

## DATE(I)

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### NAME

`date` — print and set the date

### SYNOPSIS

`date [ mmddhhmm[yy] ] [ +format ]`

### DESCRIPTION

If no argument is given, or if the argument begins with “+”, the current date and time are printed. Otherwise, the current date is set. The first *mm* is the month number; *dd* is the day number in the month; *hh* is the hour number (24 hour system); the second *mm* is the minute number; *yy* is the last 2 digits of the year number and is optional. For example:

`date 10080045`

sets the date to Oct 8, 12:45 AM. The current year is the default if no year is mentioned. The system operates in GMT. *Date* takes care of the conversion to and from local standard and daylight time.

If the argument begins with “+,” the output of *date* is under the control of the user. The format for the output is similar to that of the first argument to *printf(III)*. All output fields are of fixed size (zero padded if necessary). Each field descriptor is preceded by “%” and will be replaced in the output by its corresponding value. A single “%” is encoded by “%%”. All other characters are copied to the output without change. The string is always terminated with a newline character.

### Field Descriptors:

**n** insert a newline character  
**t** insert a tab character  
**m** month of year — 01 to 12  
**d** day of month — 01 to 31  
**y** last 2 digits of year — 00 to 99  
**H** hour — 00 to 23  
**M** minute — 00 to 59  
**S** second — 00 to 59  
**j** julian date — 001 to 366  
**w** day of week — Sunday = 0  
**a** abbreviated weekday — Sun to Sat  
**h** abbreviated month — Jan to Dec  
**r** time in AM / PM notation

For Example: `date "+DATE: %m/%d/%y%nTIME: %H:%M:%S"`

would generate as output:

`DATE: 08/01/76`  
`TIME: 14:45:05`

### DIAGNOSTICS

“No permission” if you aren’t the super-user and you try to change the date; “bad conversion” if the date set is syntactically incorrect; “invalid option” if the field descriptor is not recognizable.

### FILES

/dev/kmem