NAME

date − print or set the system date and time

SYNOPSIS

date [*OPTION*]... [*+FORMAT*]
date [*-u*|*--utc*|*--universal*] [*MMDDhhmm*[[*CC*]*YY*][.*ss*]]

DESCRIPTION

Display the current time in the given FORMAT, or set the system date.

−d, **−−date**=*STRING*
display time described by STRING, not ‘now’

−f, **−−file**=*DATEFILE*
like **−−date** once for each line of DATEFILE

−ITIMESPEC, **−−iso−8601**[=*TIMESPEC*]
output date/time in ISO 8601 format. TIMESPEC=‘date’ for date only, ‘hours’, ‘minutes’, or ‘seconds’ for date and time to the indicated precision. **−−iso−8601** without TIMESPEC defaults to ‘date’.

−r, **−−reference**=*FILE*
display the last modification time of FILE

−R, **−−rfc−822**
output RFC-822 compliant date string

−s, **−−set**=*STRING*
set time described by STRING

−u, **−−utc**, **−−universal**
print or set Coordinated Universal Time

−−help display this help and exit

−−version
output version information and exit

FORMAT controls the output. The only valid option for the second form specifies Coordinated Universal Time. Interpreted sequences are:

%% a literal %

%a locale’s abbreviated weekday name (Sun..Sat)

%A locale’s full weekday name, variable length (Sunday..Saturday)

%b locale’s abbreviated month name (Jan..Dec)

%B locale’s full month name, variable length (January..December)

%c locale’s date and time (Sat Nov 04 12:02:33 EST 1989)

%C century (year divided by 100 and truncated to an integer) [00-99]

%d day of month (01..31)

%D date (mm/dd/yy)

%e day of month, blank padded (1..31)

%F same as %Y-%m-%d

%g the 2-digit year corresponding to the %V week number

%G the 4-digit year corresponding to the %V week number

%h same as %b

%H hour (00..23)

%I hour (01..12)

%j day of year (001..366)

%k hour (0..23)

%l hour (1..12)

%m month (01..12)

%M minute (00..59)

%n a newline

%N nanoseconds (000000000..999999999)

%p locale’s upper case AM or PM indicator (blank in many locales)

%P locale’s lower case am or pm indicator (blank in many locales)

%r time, 12-hour (hh:mm:ss [AP]M)

%R time, 24-hour (hh:mm)

%s seconds since ‘00:00:00 1970-01-01 UTC’ (a GNU extension)

%S second (00..60); the 60 is necessary to accommodate a leap second

%t a horizontal tab

%T time, 24-hour (hh:mm:ss)

%u day of week (1..7); 1 represents Monday

%U week number of year with Sunday as first day of week (00..53)

%V week number of year with Monday as first day of week (01..53)

%w day of week (0..6); 0 represents Sunday

%W week number of year with Monday as first day of week (00..53)

%x locale’s date representation (mm/dd/yy)

%X locale’s time representation (%H:%M:%S)

%y last two digits of year (00..99)

%Y year (1970...)

%z RFC-822 style numeric timezone (-0500) (a nonstandard extension)

%Z time zone (e.g., EDT), or nothing if no time zone is determinable

By default, date pads numeric fields with zeroes. GNU date recognizes the following modifiers between ‘%’ and a numeric directive.

‘-’ (hyphen) do not pad the field ‘_’ (underscore) pad the field with spaces

AUTHOR

Written by David MacKenzie.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-coreutils@gnu.org>.

COPYRIGHT

SEE ALSO

The full documentation for **date** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **date** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info date

should give you access to the complete manual.