

**NAME**

date – print and set the date

**SYNOPSIS**

**date** [ mmddhhmm[yy] ] [ +format ]

**DESCRIPTION**

If no argument is given, or if the argument begins with “+”, the current date and time are printed. Otherwise, the current date is set. The first *mm* is the month number; *dd* is the day number in the month; *hh* is the hour number (24 hour system); the second *mm* is the minute number; *yy* is the last 2 digits of the year number and is optional. For example:

**date 10080045**

sets the date to Oct 8, 12:45 AM. The current year is the default if no year is mentioned. The system operates in GMT. *Date* takes care of the conversion to and from local standard and daylight time.

If the argument begins with “+,” the output of *date* is under the control of the user. The format for the output is similar to that of the first argument to *printf(III)*. All output fields are of fixed size (zero padded if necessary). Each field descriptor is preceded by “%” and will be replaced in the output by its corresponding value. A single “%” is encoded by “%%”. All other characters are copied to the output without change. The string is always terminated with a newline character.

Field Descriptors:

- n** insert a newline character
- t** insert a tab character
- m** month of year – 01 to 12
- d** day of month – 01 to 31
- y** last 2 digits of year – 00 to 99
- H** hour – 00 to 23
- M** minute – 00 to 59
- S** second – 00 to 59
- j** julian date – 001 to 366
- w** day of week – Sunday = 0
- a** abbreviated weekday – Sun to Sat
- h** abbreviated month – Jan to Dec
- r** time in AM / PM notation

For example:

**date "+DATE: %m/%d/%y%nTIME: %H:%M:%S"**

would generate as output:

**DATE: 08/01/76**  
**TIME: 14:45:05**

**DIAGNOSTICS**

“No permission” if you aren’t the super-user and you try to change the date; “bad conversion” if the date set is syntactically incorrect; “invalid option” if the field descriptor is not recognizable.

**FILES**

/dev/kmem