NAME

date – write the date and time

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/date [–u] [+*format* **]**
/usr/bin/date [–a [–] *sss.fff* **]**
/usr/bin/date [–u] [[*mmdd* **]** *HHMM* **|** *mmddHHMM* **[** *cc* **]** *yy* **]**

/usr/xpg4/bin/date [–u] [+*format* **]**
/usr/xpg4/bin/date [–a [–] *sss.fff* **]**
/usr/xpg4/bin/date [–u] [[*mmdd* **]** *HHMM* **|** *mmddHHMM* **[** *cc* **]** *yy* **]**

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/date SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/date SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

The **date** utility writes the date and time to standard output or attempts to set the system date and time. By default, the current date and time will be written.

Specifications of native language translations of month and weekday names are supported. The month and weekday names used for a language are based on the locale specified by the environment variable **LC_TIME**; see **environ**(5).

The following is the default form for the "C" locale:

%a %b %e %T %Z %Y

for example,

Fri Dec 23 10:10:42 EST 1988

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–a [–] *sss.fff* Slowly adjust the time by *sss.fff* seconds (*fff* represents fractions of a second). This adjustment can be positive or negative. The system's clock will be sped up or slowed down until it has drifted by the number of seconds specified.

–u Display (or set) the date in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT—universal time), bypassing the normal conversion to (or from) local time.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

+*format* If the argument begins with **+**, the output of **date** is the result of passing *format* and the current time to **strftime( )**. **date** uses the conversion specifications listed on the **strftime**(3C) manual page, with the conversion specification for **%C** determined by whether **/usr/bin/date** or **/usr/xpg4/bin/date** is used:

/usr/bin/date Locale's date and time representation. This is the default output for **date**.

/usr/xpg4/bin/date Century (a year divided by 100 and truncated to an integer) as a decimal number [00-99].

The string is always terminated with a NEWLINE. An argument containing blanks must be quoted; see the **EXAMPLES** section.

mm Month number
dd Day number in the month
HH Hour number (24 hour system)
MM Minute number
cc Century minus one
yy Last 2 digits of the year number

The month, day, year, and century may be omitted; the current values are applied as defaults. For example:

date 10080045

sets the date to Oct 8, 12:45 a.m. The current year is the default because no year is supplied. The system operates in GMT. **date** takes care of the conversion to and from local standard and daylight time. Only the super-user may change the date. After successfully setting the date and time, **date** displays the new date according to the default format. The **date** command uses **TZ** to determine the correct time zone information; see **environ**(5).

EXAMPLES

The command

example% date '+DATE: %m/%d/%y%nTIME: %H:%M:%S'

generates as output:

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

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **date**: **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_TIME**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

TZ Determine the timezone in which the time and date are written, unless the −**u** option is specified. If the **TZ** variable is not set and the −**u** is not specified, the system default timezone is used.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.
>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

strftime(3C), **environ**(5)

DIAGNOSTICS

no permission You are not the super-user and you tried to change the date.
bad conversion The date set is syntactically incorrect.

NOTES

If you attempt to set the current date to one of the dates that the standard and alternate time zones change (for example, the date that daylight time is starting or ending), and you attempt to set the time to a time in the interval between the end of standard time and the beginning of the alternate time (or the end of the alternate time and the beginning of standard time), the results are unpredictable.