NAME

ckdate, errdate, helpdate, valdate – prompts for and validates a date

SYNOPSIS

ckdate [–**Q**] [–**W** *width*] [–**f** *format*] [–**d** *default*] [–**h** *help*] [–**e** *error*]
[–**p** *prompt*] [–**k** *pid* [–**s** *signal*]]

/usr/sadm/bin/errdate [–**W** *width*] [–**e** *error*] [–**f** *format*]

/usr/sadm/bin/helpdate [–**W***width*] [–**h** *help*] [–**f** *format*]

/usr/sadm/bin/valdate [–**f** *format*] *input*

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

ckdate prompts a user and validates the response. It defines, among other things, a prompt message whose response should be a date, text for help and error messages, and a default value (which will be returned if the user responds with a RETURN). The user response must match the defined format for a date.

All messages are limited in length to 70 characters and are formatted automatically. Any white space used in the definition (including newline) is stripped. The –**W** option cancels the automatic formatting. When a tilde is placed at the beginning or end of a message definition, the default text will be inserted at that point, allowing both custom text and the default text to be displayed.

If the prompt, help or error message is not defined, the default message (as defined under **NOTES**) will be displayed.

Three visual tool modules are linked to the **ckdate** command. They are **errdate** (which formats and displays an error message), **helpdate** (which formats and displays a help message), and **valdate** (which validates a response). These modules should be used in conjunction with FML objects. In this instance, the FML object defines the prompt. When *format* is defined in the **errdate** and **helpdate** modules, the messages will describe the expected format.

OPTIONS

–**Q** Specifies that quit will not be allowed as a valid response.

–**W** *width* Specifies that prompt, help and error messages will be formatted to a line length of **width**.

–**f** *format* Specifies the format against which the input will be verified. Possible formats and their definitions are:

- **%b** = abbreviated month name (jan, feb, mar)
- **%B** = full month name **%d** = day of month (01 - 31)
- **%D** = date as %m/%d/%y (the default format)
- **%e** = day of month (1 - 31; single digits are preceded by a blank)
- **%h** = abbreviated month name, identical to **%b%**
- **%m** = month number (01 - 12)
- **%y** = year within century (for instance, 89)
- **%Y** = year as **CCYY** (for instance, 1989)

–d *default*	Defines the default value as *default*. The default does not have to meet the format criteria.
–h *help*	Defines the help messages as *help*.
–e *error*	Defines the error message as *error*.
–p *prompt*	Defines the prompt message as *prompt*.
–k *pid*	Specifies that process ID *pid* is to be sent a signal if the user chooses to abort.
–s *signal*	Specifies that the process ID *pid* defined with the –**k** option is to be sent signal **signal** when quit is chosen. If no signal is specified, **SIGTERM** is used.
input	Input to be verified against format criteria.

EXIT CODES

0	Successful execution
1	EOF on input or negative width on –**W** option, or usage error
3	User termination (quit)
4	Garbled format argument

NOTES

The default prompt for **ckdate** is:

Enter the date [?,q]:

The default error message is:

ERROR - Please enter a date. Format is <*format*>.

The default help message is:

Please enter a date. Format is <*format*>.

When the quit option is chosen (and allowed), **q** is returned along with the return code **3**. The **valdate** module will not produce any output. It returns zero for success and non-zero for failure.