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Subject: Wild clock fluctuation within container

Posted by [JohnM](#) on Tue, 14 Jun 2011 13:32:41 GMT

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I'm a customer of a VPS hosting provider that uses OpenVZ, and I've been trying to work with them to sort out a weird problem we've been getting, but they don't seem to be getting anywhere so I'm hoping someone here might be able to help.

Basically, the clock inside my VPS is fluctuating wildly from one minute to the next. I have a cron job which shows this, by writing `date` to a log every minute, and this is what it's showing for the last few minutes:

```
Tue Jun 14 13:16:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:22:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:23:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:19:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:20:02 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:21:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:27:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:28:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:24:01 UTC 2011
Tue Jun 14 13:25:01 UTC 2011
```

Time is jumping backwards and forwards, but always in a number of whole minutes at a time. This was occurring on an Ubuntu VPS, so I ditched that and started with a Debian one, which suddenly developed the exact same problem after a restart. I do not believe that anything I am doing within the container could actually have this effect, as I don't have permission to change the clock. Is this right? Also, another curiosity is that another cron job which calls a Python script each minute shows the correct time, via Python's `time.asctime()`.

The same set of software running on a 'real' physical server, and on an Amazon EC2 instance, show no such problems.

Any ideas, anyone?

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