

Re: Date format detection

Source:

<http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/borland.public.delphi.thirdpartytools.general/2005-10/msg00616.html>

- *From:* "Liz" <liz_wants_no_spam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 14 Oct 2005 14:01:04 -0700
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Andy wrote:

- > I can't find the definition for getdateformat. How do I use it?
- > Thanks and sorry for the ignorance.

Its a windows API

The GetDateFormat function formats a date as a date string for a specified locale. The function formats either a specified date or the local system date.

```
int GetDateFormat(  
    LCID Locale, // locale  
    DWORD dwFlags, // options  
    CONST SYSTEMTIME *lpDate, // date  
    LPCTSTR lpFormat, // date format  
    LPTSTR lpDateStr, // formatted string buffer  
    int cchDate // size of buffer
```

```
);
```

Parameters

Locale

[in] Specifies the locale for which the date string is to be formatted. If lpFormat is NULL, the function formats the string according to the date format for this locale. If lpFormat is not NULL, the function uses the locale only for information not specified in the format picture string (for example, the locale's day and month names).

This parameter can be a locale identifier created by the MAKELCID macro, or one of the following predefined values. Value Meaning

LOCALE_SYSTEM_DEFAULT Default system locale.

LOCALE_USER_DEFAULT Default user locale.

dwFlags

[in] Specifies various function options. If lpFormat is non-NULL, this parameter must be zero.

If lpFormat is NULL, you can specify a combination of the following values. Value Meaning

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LOCALE_NOUSEROVERRIDE If set, the function formats the string using the system default–date format for the specified locale. If not set, the function formats the string using any user overrides to the locale's default–date format.

LOCALE_USE_CP_ACP Uses the system ANSI code page for string translation instead of the locale's code page. See Code Page Identifiers for a list of ANSI and other code pages.

DATE_SHORTDATE Uses the short date format. This is the default. This value cannot be used with **DATE_LONGDATE** or **DATE_YEARMONTH**.

DATE_LONGDATE Uses the long date format. This value cannot be used with **DATE_SHORTDATE** or **DATE_YEARMONTH**.

DATE_YEARMONTH Uses the year/month format. This value cannot be used with **DATE_SHORTDATE** or **DATE_LONGDATE**.

DATE_USE_ALT_CALENDAR Uses the alternate calendar, if one exists, to format the date string. If this flag is set, the function uses the default format for that alternate calendar, rather than using any user overrides. The user overrides will be used only in the event that there is no default format for the specified alternate calendar.

DATE_LTRREADING Adds marks for left–to–right reading layout. This value cannot be used with **DATE_RTLREADING**.

DATE_RTLREADING Adds marks for right–to–left reading layout. This value cannot be used with **DATE_LTRREADING**.

If you do not specify either **DATE_YEARMONTH**, **DATE_SHORTDATE**, or **DATE_LONGDATE**, and **lpFormat** is **NULL**, then **DATE_SHORTDATE** is the default.

lpDate

[in] Pointer to a **SYSTEMTIME** structure that contains the date information to be formatted. If this pointer is **NULL**, the function uses the current local system date.

lpFormat

[in] Pointer to a format picture string that is used to form the date string. The format picture string must be zero terminated. If **lpFormat** is **NULL**, the function uses the date format of the specified locale. Use the following elements to construct a format picture string. If you use spaces to separate the elements in the format string, these spaces will appear in the same location in the output string. The letters must be in uppercase or lowercase as shown in the table (for example, "MM" not "mm"). Characters in the format string that are enclosed in single quotation marks will appear in the same location and unchanged in the output string. Picture Meaning

d Day of month as digits with no leading zero for single–digit days.

dd Day of month as digits with leading zero for single–digit days.

ddd Day of week as a three–letter abbreviation. The function uses the **LOCALE_SABBREVDAYNAME** value associated with the specified locale.

dddd Day of week as its full name. The function uses the

LOCALE_SDAYNAME value associated with the specified locale.

M Month as digits with no leading zero for single–digit months.

MM Month as digits with leading zero for single–digit months.

