# Command Reference:  FormatTableDateTime()
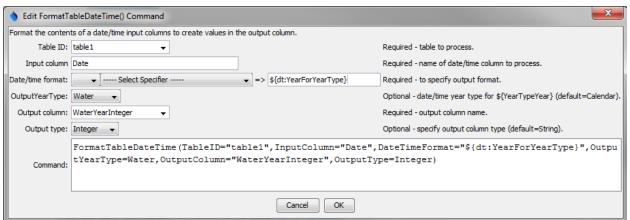
### Format a date/time column in a table

The `FormatTableDateTime()` command formats a table date/time input column to create a table output column.  For example, it may be necessary to reformat a date/time column into an object type that is more suitable for reporting or further processing.  See also the `FormatTableString()` command. Formatting occurs as follows:

1. The specified date/time column is formatted into a string using the format specifier string specified by the `FormatterType` and `DateTimeFormat` parameters.  Missing values in input will result in blanks (nulls) in output.
2. The resulting string can be converted to another column type (e.g., an integer or double) by specifying the `OutputType` parameter.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax of the command.



**FormatTableDateTime() Command Editor**

The command syntax is as follows:

```
FormatTableDateTime(Parameter=Value,…)
```

### Command Parameters

| Parameter | Description | Default |
|---|---|---|
| TableID | The identifier for the table to process. | None – must be specified. |
| InputColumn | The name of the input date/time column to process. | None – must be specified. |
| FormatterType | The date/time formatter type, which defines the format specifiers, one of:<br>• C – the C programming language `strftime()` function, which has been widely copied (described below).<br>• MS – Microsoft convention (currently not supported | C |

| Parameter | Description | Default |
|---|---|---|
| | but may be added in the future). | |
| DateTimeFormat | The format specifier string used to format the date/time values. Specify as many format specifiers as appropriate. All other characters will be transferred to the output string. See the table below for valid specifiers. | None – must be specified. |
| OutputYearType | Specify if the input date/time should be transformed to an alternate year type on output. For example, specify OutputYearType=Water and DateTimeFormat=${dt:YearForYearType} to output the water year corresponding to the input date/time. | |
| OutputColumn | The name of the column to receive the output. If the column does not exist in the table it will be created, considering OutputType. | None – must be specified. |
| OutputType | Specify if the output column should be other than String type. Successful conversion to the output type requires that the format string result is consistent with the desired output type. | String |

The following table lists the supported format strings for FormatterType=C:

**Supported C (Strftime) Format Specifiers**

| Format Specifier | Description |
|---|---|
| %a | Weekday abbreviation (e.g., Sun) |
| %A | Weekday (e.g., Sunday). |
| %b | Month abbreviation (e.g., Jan). |
| %B | Month (e.g., January). |
| %d | Day (01-31). |
| %H | Hour (00-23). |
| %I | Hour (01-12). |
| %j | Day of year (001-366). |
| %m | Month (01-12). |
| %M | Minute (00-59). |
| %p | AM, PM (noon=PM, midnight=AM). |
| %S | Second (00-59). |
| %y | Year (00-99). |
| %Y | Year (0000-9999). |
| %Z | Time zone (e.g., MST). |
| ${dt:YearForYearType} | 4-digit year for the given OutputYearType. |