

1.0 Introduction

Daylight Saving Time begins for most of the United States at 2 a.m. on the first Sunday of April. Time reverts to standard time at 2 a.m. on the last Sunday of October. (Interesting tidbit: Note that it is Daylight Saving (singular) Time, NOT Daylight SavingS Time. We are saving daylight, so it is singular and not plural.)

There are many great articles available on the web that describes the history and purpose of Daylight Saving Time (which is beyond the scope of this article).

2.0 DST Algorithm

The following algorithm assumes the computer system has access to date/time information. To adjust any clock for Daylight Saving Time, only one reliable piece of information is needed: *What day of the week is it?*

There are two ways to gather the day-of-week information:

- Available as part of the date/time information from a real time clock (*of course, in this case, you will not need to calculate the day-of-week*).
- Calculated based on the current month/day/year information.

2.1 Day-Of-Week Calculation

To calculate the day-of-week, use the following formula (integer math only):

$$\begin{aligned}a &= (14 - \text{month}) / 12 \\y &= \text{year} - a \\m &= (\text{month} + (12 * a)) - 2 \\d &= (\text{day} + y + (y / 4) - (y / 100) + (y / 400) + ((31 * m) / 12)) \bmod 7\end{aligned}$$

The result of “d” is 0 for Sunday, 1 for Monday, 2 for Tuesday, etc.. To avoid confusion, Sunday will be changed from 0 to 7 using a software algorithm shown in the C code example.

Remember: “mod 7” simply means to take the remainder, as in %7 written in C.

2.2 Day-Of-Week Example: December 05, 2002

$$\begin{aligned}a &= (14 - 12) / 12 = 0 \text{ (integer math)} \\y &= 2002 - 0 = 2002 \\m &= (12 + (12 * 0)) - 2 = 10 \\d &= (5 + 2002 + (2002 / 4) - (2002 / 100) + (2002 / 400) + ((31 * 10) / 12)) \bmod 7 \\d &= (2507) - (20) + (5) + (25) \bmod 7 \\d &= 2517 \bmod 7 \text{ (} 2517 / 7 = 359 \text{ with a remainder of } 4\text{)} \\d &= 4 \text{ (Thursday)}\end{aligned}$$

December 5, 2002 falls on a Thursday!

2.3 Time/Date Websites:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/aboutdst.html> - Daylight Saving Time history (nice article!)

<http://www.timeanddate.com> - Will generate calendars for any year to double check your day-of-week calculation.

3.0 C Program Example

There are 3 functions listed in the following code example:

calc_day_of_week() = Used to calculate the day-of-week based on the current day-month-year.

dst_check() = Used to detect daylight saving time change (2:00am, first Sunday in April, and 2:00am last Sunday in October. Flags will be set/cleared to indicate an hour add/subtract from the current time.

dst_clock_adjust() = Used to adjust the system clock back/ahead one hour based on the flags set/cleared in the dst_check() function.

The function example expects to find the system date/time located in the following structure variables:

Time.hr_counter	Current Hour military time
Time.day	Current day of month
Time.day_of_week	Current day of week (1-7, 1= Monday 7=Sunday)
Time.month	Current month (1-12)
Time.year	Current year (00-99) Must add 2000 to year if your clock does not support 4 digit years.

The C code examples were copied from actual project files that use the Dallas 1644 Real time clock. The code examples can be easily adapted to other types of real time clocks.

Daylight Saving Time Algorithm

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3.2 dst_check() cont...

```
    /*** OCTOBER - FALL BACK - SUBTRACT 1 HOUR ***/
    if(time.month == 10)
    {
        // We are in October - see if this is the last Sunday
        if(time.day >= 25)
        {
            // We are in the last week of October - see which day is equal to
            // the last Sunday.
            if(time.day_of_week == 7)
            {
                // Its October, we are currently in the last Sunday, see if
                // its 2:00am - Adjust the time backwards when 2:00am
                // arrives.
                if((time.hr_counter == 2) && (!flags.dst_adjusted))
                {
                    // Its 2:00am - subtract an hour and set the
                    // dst_active_flag
                    // Call the dst_clock_adjust() function to subtract
                    // one hour.
                    dst_clock_adjust(0);
                    flags.dst_adjusted=TRUE; // Only increment one time
                }
            }
        }
    } // end October check

}

/*** Clear the flag.dst_adjusted flag if the hour is NOT equal to 1am or 2am (remember,
// in October the clock is adjusted back an hour to 1:00am - we don't want to adjust
// again when 2:00am is reached for the second time.

if((time.hr_counter < 1) || (time.hr_counter > 2))
{
    // It's not 1:00am or 2:00am - clear the flag
    flags.dst_adjusted = FALSE;
}

}
```


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3.3 dst_clock_adjust() cont...

```
        {  
            // Normal decrement  
            time.temp_hour--;  
        }  
  
    set_realtime_clock();  
    read_realtime_clock();  
}
```