**How to get the last modified date of a file in java**

Here we will learn how to get the last modified date of a file in java. In order to do this we can use the **[lastModified() method](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/io/File.html" \l "lastModified()" \t "_blank)** of File class. Following is the signature of this method.

public long lastModified()

It returns the time that the file denoted by this abstract pathname was last modified. The value returned by this method is in milliseconds so in order to make it readable, we can format the output using SimpleDateFormat.

**Complete code:**

Here we are fetching the last modified date of file “Myfile.txt” which is present in drive “C”. Since the value returned by method is not readable, we are using format() method of SimpleDateFormat class to format it.

import java.io.File;

import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;

public class LastModifiedDateExample

{

public static void main(String[] args)

{

//Specify the file path and name

File file = new File("C:\\Myfile.txt");

SimpleDateFormat sdf = new SimpleDateFormat("MM/dd/yyyy HH:mm:ss");

System.out.println("Last Modified Date: " + sdf.format(file.lastModified()));

}

}

Output:

Last Modified Date: 01/03/2014 22:41:49

We can format and display the output in any desired format. For example if we use the following pattern:

SimpleDateFormat sdf2 = new SimpleDateFormat("MM-dd-yy HH:mm a");

System.out.println("Last Modified Date: " + sdf2.format(file.lastModified()));

We will get the below output for above pattern:

Last Modified Date: 01-03-14 22:41 PM

There are several other patterns which you can use to get the output in desired form. To read more about date formatting refer **[SimpleDateFormat javadoc](http://docs.oracle.com/javase/6/docs/api/java/text/SimpleDateFormat.html" \t "_blank)**.