

# Why does GECAMed need time synchronization?

GECAMed communicates with the luxembourgeois eHealth platform for exchanging medical documents. Due to the sensitive nature of this information, the communication is protected by several security mechanisms. One of these mechanisms is the use of electronic signatures and security tokens. For making these mechanisms work, the time of the GECAMed client has to be **consistent with the time** of the eSanté platform.

As the clock of every computer is not 100% exact, there is always a little delay between the computer time and the actual time. This delay is called **drift**. For reducing this drift to a range that allows a reliable use of the security mechanisms mentioned above, the computer clock has to synchronize with an exact clock in regular intervals.

This is accomplished by communicating with a so-called **time server** over a protocol called the **Network Time Protocol**, NTP for short. NTP provides an exact time basis and adjusts the computer clock accordingly. For synchronizing the local computer clock with a time server, a special service has to be either installed or configured, depending on the operating system.

If GECAMed runs in a multi-user environment there is usually more than one computer on which the GECAMed clients run. Luckily, all GECAMed clients automatically synchronize their time with the time of the GECAMed server. So you have only to set up time synchronization on the server computer.

You can find detailed information about how to configure your system for synchronizing with a timeserver in these sections:

- [Synchronize time under Windows](#)
- [Synchronize time under Mac OSX](#)
- [Synchronize time under Linux](#)

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