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How to Change NTP Source on XenServer 5.0

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Summary

This article describes how to change the time source accessed by the Network Time Protocol (NTP) on XenServer 5.

Requirements

XenServer command line interface. Basic Linux CLI knowledge. XenServer 5 console or access to the XenServer CLI via SSH

Background

XenServer 5 ships with a list of Internet NTP servers by default:

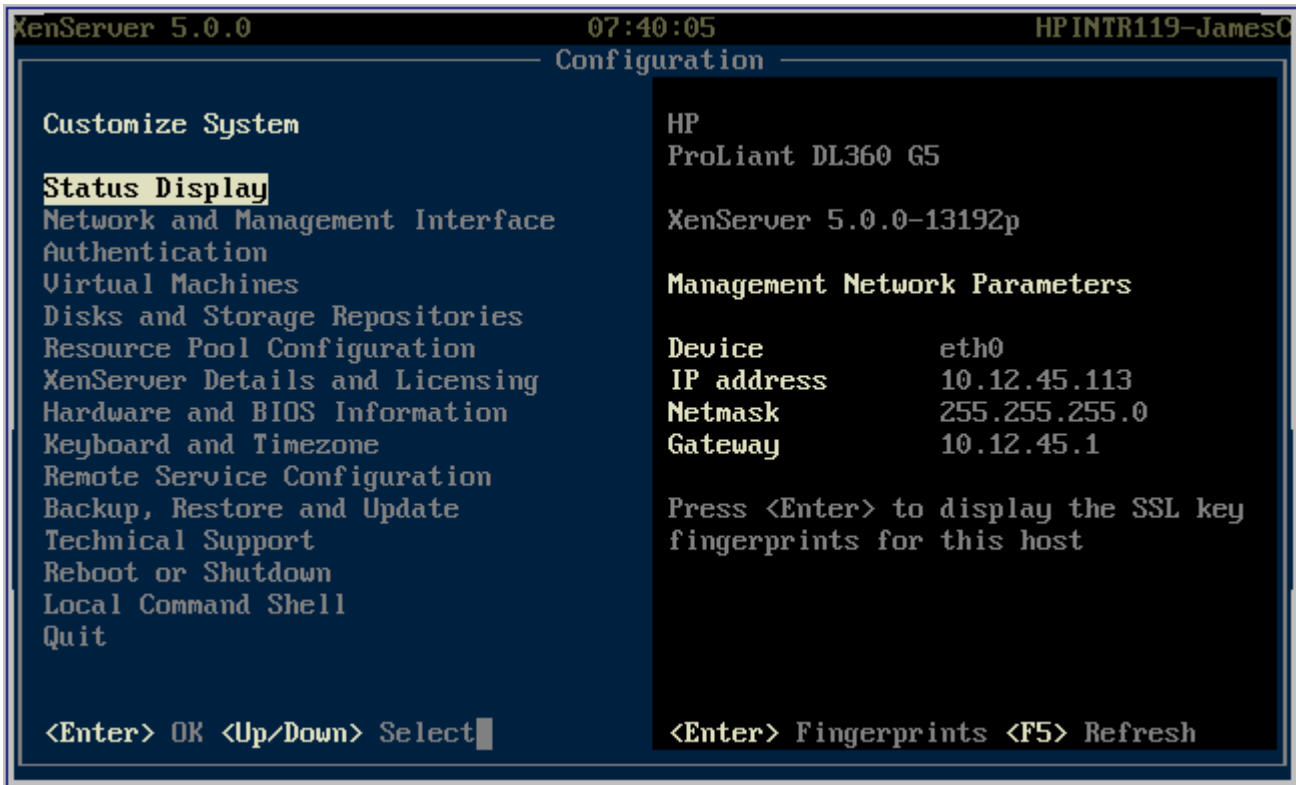
```
0.xenserver.pool.ntp.org
1.xenserver.pool.ntp.org
2.xenserver.pool.ntp.org
3.xenserver.pool.ntp.org
127.127.1.0
```

Note: The listed servers are for internal testing NTP servers, these time servers are not accessible from the Internet.

