

2.2.1.2 Ensure ntp is configured (Scored)

Profile Applicability

```
Level 1 - Server
Level 1 - Workstation
```

Description

ntp is a daemon which implements the Network Time Protocol (NTP). It is designed to synchronize system clocks across a variety of systems and use a source that is highly accurate. More information on NTP can be found at <http://www.ntp.org>. ntp can be configured to be a client and/or a server.

This recommendation only applies if ntp is in use on the system.

Rationale

If ntp is in use on the system proper configuration is vital to ensuring time synchronization is working properly.

Audit

Run the following command and verify output matches:

```
# grep "^restrict" /etc/ntp.conf
restrict -4 default kod nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
restrict -6 default kod nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
```

The -4 in the first line is optional and options after default can appear in any order. Additional restriction lines may exist.

Run the following command and verify remote server is configured properly:

```
# grep "^server" /etc/ntp.conf
server <remote-server>
```

Multiple servers may be configured.

Run the following commands and verify that -u ntp:ntp is included in OPTIONS or ExecStart as listed:

```
# grep "^OPTIONS" /etc/sysconfig/ntpd
OPTIONS="-u ntp:ntp"
# grep "^ExecStart" /usr/lib/systemd/system/ntpd.service
ExecStart=/usr/sbin/ntpd -u ntp:ntp $OPTIONS
```

Additional options may be present.

Remediation

Add or edit restrict lines in `/etc/ntp.conf` to match the following:

```
restrict -4 default kod nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
restrict -6 default kod nomodify notrap nopeer noquery
```

Add or edit server lines to `/etc/ntp.conf` as appropriate:

```
server <remote-server>
```

Add or edit the `OPTIONS` in `/etc/sysconfig/ntpd` to include `-u ntp:ntp`:

```
OPTIONS="-u ntp:ntp"
```

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