

setclocks - set both the hardware clock and the system date

SYNOPSIS

```
setclocks [-hHv] [M/D/Y] [h:m[:s]] [[+][h:]m[:s]]
```

DESCRIPTION

With the `-h` option or with no arguments `setclocks` pipes this manpage to `less`. The `-H` option prints this manpage without piping through `less`. The `-v` option prints the version number.

Otherwise, any arguments are used to set both the hardware clock `hwclock`, and the system date. In this mode, the user needs to be root. This command exists to synchronise these activities. If one was to issue the commands `hwclock` and `date` sequentially, 'by hand', there would inevitably be a few seconds difference between the two, until the next reboot.

Most commonly, one adjusts for drift, i.e. one needs to either set the time forward or back a few minutes and seconds; in this case, the argument required is of the form:

```
[+][hours:]mins[:seconds]
```

where hours, minutes and seconds are integers, and one of + or - must be chosen, and if the hours need to be reset then one must include some number (possibly 0) of seconds.

If one wants to set the time 'absolutely', an argument of the following form is required:

```
hours:minutes[:seconds]
```

using the military 24 hour clock.

Setting the date fields is done via an argument containing 3 integer fields delimited by slashes:

```
month/day/year
```

i.e. we use the American system, as `date` does (it would be too confusing to use the more logical Australian scheme of day first). The month and day arguments are allowed to be single or double-digit integers, and the year can be either a 2-digit or 4-digit integer.

OPTIONS

- `-h`, (or no args) Print this man page, by piping to `less`.
- `-H` Print this man page, but do not pipe to `less`.
- `-v` Print version number and exit.

EXAMPLES

To set the hardware clock and date forward 3 minutes:

```
setclocks +3
```

To set the hardware clock and date back 2 minutes 23 seconds:

```
setclocks -2:23
```

Thu Aug 24 14:32:42 2000 2

To set the hardware clock and date forward 1 hour:

```
setclocks +1:0:0
```

(the seconds here cannot be omitted, otherwise one will be setting the time forward 1 minute!)

To set the current time to 2:23pm:

```
setclocks 14:23:0  
setclocks 14:23
```

(the seconds here can be omitted here).

To set the hardware clock and date to 2:23pm, 25 May 1999:

```
setclocks 5/25/1999 14:23:0  
setclocks 5/25/99 14:23:0  
setclocks 5/25/99 14:23  
setclocks 14:23 5/25/99
```

(the months come first, as with the date command). Unlike the date command, we allow the newtime argument to come first, if one prefers.

CHANGES

Version 1.0: 1999/05/12: First release.

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