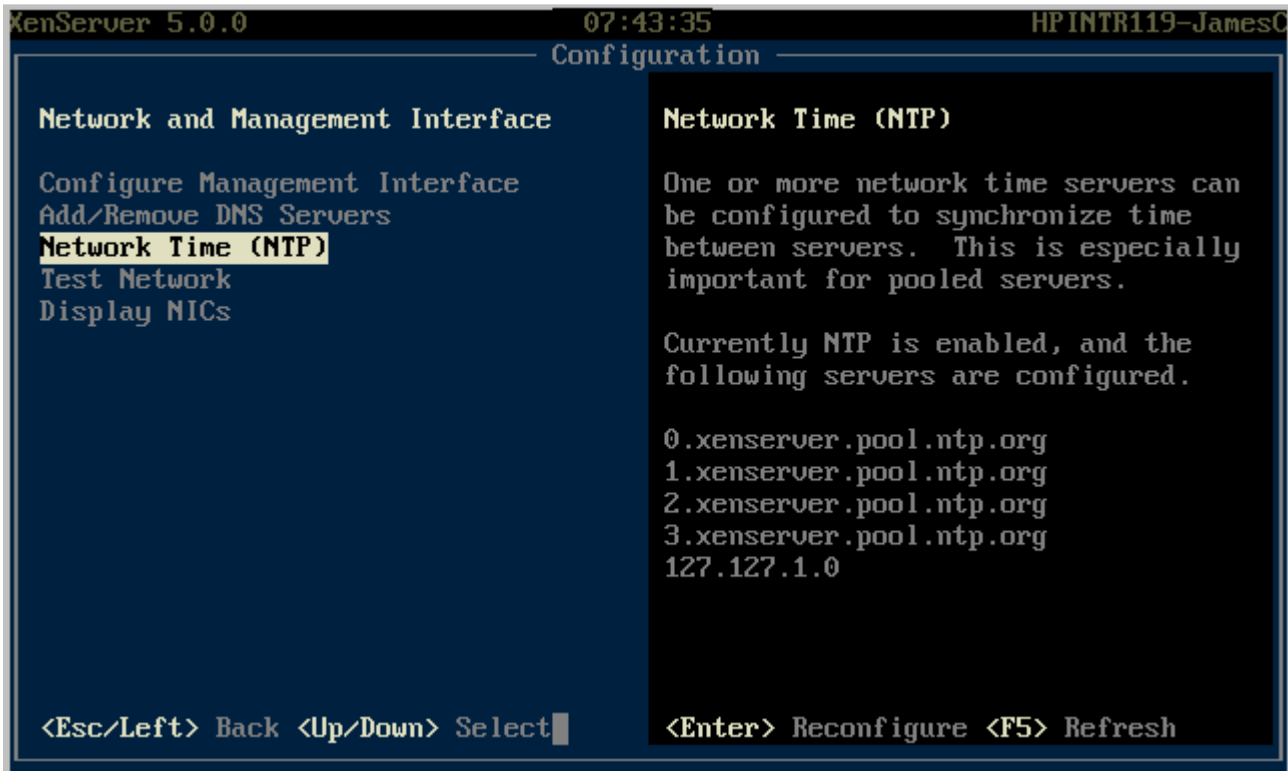
Entering an NTP server during installation has been identified as an issue in XenServer 5.0 (Hotfix 1, 2, 3). The issue will be resolved in the next version of XenServer.

