

Date Functions in Python

Computers measure time using the number of seconds since January 1970. This is known as seconds since the epoch (SSE).

In order to use date functions in python you need to put this statement at the top of your program

```
from time import time, mktime, strftime
```

In order to transfer a date such as 16/7/2000 into the number of seconds since the epoch you need to use the code

```
mktime(strptime("16/7/2000", "%d/%m/%Y"))
```

Replace "16/7/2000" with either a variable or another string.

In order to get the current date in seconds since the epoch you do `time()`

You can then work out the difference between two dates by simply using a minus e.g

```
#To work out the seconds i've lived for I get the current SSE and then  
minus the SSE of my birthday
```

```
myBirthday = mktime(strptime("16/7/2000", "%d/%m/%Y"))
```

```
secondsIveLivedFor = time() - mybirthday
```

You can then work out the minutes by dividing by 60, hours by dividing by 60 again, days by 24 and so on.