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Get current date and time in Python

In this article, we will learn how to get the current date and time in Python. We will use the built-in module available for getting date and time information and some custom codes as well to see them working. Let's first have a quick look over what are dates in Python.

Date in Python

In Python, we can work on Date functions by importing a built-in module `datetime` available in Python. We have date objects to work with dates. This datetime module contains dates in the form of year, month, day, hour, minute, second, and microsecond. The datetime module has many methods to return information about the date object. It requires a date, month, and year values to compute the function. Date and time functions are compared like mathematical expressions between various numbers.

There are various ways in which we can get the current date and time using date and time objects. We will import `date` and `time` class from `datetime` module and will print the output in different formats. Look at the examples below to learn different ways to get current date and time.

Example: Get Current Date Using today() Function

The below example uses `today()` function to compute the current date. It is a part of the `datetime` module. It returns date in `yyy-mm-dd` format.

```python
from datetime import date

current_date = date.today()

print("Current Date:", current_date)
```

<u>Output:</u>

```
Current Date: 2021-01-18
```

Example: Get Current date and time with different formats

The below example uses `today()` function to store the current date in a variable. It is a part of the datetime module. The program uses `strftime()` function to print different date formats by passing formats as an argument. It returns date in four different formats as shown below.

```python
from datetime import date

current_date = date.today()

date1 = current_date.strftime("%d/%m/%Y")
print("Date in date/month/year format =", date1)

date2 = current_date.strftime("%B %d, %Y")
print("Date in month/day/year format =", date2)

date3 = current_date.strftime("%m/%d/%y")
print("Date in month/date/year format =", date3)

date4 = current_date.strftime("%b-%d-%Y")
print("Date in month/date/year format =", date4)
```

<u>Output:</u>

```
Date in Date/Month/Year format = 18/01/2021

Date in Month Name Date, Year format = January 18, 2021

Date in Month/Date/Year format = 01/18/21

Date in Month-Date-Year format = Jan-18-2021
```

Example: Get Current date and time using now() Function

The below example uses `now()` function to compute the current date and time. It is a part of the datetime module. It returns date as well as time in `yyy-mm-dd hh:mm:ss: ms` format. It also uses `strftime()` function to print date and time in a different format.

```python
from datetime import datetime

current_date = datetime.now()

print("Current Date and Time=", current_date)


string = current_date.strftime("%d/%m/%Y %H:%M:%S")

print("Current Date and Time in different format=", string)
```
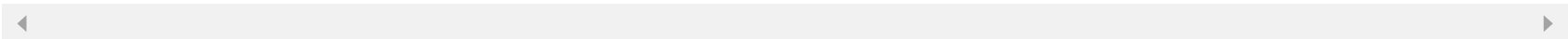
<u>Output:</u>

```
Current Date and Time= 2021-01-18 08:45:24.633526

Current Date and Time in different format= 18/01/2021 08:45:24
```

Example: Get Current time using now() Function

The below example uses `now()` function to compute the current time. It imports datetime from datetime module. Using `datetime` object, `now()` and `time()`, value is stored in a variable. It returns time in `hh-mm-ss-ms` format.
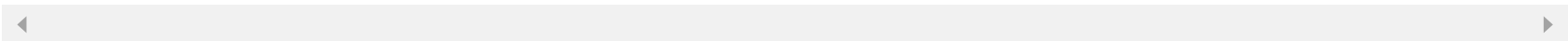
```python
from datetime import datetime

current_time = datetime.now().time()

print("Current Time:", current_time)
```

<u>Output:</u>

```
Current Date: 08:56:39.372822
```

Conclusion

In this article, we learned to get the current date and time either by creating datetime object to get both date and time or by creating a date object to get date only. This is achieved using today() and now() functions. We learned to print date and time in different formats. For this, we used strftime() function. We used some custom codes as well to better understand the functions.

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