Procedure

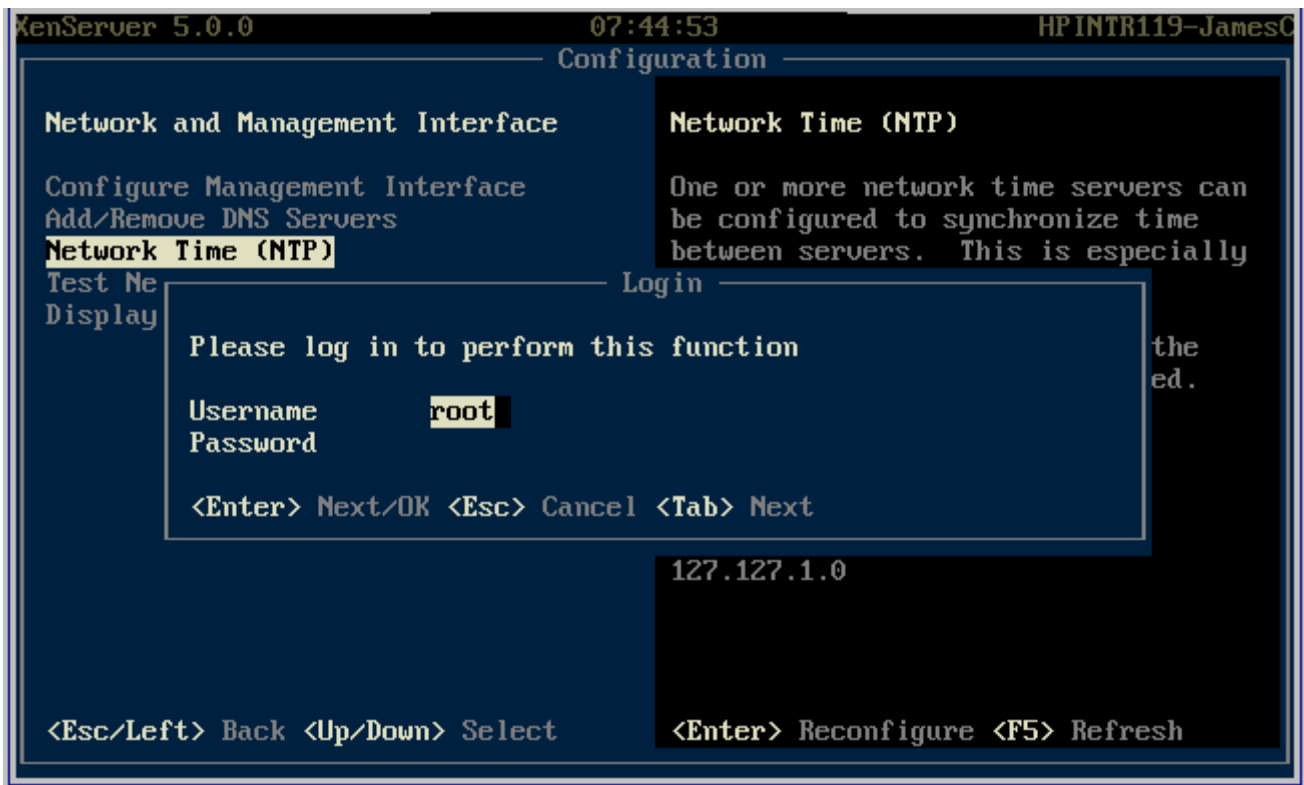
1. At the XenServer console, select **Network and Management Interface**. If using SSH to connect to your XenServer or using XenCenter Console (tab), type **xconsole** to access the following configuration:



