44. PHP 5 Date/Time Functions

44.1. PHP Date/Time Introduction

The date/time functions allow you to get the date and time from the server where your PHP script runs. You can then use the date/time functions to format the date and time in several ways.

Note: These functions depend on the locale settings of your server. Remember to take daylight saving time and leap years into consideration when working with these functions.

44.2. Installation

The PHP date/time functions are part of the PHP core. No installation is required to use these functions.

44.3. Runtime Configuration

The behavior of these functions is affected by settings in php.ini:

Name	Description	Default	PHP Version
date.timezone	The default timezone (used by all date/time functions)	""	PHP 5.1
date.default_latitude	The default latitude (used by date_sunrise() and date_sunset())	"31.7667"	PHP 5.0
date.default_longitude	The default longitude (used by date_sunrise() and date_sunset())	"35.2333"	PHP 5.0
date.sunrise_zenith	The default sunrise zenith (used by date_sunrise() and date_sunset())	"90.83"	PHP 5.0
date.sunset_zenith	The default sunset zenith (used by date_sunrise() and date_sunset())	"90.83"	PHP 5.0

44.4. PHP 5 Date/Time Functions

Function	Description
checkdate()	Validates a Gregorian date
date_add()	Adds days, months, years, hours, minutes, and seconds to a date
date_create_from_format()	Returns a new DateTime object formatted according to a specified format
date_create()	Returns a new DateTime object
date_date_set()	Sets a new date
date_default_timezone_get()	Returns the default timezone used by all date/time functions

date_default_timezone_set()	Sets the default timezone used by all date/time functions
date_diff()	Returns the difference between two dates
date_format()	Returns a date formatted according to a specified format
date_get_last_errors()	Returns the warnings/errors found in a date string
date_interval_create_from_date_string()	Sets up a DateInterval from the relative parts of the string
date_interval_format()	Formats the interval
date_isodate_set()	Sets the ISO date
date_modify()	Modifies the timestamp
date_offset_get()	Returns the timezone offset
date_parse_from_format()	Returns an associative array with detailed info about a specified date, according to a specified format
date_parse()	Returns an associative array with detailed info about a specified date
date_sub()	Subtracts days, months, years, hours, minutes, and seconds from a date
date_sun_info()	Returns an array containing info about sunset/sunrise and twilight begin/end, for a specified day and location
date_sunrise()	Returns the sunrise time for a specified day and location
date_sunset()	Returns the sunset time for a specified day and location
date_time_set()	Sets the time
date_timestamp_get()	Returns the Unix timestamp
date_timestamp_set()	Sets the date and time based on a Unix timestamp
date_timezone_get()	Returns the time zone of the given DateTime object
date_timezone_set()	Sets the time zone for the DateTime object
date()	Formats a local date and time
getdate()	Returns date/time information of a timestamp or the current local date/time
gettimeofday()	Returns the current time
gmdate()	Formats a GMT/UTC date and time
gmmktime()	Returns the Unix timestamp for a GMT date
gmstrftime()	Formats a GMT/UTC date and time according to locale settings
idate()	Formats a local time/date as integer
localtime()	Returns the local time
microtime()	Returns the current Unix timestamp with microseconds
mktime()	Returns the Unix timestamp for a date
strftime()	Formats a local time and/or date according to locale settings
strptime()	Parses a time/date generated with strftime()
strtotime()	Parses an English textual datetime into a Unix timestamp

time()	Returns the current time as a Unix timestamp
timezone_abbreviations_list()	Returns an associative array containing dst, offset, and the timezone name
timezone_identifiers_list()	Returns an indexed array with all timezone identifiers
timezone_location_get()	Returns location information for a specified timezone
timezone_name_from_ abbr()	Returns the timezone name from abbreviation
timezone_name_get()	Returns the name of the timezone
timezone_offset_get()	Returns the timezone offset from GMT
timezone_open()	Creates new DateTimeZone object
timezone_transitions_get()	Returns all transitions for the timezone
timezone_version_get()	Returns the version of the timezone db

44.5. PHP 5 Predefined Date/Time Constants

Constant	Description
DATE_ATOM	Atom (example: 2005-08-15T16:13:03+0000)
DATE_COOKIE	HTTP Cookies (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_ISO8601	ISO-8601 (example: 2005-08-14T16:13:03+0000)
DATE_RFC822	RFC 822 (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_RFC850	RFC 850 (example: Sunday, 14-Aug-05 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_RFC1036	RFC 1036 (example: Sunday, 14-Aug-05 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_RFC1123	RFC 1123 (example: Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_RFC2822	RFC 2822 (Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 +0000)
DATE_RSS	RSS (Sun, 14 Aug 2005 16:13:03 UTC)
DATE_W3C	World Wide Web Consortium (example: 2005-08-14T16:13:03+0000)