

# How to Get Current Date and Time in Bash Script

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You can use **date** command on Linux shell script to get current Date and Time. The date command is the part of the Linux **Coreutils** package. This tutorial will help you to get the current date and time in a shell script.

## Uses of date Command:

Simple **date** command returns the current date and time with the current timezone set in your system.

```
date
```

```
Mon Mar  6 14:40:32 IST 2019
```

You can also store the output of command in a variable for further use.

```
currentDate=`date`  
echo $currentDate
```

```
Mon Mar 25 14:40:32 IST 2019
```

## Formatted Output of date Command:

There are several switches, you can use to format the output of date command.

Get date time in MM/DD/YY  
HH:MM:SS format:

```
date +"%D %T"
```

```
03/25/17 14:40:32
```

Get current Unix epoch time:

```
date +%s
```

```
1554542637
```

Get date time in YYYY-MM-DD  
HH:MM:SS format:

```
date +"%Y-%m-%d %T"
```

```
2019-03-25 14:40:32
```

Parameter	Output
date +"%m/%d/%Y"	03/25/2019
date +"%d-%b-%Y"	25-Mar-2019
date +"%Y %b	2019 Mar 25

%m”	
date +”%H:%M”	14:40
date +”%I:%M %p”	02:40 PM
date +”%H:%M:%S”	14:40:32
date +”%I:%M:%S %p”	02:40:32 PM
date +”%m/%d/%Y %H:%M”	03/25/2019 14:40
date +”%A, %m %d %Y %H:%M”	Monday, 03 25 2019 14:40
date +”%A, %b %d, %Y %I:%M %p”	Monday, Mar 25, 2019 02:40 PM
date +”%A, %b %d, %Y %H:%M:%S”	Monday, Mar 25, 2019 14:40:32

# Use Date in Shell Script:

You can simply use date command inside shell script similar to use on the command prompt. Create a bash script getDate.sh with the following content.

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2
3  CURRENTDATE=`date +%Y-%m-%d`
4  CURRENTDATEONLY=`date +%b`
5  CURRENTEPOCHTIME=`date +%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S`
6
7  echo Current Date is: ${CURRENTDATE}
8  echo Current Date and Time is: ${CURRENTDATEONLY}
9  echo Current Date and Time is: ${CURRENTDATEONLY}
10 echo Current Unix epoch time is: ${CURRENTEPOCHTIME}
```

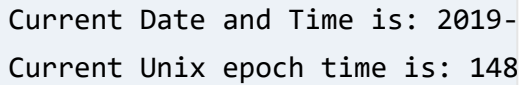
Now execute the script from command line and watch output.

```
./getDate.sh
```

```
Current Date is: Mar 25, 2019
```

```
Current Date and Time is: 2019-
```

```
Current Date and Time is: 2019-  
Current Unix epoch time is: 148
```

A terminal window with a light blue header bar containing the text "Current Date and Time is: 2019-" and "Current Unix epoch time is: 148". Below the header is a grey scrollbar with a white slider.

# Available Options with date Command:

You can find all available options of date command using `--help` parameter

```
date --help
```

You will find the output like below with some more options.

- %% a literal %
- %a locale's abbreviated weekday name (e.g., Sun)
- %A locale's full weekday name (e.g., Sunday)

- %b locale's abbreviated month name (e.g., Jan)
- %B locale's full month name (e.g., January)
- %c locale's date and time (e.g., Thu Mar 3 23:05:25 2005)
- %C century; like %Y, except omit last two digits (e.g., 21)
- %d day of month (e.g, 01)
- %D date; same as %m/%d/%y
- %e day of month, space padded; same as %\_d
- %F full date; same as %Y-%m-%d
- %g last two digits of year of ISO week number (see %G)
- %G year of ISO week number (see %V); normally useful only with %V
- %h same as %b
- %H hour (00..23)

- %I hour (01..12)
- %j day of year (001..366)
- %k hour ( 0..23)
- %l hour ( 1..12)
- %m month (01..12)
- %M minute (00..59)
- %n a newline
- %N nanoseconds  
(000000000..999999999)
- %p locale's equivalent of either  
AM or PM; blank if not known
- %P like %p, but lower case
- %r locale's 12-hour clock time  
(e.g., 11:11:04 PM)
- %R 24-hour hour and minute;  
same as %H:%M
- %s seconds since 1970-01-01  
00:00:00 UTC
- %S second (00..60)



- %t a tab
- %T time; same as %H:%M:%S
- %u day of week (1..7); 1 is Monday
- %U week number of year, with Sunday as first day of week (00..53)
- %V ISO week number, with Monday as first day of week (01..53)
- %w day of week (0..6); 0 is Sunday
- %W week number of year, with Monday as first day of week (00..53)
- %x locale's date representation (e.g., 12/31/99)
- %X locale's time representation (e.g., 23:13:48)
- %y last two digits of year (00..99)

- %Y year
- %Z +hhmm numeric timezone  
(e.g., -0400)
- %:Z +hh:mm numeric timezone  
(e.g., -04:00)
- %::Z +hh:mm:ss numeric time  
zone (e.g., -04:00:00)
- %:::Z numeric time zone with : to  
necessary precision (e.g., -04,  
+05:30)
- %Z alphabetic time zone  
abbreviation (e.g., EDT)