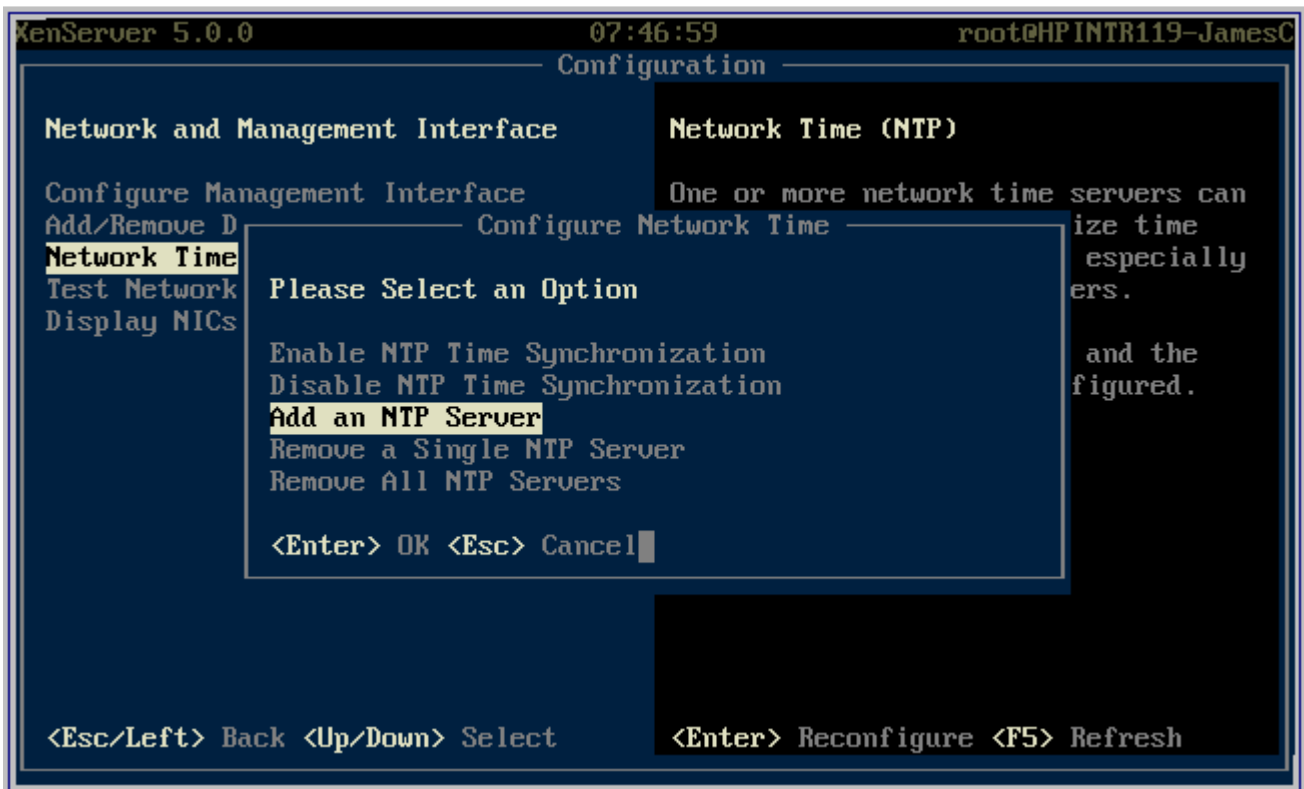
2. Select **Network Time (NTP)**.



