC/GMT)?*

Some newbie Slackware users make the mistake to choose *YES* here, resulting in incorrectly set clock.

Second possibility for improper time is incorrect time on **BIOS** level. This is not so common among laptop and modern desktop PCs. However in the past impoper system BIOS hardware clock was usual. In any case it is a good practice to check the system *PC BIOS* clock settings.
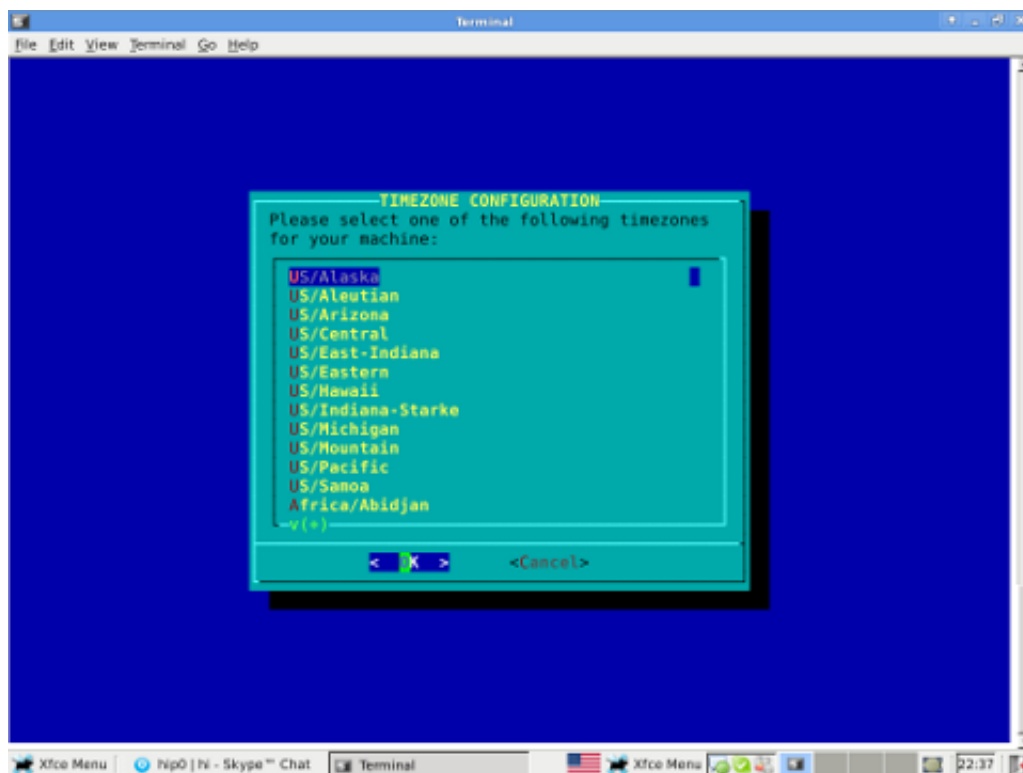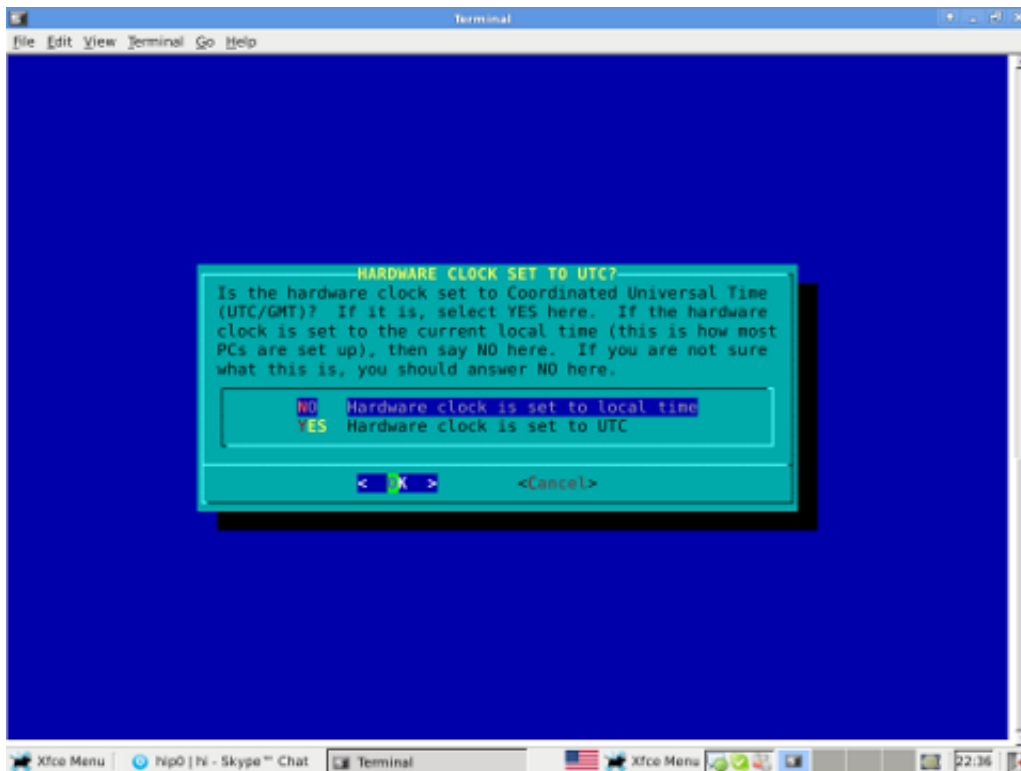
To check BIOS battery hardware clock from command line use:

bash-4.1# hwclock --show
Fri 24 Feb 2012 01:24:18 AM EET -0.469279 seconds

The system clock on **Slackware** is set via a script called **timeconfig**. To fix slack's incorrect host time run:

bash-4.1# timeconfig

Running **timeconfig** once should configure a proper timezone to be set on next system reboot, however the system time will probably still be not ok.

To manually set time to right time, use **date** command. To set manually the system wide time to **12:00:00**

with date:

bash-4.1# date -s "12:00:00"

Anyways for time accuracy the **ntpdate** should be used to feth time from NTP internet time server:

bash-4.1# ntpdate time.nist.gov
...

Finally to make the new set right time permanent also for the BIOS battery clock issue:

bash-4.1# hwclock --systohc

By the way its curious fact **Slackware Linux is the oldest still existent GNU / Linux** based distribution.
Its up and running since the very day GNU and Linux came to merge at one Free OS ;)