NAME

date − print and set the date

SYNOPSIS

date [−s] [−v] [mmddhhmm[yy]] [+ format]

DESCRIPTION

If no argument is given, or if the argument begins with +, the current date and time are printed.

A numerical argument results in an attempt to set the system's idea of the current date. The argument is interpreted as follows:

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 -s option is used, *date* attempts to read a TCU100 battery powered clock and sets the system time to the clock time read.

The -v option makes date ask for verification before setting the time.

If the argument begins with +, the output format of *date* is under the control of the user. The format specification for the output is similar to that used in the first argument to *printf*(3S). 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
D	date as mm/dd/yy
H	hour − 00 to 23
M	minute − 00 to 59
S	second − 00 to 59
T	time as HH:MM:SS
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

EXAMPLE

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

would generate as output:

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

DIAGNOSTICS

Most diagnostics are self-explanatory. Here are a few that aren't.

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/mem
/etc/wtmp