

NTPv5 Requirements Draft

Consensus Calls

NTP @ IETF 117

2027-07-28

Goals

- Clarifying open questions in order to help to advance the NTPv5 requirements draft
- Resolve a discrepancy between the current versions of the NTPv5 requirements and the NTPv5 protocol specification draft

Leap second smearing

Question

Currently, the NTPv5 requirement draft states that NTP servers should not apply leap second smearing to transmitted timestamps. Shall NTPv5 support leap second smearing? If yes, shall the NTP server apply leap smearing to the transmitted timestamps or otherwise shall the client perform leap second smearing?

Results

- Rough consensus achieved for support of leap second smearing (> 80%)
- Rough consensus achieved to apply leap second smearing to transmitted timestamps

Leap second smearing

Notes

- Common understanding: During the period of smearing the offset between UTC and smeared time should be provided by the server.

Way forward

- Addition of leap second smearing and dissemination into the NTPv5 requirements draft

NTP Supported Modes

Question

Currently, the NTPv5 requirement draft covers client and server modes (modes 3 and 4) only. Should NTPv5 additionally support the symmetric and broadcast modes (modes 1, 2 and 5) from previous versions of NTP?

Results

- Slight majority prefer supporting Client-Server mode only

Supported Modes

Way forward:

- Rephrase the consensus call
- Suggestion (based on comments of the mailing list)
 - NTPv5 MUST support client-server mode; and MAY support additional modes
 - Additional modes require contributed text or could be specified separately.