

Date and Time Variable


To exemplify how you can work with a date and time variable, we are going to build an automation that gets the current date and time, subtracts a specific amount of time and writes the result to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

1. Create a new sequence.
2. Create two **DateTime** variables, `Today` and `LastTime`.
3. Create a **TimeSpan** variable, called `Span`, and in the **Default** field type `1.02:10:04`.
4. Add an **Assign** activity to the **Designer** panel.
5. In the **Properties** panel, in the **To** field, add the `Today` variable.
6. In the **Value** field, type `Now`. This gives you the date and time when the project is executed, in the `dd/MM/yyyy` and `hh:mm:ss` formats.
7. Add another **Assign** activity under the previous one.
8. In the **Properties** panel, in the **To** field, add the `LastTime` variable.
9. In the **Value** field, type `Today.Subtract(Span)`. This is going to subtract the default value of the `Span` variable from the current date, stored in the `Today` variable.
10. Add an **Excel Process Scope** activity under the last **Assign** one. This activity opens or reuses Excel processes, loads the Excel project settings, and applies them to the associated Excel file.
11. Add a **Use Excel File** activity inside the **Excel Process Scope** activity.

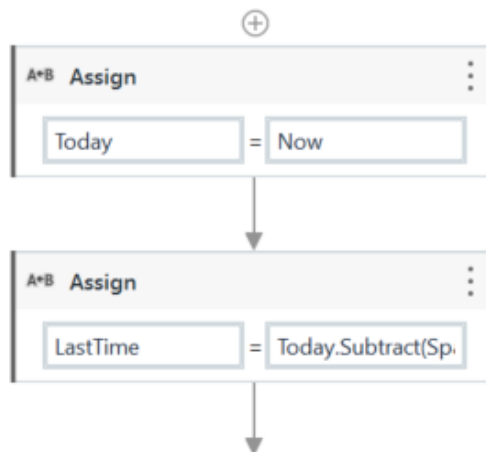
NOTE: Use the **Manage Packages** feature to download the Excel activities, if you do not already have them installed.

12. In the **Workbook path** field, type the path of the Excel file you want to write to, between quotation marks. In our case, `"%HOMEPATH%\Desktop\urgent_invoice.xlsx"`.

NOTE: If the file does not exist at the provided path, it is going to be created.


13. Add a **Write Cell** activity in the **Use Excel File** activity.
14. In the **What to write** field, type `LastTime.ToString`. This transforms the value of the `LastTime` variable to a string and writes it to the coordinates previously given.
15. On the right side of the **Where to write** field, select **Plus**  > **Excel** > **Indicate in Excel**.
16. Inside the Excel file, indicate the cell in which you want to write (in our case, "E3"). Click **Confirm** after indicating the cell.

The final project should look as in the following screenshot:



Excel Process Scope

Use Excel File

Excel file
"urgent invoice.xlsx" 

Reference as
Excel

☒ Save changes ☒ Create if not exists

Read formatting Same as project ▼

☐ Template file

Write Cell

What to write
LastTime.ToString

Where to write
Excel.Sheet("Invoice").Cell("E3")

☐ Auto increment row

17. Press F5. The automation is executed.

18. Navigate to your Excel file and double-click the cell in which you added the date. Note that the time and date information is displayed in the cell you pointed towards.

