



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Formatting Date and Time](http://codex.wordpress.org/Formatting_Date_and_Time)

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Formatting Date and Time

Setting the Time and Date

The time and date functions of WordPress are controlled through the use of WordPress Template Tags and through the [Options](#) > [General](#) panels in your [Administration Panels](#). WordPress displays the UTC time and then allows you to adjust it to your own time zone. For information on what your time zone should be compared to the UTC, see [Greenwich Meantime](#) (<http://www.greenwichmeantime.com/>).

Customizing the Time and Date

Certain WordPress tag functions are used to display or return date and time information; [the_date\(\)](#) and [the_time\(\)](#) are examples of this. Some of these functions accept a parameter called a format string that allows you to determine how the date is going to be displayed. The format string is a template in which various parts of the date are combined (using "format characters") to generate a date in the format specified.

For example, the format string:

```
l, F j, Y
```

creates a date that look like this:

```
Friday, September 24, 2004
```

Here is what each format character in the string above represents:

- `l` = Full name for day of the week (lower-case L).
- `F` = Full name for the month.
- `j` = The day of the month.
- `Y` = The year in 4 digits.

(Commas are read literally.)

WordPress is written in the programming language [PHP](#). The date formatting functions in WordPress use PHP's built-in date formatting functions. Therefore, you can use the [table of date format characters on the PHP website](#) (<http://php.net/date>) as a reference for building date format strings for use in WordPress.

Examples

[WordPress v1.5 Strayhorn's](#) default [Theme](#), called Kubrick, features a section at the bottom of a post, called [post meta data](#), which explains when the post was made.

```
<p class="postmetadata alt"><small>This entry was posted on <?php the_time('l, F jS, Y') ?> and is filed under <?php the_category(' ', ' ') ?>.</small></p>
```

The results appear as:

This entry was posted on [Monday, February 21st, 2005](#) and is filed under [News](#).

If you live in Europe and would like to change the order of the date to "Monday, 21 February 2005", you would change the `the_time()` tag to:

```
<?php the_time('l, j F Y') ?>
```

Others might like their reference information much shorter and condensed such as:

```
POSTED: <?php the_time('m/j/y g:i A') ?>
```

```
FILED AS: <?php the_category(' ', ' ') ?>
```

would result in the following:

POSTED: 02/21/05 8:36 AM

FILED AS: News

Date and Time Resources

For more information on how WordPress and PHP format date and time functions:

- [WordPress Template Tags - Date and Time tags](#)
- [WordPress Template Tags - the_date\(\)](#)
- [WordPress Template Tags - the_time\(\)](#)
- [PHP.net: Date and Time Formatting](http://www.php.net/date) (<http://www.php.net/date>)

Event, Calendar, and Time Plugins

- [Calendar and Event Plugins](#)
- [Time oriented Plugins](#)