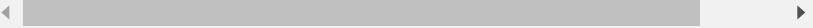


Print or set system date and time

Synopses:

```
date [option]... [+format]
date [-u|--utc|--universal] [ MMDDhhmm[[CC]YY][
```



Invoking `date` with no *format* argument is equivalent to invoking it with a default format that depends on the `LC_TIME` locale category. In the default C locale, this format is `' +%a %b %e %H:%M:%S %Z %Y'`, so the output looks like `'Thu Mar 3 13:47:51 PST 2005'`.

Normally, `date` uses the time zone rules indicated by the `TZ` environment variable, or the system default rules if `TZ` is not set. See [Specifying the Time Zone with TZ](#) in The GNU C Library Reference Manual.

If given an argument that starts with a `+`, `date` prints the current date and time (or the date and time specified by the `--date` option, see below) in the format defined by that argument, which is similar to that of the `strftime` function. Except for conversion specifiers, which start with `%`, characters in the format string are printed unchanged. The conversion specifiers are described below.

An exit status of zero indicates success, and a nonzero value indicates failure.