File timestamps are 6 hours behind in WinSCP when downloading files over SFTP/SSH

THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE APPLIES TO:

- EFT Server, version 6.1 and later

SYMPTOM

File timestamps are 6 hours behind in WinSCP when downloading files over SFTP/SSH.

RESOLUTION

- In the EFT administration interface, on the General tab of the Server, configure EFT to use UTC/GMT time.
- In WinSCP (on Windows), select the "Daylight saving time" option and "Adjust remote timestamp with DST (Windows)."

MORE INFORMATION

This is not an issue with EFT, but is a feature of WinSCP. WinSCP is adjusting the time automatically to the local time, not taking into account that the time was already adjusted by EFT. When EFT sends the local time, WinSCP expects that the time is in UTC/GMT format and adjusts it, causing an invalid date display.

CuteFTP shows the time properly because it does not change the timestamp when obtaining a directory listing; you only see what is sent by the server to the client.

For files from the current year, the server puts in the listing only the date (without year) and time. The client adds the current year. If the current year is different from that which is in the file, the server sends only the date (full date) without the time. This is by design. WinSCP always shows the date and time because it does not take the time information from the listing. WinSCP asks the server for the full time of each file separately.

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