
Article

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Do I need root privilege to change timezone in iris container?

I asked the question in email and get answers from those colleagues.

Question:

I failed to change time zone on latest iris container(Ubuntu), because:

- I am irisowner, no root password
- There is no sudo command

I used to use below Dockfile setting to change time zone while creating a new docker image. However, those commands doesn ' t work from non-root user.

```
FROM $IRIS_IMAGE:$IRIS_VERSION
USER root
RUN export DEBIAN_FRONTEND=noninteractive; \
    export DEBCONF_NONINTERACTIVE_SEEN=true; \
    echo 'tzdata tzdata/Areas select Asia' | debconf-set-selections; \
    echo 'tzdata tzdata/Zones/Asia select Shanghai' | debconf-set-selections; \
    apt-get update -qqy && apt-get install -qqy --no-install-recommends tzdata
```

I also know for Redhat, I could do it by copy setting file from /etc/timezone and /etc/localtime from host to container, but this doesn ' t fit Ubuntu.

Answers:

use --env TZ=xxx in docker run command, by Ayumu Tanaka

```
$ docker run -it --name test -detach -p 1972:1972 -p 52773:52773 --env TZ=JST-9 containers.intersystems.com/intersystems/iris:2022.1.2.574.0 --check-caps false
```

you need to check how to set TZ in this format, such as TZ=EST+5, TZ=CST-8. And be aware that such TZ as set TZ=Asia/Shanghai doesn't work.

To get root at runtime by Eduard Lebedyuk

like this: `docker exec -u root -it iris bash`

uses `ntpd` to keep the clock up to date by Steven Lubars

The ICM container uses `ntpd` to keep the clock up to date. In addition to running as root, this also requires:
`--cap-add SYSTIME`

Simply add `SYSTIME` capability doesn't synchronize time, I haven't figure out where `htpd` is and how container sychn to host, I am not familiar with ICM

Besides, Nicholai Mitchko taught me trick to get passwordless `sudo`

Here 's a little trick to get passwordless `sudo` if you need it (I used this for demos when installing new things in a running container)

```
# Setup rootable calls from the Iris instance to install things
```

```
USER root
```

```
RUN apt-get clean -yq && apt-get update -yq && DEBIAN_FRONTEND=noninteractive apt-get install -y --no-install-recommends tzdata curl gnupg ca-certificates sudo
```

```
RUN /bin/echo -e "${ISC_PACKAGE_MGRUSER} \\tALL=\\(ALL\\) \\tNOPASSWD: ALL >> /etc/sudoers
```

```
RUN sudo -u ${ISC_PACKAGE_MGRUSER} sudo echo enabled passwordless sudo-
```

```
ing for ${ISC_PACKAGE_MGRUSER}
```

```
USER ${ISC_PACKAGE_MGRUSER}
```

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