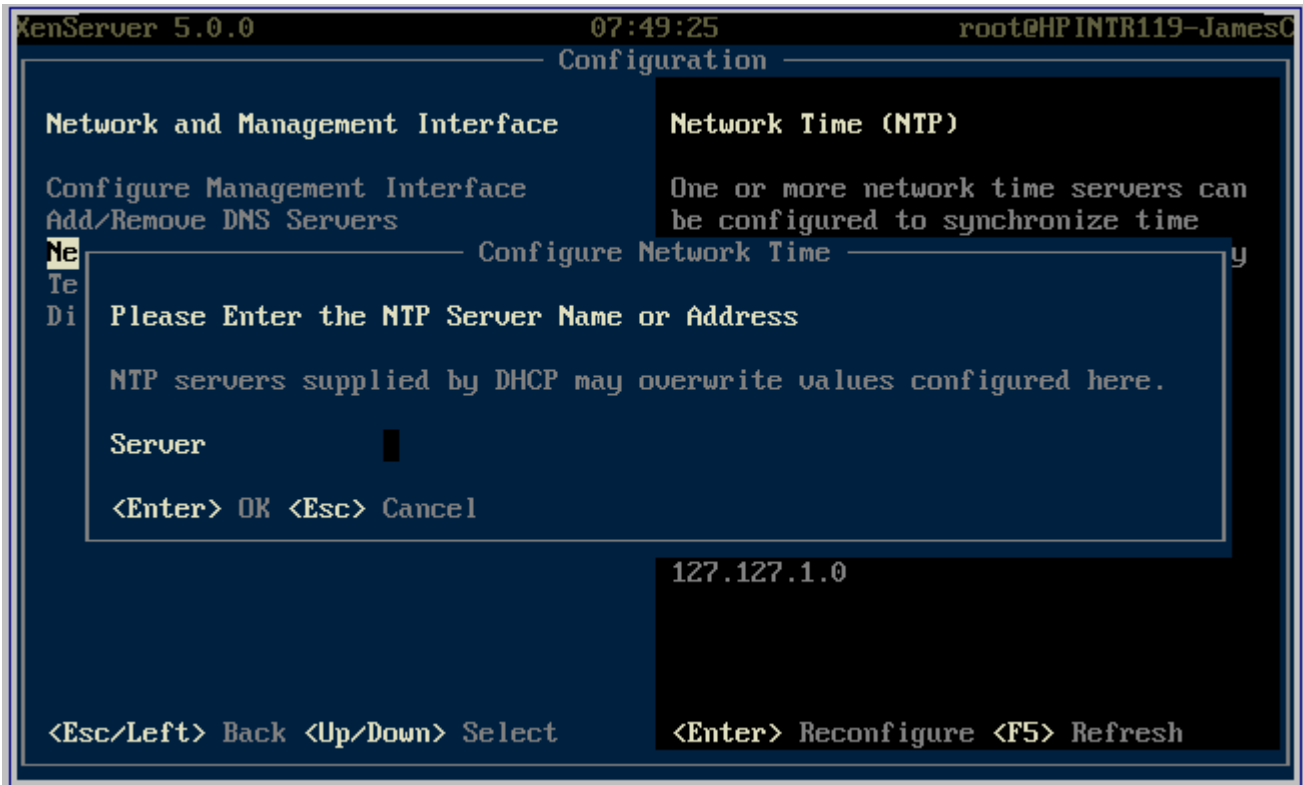
3. Type in the password for the root user account.



4. Select **Add an NTP Server** (Optionally, select **Remove All NTP Servers**, then proceed to add new NTP servers).



5. Enter the IP address of the NTP server. (Hint: If not currently known, you can use **nslookup** on the Windows command line to get the IP address of your NTP server.)



6. Once the new time server has been accepted, validate that NTP is running by exiting to the XenServer command line, by selecting **Quit** in the xsconsole.



7. Verify the Network Time Protocol (NTP) is running on your XenServer, by using **service ntpd status**.

```
[root@localhost ~]# service ntpd status
ntpd (pid 4979) is running...
[root@localhost ~]#
```

8. Ensure the new time source is accessible by cycling the network time protocol daemon, using **service ntpd restart**.

```
[root@localhost ~]# service ntpd status
ntpd (pid 4979) is running...
[root@localhost ~]# service ntpd restart
Shutting down ntpd: [ OK ]
ntpd: Synchronizing with time server: [ OK ]
Syncing hardware clock to system time [ OK ]
Starting ntpd: [ OK ]
[root@localhost ~]#
```

If there are errors, see if the time server is accessible using the **ping** command. Ping the server and ensure you have network connectivity and TCP port 123 open. If ping fails, there is a networking problem outside the XenServer that must be addressed.

Advanced

To synchronize the hardware clock using the Network Time Protocol daemon, the following file, `/etc/sysconfig/ntpd` must be

edited. Change the following line:
- from -

SYNC_HWCLOCK=no
- to -
SYNC_HWCLOCK=yes

```
[root@localhost sysconfig]# pwd
/etc/sysconfig
[root@localhost sysconfig]# more ntpd
# Drop root to id 'ntp:ntp' by default.
OPTIONS="-u ntp:ntp -p /var/run/ntpd.pid -x"

# Set to 'yes' to sync hw clock after successful ntpdate
SYNC_HWCLOCK=yes

# Additional options for ntpdate
NTPDATE_OPTIONS=""
[root@localhost sysconfig]#
```

More Information

<http://www.ntp.org/>

This document applies to:

- [XenServer 5.0](#)

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