

Technotes



Inside Macintosh: Operating System Utilities: Addendum to Chapter 4 -- Determining If Daylight Savings Time is in Effect

Technote 1064

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While you can set the Daylight Savings Time state from the Date & Time Control Panel and determine what the state is by checking the checkbox in the Control Panel, you can also figure out the state from within your program. This Technote shows you how.

Inside Macintosh: Operating System Utilities, Chapter 4, does not directly explain how you can find out if daylight savings time is in effect. With the MachineLocation data structure `dlsDelta` field, you can find out how the time would have changed, but the field does not tell you whether daylight savings time is in effect.

This Technote is aimed at Macintosh developers who must deal with date and time programming issues.

Using the `dlsDelta` field

The Daylight Savings Time state is stored in the `gmtDelta` field of the MachineLocation structure. The API to access this structure is the Script Manager call `ReadLocation`. Unfortunately, there is not enough documentation on the MachineLocation structure in general and no official standards on the use of the `gmtDelta` field.

Preserving the 3-Byte Value

Currently, the `dlsDelta` field is not being used by Macintosh system software, nor is its meaning defined. It may be used in the future, so it's important that you preserve its current value if you ever use `WriteLocation` to set the value of `gmtDelta`.

The top byte of the `gmtDelta` should be masked off and preserved when writing: it's reserved for future extension. The `gmtDelta` is really a 3-byte value, so you must take care to get and set it properly, as in the following C code examples:

```
#include <OSUtils.h>
```

```
long GetGmtDelta(MachineLocation myLocation)
{
    long    internal GMTDelta;

    internal GMTDelta = myLocation.gmtDelta & 0x00ffffff;
    if ( (internal GMTDelta >> 23) & 1 ) // need to sign extend
```

```

        internal GmtDelta = internal GmtDelta | 0xff000000;
    return (internal GmtDelta);
}

void SetGmtDelta(MachineLocation *myLocation, long myGmtDelta)
{
    char    tempSignedByte;

    tempSignedByte = myLocation->dlsDelta;    // save away high byte
    myLocation->gmtDelta = myGmtDelta;        // make sure not overwritten
    myLocation->dlsDelta = tempSignedByte;    // restore high byte
}

```

A Routine That Checks the State

The following routine shows exactly what you need to do in order to determine if the daylight savings time is on. It is important to note that the `dlsDelta` field is declared to be signed char. If this is not declared, the if condition will always return false, even if the daylight savings time is set to true.

```

#include <OSUtils.h>

int IsDaylightSavingsOn()
{
    int retVal = 0;
    MachineLocation theLocation;

    ReadLocation(&theLocation);
    if (theLocation.u.dlsDelta == (signed char) 0x80) {
        retVal = 1;
    }
    return(retVal);
}

```

Versions of the Date & Time Control Panel greater than 7.1 set the high bit of the high byte if Daylight Savings is checked "on" in the CDEV. The Map CDEF has not yet been revised to use this field. Future versions of Map or Date & Time may use the byte differently, so be sure to use it with caution.

Further Reference

- *Inside Macintosh: Operating System Utilities*
- [Technote TE 510 - International Resource Q&As](#)
- *Develop 14 : Q&As*. Download this article's [Acrobat version](#) (344K).