
Dating L^AT_EX

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1 Dating for dummies

Do not get ideas from the title. This article is NOT about dating (like dating your girlfriend). We are studying issues in using dates (calendar dates) in a L^AT_EX document. L^AT_EX users have to put up with the American style for dates, since this is the default format used by L^AT_EX . For example, today is October 14, 2014, in plain L^AT_EX

This format may confuse people who are not accustomed to the American way of doing things.

The international format defined by ISO (ISO 8601) tries to address problems related to the display of dates, by defining a numerical date system as follows: YYYY-MM-DD where

- YYYY is the year [all the digits, i.e. 2012]
- MM is the month [01 (January) to 12 (December)]
- DD is the day [01 to 31]

If you want to use the ISO format (or any other format), you have to choose either the `isodate` package or the `datetime` package. Both these are very rich and useful packages. They are also perhaps packages which have the ugliest and unhelpful documentation.

After a lot of fumbling and exploring, I managed to find the right way to get ISO dates using these packages.

MWE for `datetime` package

Raw Default: October 14, 2014
Today is ::: October 14, 2014 TeX style
Today is ::: 2014 -10 -14 ISO style
Today is ::: 14 - 10 - 2014 India style

MWE for isodate package

Today is ::: 2014 -10 -14 in ISO style (only if isodate is turned on)

If isodate is turned on, ISO format will be applied to the entire document. You cannot change formats midway like in `datetime`.

Of course, the `isodate` package and the `datetime` package do much more than manipulate date formats. They can also be used to operate on time formats. In this article, we have examined only one aspect (date formats) of these packages.

2 Concluding remarks

This document is a part of tutorials and demonstrations documents created by the author. The entire collection can be found on the web [5].

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This is a \LaTeX document, created under Linux, using Kile. You can get the \LaTeX source of this document from `drpartha@gmail.com`. Please mention the Reference Code, and Version code, given at the top of this document. Please follow the “basic rules of decency” explained in [2].

If you found this article useful, please send a note to `drpartha@gmail.com`

As always, suggestions and constructive comments are always welcome. The author operates by Crocker’s Rules [3], and believes in Radical Honesty [4], so do not hesitate to speak plainly and frankly. Honest and frank opinion is more constructive than polite and diplomatic silence.

3 About the author



Parthasarathy is an aggressive supporter of FOSS, and is based in Secunderabad, India. He teaches discrete mathematics, and preaches \LaTeX and Linux, to students of Computer Science. He would be happy to assist anyone, particularly students, teachers, and institutions, who are genuinely interested in these topics. His tutorials, usually made with \LaTeX , are accessible freely from the w-w-web.

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