

## Date-Time Format Strings

[See also](#)

Date/Time format strings control the formatting of dates and times.

### Description

Date-Time Format Strings specify the formatting of date-time values (such as `TDateTime`) when they are converted to strings. Date-Time Format Strings are passed to formatting routines (such as `FormatDateTime`), and are also used to set certain global variables (such as `ShortDateFormat`).

Date Time Format Strings are composed from specifiers that represent values to be inserted into the formatted string. Some specifiers (such as "d"), simply format numbers or strings. Other specifiers (such as "/") refer to locale-specific strings from [global variables](#).

In the following table, specifiers are given in lower case. Case is ignored in formats, except for the "am/pm" and "a/p" specifiers.

Specifier	Displays
c	Displays the date using the format given by the <code>ShortDateFormat</code> global variable, followed by the time using the format given by the <code>LongTimeFormat</code> global variable. The time is not displayed if the date-time value indicates midnight precisely.
d	Displays the day as a number without a leading zero (1-31).
dd	Displays the day as a number with a leading zero (01-31).
ddd	Displays the day as an abbreviation (Sun-Sat) using the strings given by the <code>ShortDayNames</code> global variable.
dddd	Displays the day as a full name (Sunday-Saturday) using the strings given by the <code>LongDayNames</code> global variable.
dddddd	Displays the date using the format given by the <code>ShortDateFormat</code> global variable.
ddddddd	Displays the date using the format given by the <code>LongDateFormat</code> global variable.
e	(Windows only) Displays the year in the current period/era as a number without a leading zero (Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese locales only).
ee	(Windows only) Displays the year in the current period/era as a number with a leading zero (Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese locales only).
g	(Windows only) Displays the period/era as an abbreviation (Japanese and Taiwanese locales only).
gg	(Windows only) Displays the period/era as a full name. (Japanese and Taiwanese locales only).
m	Displays the month as a number without a leading zero (1-12). If the m specifier immediately follows an h or hh specifier, the minute rather than the month is displayed.
mm	Displays the month as a number with a leading zero (01-12). If the mm specifier immediately follows an h or hh specifier, the minute rather than the month is displayed.
mmm	Displays the month as an abbreviation (Jan-Dec) using the strings given by the <code>ShortMonthNames</code> global variable.
mmmm	Displays the month as a full name (January-December) using the strings given by the <code>LongMonthNames</code> global variable.
yy	Displays the year as a two-digit number (00-99).
yyyy	Displays the year as a four-digit number (0000-9999).
h	Displays the hour without a leading zero (0-23).

hh	Displays the hour with a leading zero (00-23).
n	Displays the minute without a leading zero (0-59).
nn	Displays the minute with a leading zero (00-59).
s	Displays the second without a leading zero (0-59).
ss	Displays the second with a leading zero (00-59).
z	Displays the millisecond without a leading zero (0-999).
zzz	Displays the millisecond with a leading zero (000-999).
t	Displays the time using the format given by the ShortTimeFormat global variable.
tt	Displays the time using the format given by the LongTimeFormat global variable.
am/pm	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays 'am' for any hour before noon, and 'pm' for any hour after noon. The am/pm specifier can use lower, upper, or mixed case, and the result is displayed accordingly.
a/p	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays 'a' for any hour before noon, and 'p' for any hour after noon. The a/p specifier can use lower, upper, or mixed case, and the result is displayed accordingly.
ampm	Uses the 12-hour clock for the preceding h or hh specifier, and displays the contents of the TimeAMString global variable for any hour before noon, and the contents of the TimePMString global variable for any hour after noon.
/	Displays the date separator character given by the DateSeparator global variable.
:	Displays the time separator character given by the TimeSeparator global variable.
'xx'/'xx'	Characters enclosed in single or double quotes are displayed as-is, and do not affect formatting.