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MMM Month as a three-letter abbreviation. The function uses the `LOCALE_SABBREVMONTHNAME` value associated with the specified locale.
MMMM Month as its full name. The function uses the `LOCALE_SMONTHNAME` value associated with the specified locale.
y Year as last two digits, but with no leading zero for years less than 10.
yy Year as last two digits, but with leading zero for years less than 10.
yyyy Year represented by full four digits.
gg Period/era string. The function uses the `CAL_SERASTRING` value associated with the specified locale. This element is ignored if the date to be formatted does not have an associated era or period string.

For example, to get the date string

"Wed, Aug 31 94"

use the following picture string:

"ddd',' MMM dd yy"

lpDateStr

[out] Pointer to a buffer that receives the formatted date string.

cchDate

[in] Specifies the size, in TCHARs, of the lpDateStr buffer. If cchDate is zero, the function returns the number of TCHARs required to hold the formatted date string, and the buffer pointed to by lpDateStr is not used.

Return Values

If the function succeeds, the return value is the number of TCHARs written to the lpDateStr buffer, or if the cchDate parameter is zero, the number of TCHARs required to hold the formatted date string. The count includes the terminating null.

If the function fails, the return value is zero. To get extended error information, call `GetLastError`. `GetLastError` may return one of the following error codes:

`ERROR_INSUFFICIENT_BUFFER`

`ERROR_INVALID_FLAGS`

`ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER`

Remarks

The earliest date supported by this function is January 1, 1601.

The day name, abbreviated day name, month name, and abbreviated month name are all localized based on the locale identifier.

The date values in the `SYSTEMTIME` structure pointed to by lpDate must be valid. The function checks each of the date values: year, month, day, and day of week. If the day of the week is incorrect, the function uses the correct value, and returns no error. If any of the other date

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values are outside the correct range, the function fails, and sets the last-error to `ERROR_INVALID_PARAMETER`.

The function ignores the time portions of the `SYSTEMTIME` structure pointed to by `lpDate`: `wHour`, `wMinute`, `wSecond`, and `wMilliseconds`.

If the `lpFormat` parameter is a bad format string, no errors are returned. The function simply forms the best date string that it can. For example, the only year pictures that are valid are `L"yyyy"` and `L"yy"` (the 'L' indicates a Unicode (16-bit characters) string). If `L"y"` is passed in, the function assumes `L"yy"`. If `L"yyy"` is passed in, the function assumes `L"yyyy"`. If more than 4 date (`L"dddd"`) or 4 month (`L"MMMM"`) pictures are passed in, then the function defaults to `L"dddd"` or `L"MMMM"`.

Any text that should remain in its exact form in the date string should be enclosed within single quotation marks in the date format picture. The single quotation mark may also be used as an escape character to allow the single quotation mark itself to be displayed in the date string. However, the escape sequence must be enclosed within two single quotation marks. For example, to display the date as "May '93", the format string would be: `L"MMMM ""'yy"` The first and last single quotation marks are the enclosing quotation marks. The second and third single quotation marks are the escape sequence to allow the single quotation mark to be displayed before the century.

When the date picture contains a numeric form of the day (either `d` or `dd`) followed by the full month name (`MMMM`), the genitive form of the month name is returned in the date string.

To obtain the default short and long date format without performing any actual formatting, use the `GetLocaleInfo` function with the `LOCALE_SSHORTDATE` or `LOCALE_SLONGDATE` parameter. To get the date format for an alternate calendar, use `GetLocaleInfo` with the `LOCALE_IOPTIONALCALENDAR` parameter. To get the date format for a particular calendar, use `GetCalendarInfo`. Also, to return all of the date formats for a particular calendar, you can use `EnumCalendarInfo` or `EnumDateFormatsEx`.

Note: When the ANSI version of this function is used with a Unicode-only LCID, the call can succeed because the system uses the system code page. However, characters that are undefined in the system code page appear in the string as a question mark (?). To determine which LCIDs are Unicode-only, see Table of Language Identifiers.

Windows 95/98/Me: `GetDateFormatW` is supported by the Microsoft Layer for Unicode. To use this, you must add certain files to your application, as outlined in Microsoft Layer for Unicode on Windows 95/98/Me Systems.

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Liz the Brit
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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ *Re: Date format detection*
 - ◇ *From: Andy*

- *References:*
 - ◆ *Re: Date format detection*
 - ◇ *From: Andy*

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