

## SPECTRACOM PRESENTENSE SOFTWARE

If Windows 2000 and Windows 2003 have a free built-in time service known as W32Time, why do I need Spectracom's Presentense Software Package? The reason is simple. W32Time is the *minimum* requirement to meet the needs of Kerberos, the network authentication protocol utilized by Microsoft. It is designed to provide strong authentication for client/server applications by using secret-key cryptography. Kerberos was not designed to keep a PC's time accurately synchronized to an external reference. It only requires and provides adequate "close enough" time sync capability to allow PC's to communicate. Many applications including Public Safety, Financial, Government, and Security programs running on a Windows PC require a much higher level of time accuracy than W32Time can provide.

Microsoft states that the W32Time Service is not designed to provide accurate time sync capability. As stated in the Microsoft article April 2001 titled Windows Time Service "**W32Time meets the requirements specified by the Kerberos authentication protocol to provide clock values that are loosely synchronized across a network. This service is not designed for use by applications that require greater precision**".

Presentense is a network management tool that will synchronize all of the Windows PC's and other devices on your network, maintain this synchronization for maximum interoperability, and provide millisecond accuracy. Compared to W32Time, which has one set time sync interval for Windows 2000/2003 of once every eight hours ONLY (XP synchronizes once every seven days), Presentense offers user-specified intervals as often as once per minute. Whereas W32Time disregards PC clock drifts or jumps between each sync interval, Presentense continually is monitoring network time synchronization for any discrepancies.

Presentense can centrally verify that all PC's on the Network are synchronized to the appropriate reference. The LAN Time Analyzer program (included module) provides a management tool for checking the dispersion of each PC on the network from one location instead of having to go to each PC to check the time sync accuracy. It can also alert you to a time sync problem on the network via an email message. If a time reference becomes unavailable or critical errors are encountered during operation, an email is sent to the appropriate Admin regarding the issue.

W32Time is basic command line driven. Presentense has a GUI (Graphical User Interface) for ease of installation and configuration. Unlike W32Time that records limited error logs and alarm entries mingled in with all the other PC alarm indications in Event Viewer, Presentense provides it own detailed logs that include: 1) successful time sync information, 2) sync errors, and 3) alarm notifications.

Critical system applications typically require redundancy, and Presentense can support two or three NTP Time Servers on the network. While W32Time limits you to a single NTP Server on the network, Presentense can select from two different Servers on the network in case of a failure. If one Server is not available, it automatically selects the redundant NTP Server in the list.

Presentense also simplifies the synchronization of your Windows 95/98/NT/ME/2000/XP workstations. Windows 95/98/ME PC's do not have services or a built-in program (including Win NT), and must employ the Net Time program to modify the log-on batch files for each and every workstation on the network, directing them to a Server at boot-up. Presentense eliminates this requirement with two quick startup Client programs that DO NOT require a re-boot of the Server or workstations.

For any questions you may have about Presentense software or to purchase the software package, please contact the Spectracom Sales team at 585-321-5800 or via email at [sales@spectracomcorp.com](mailto:sales@spectracomcorp.com).