
Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 16:48:26 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic (mvukovic@taz.telusa.com) writes:

- > I'm runing idl 5.3.1 on windows nt, and cannot access
- > the time and date functions introduced in 5.1.
- >
- > Am I on the correct planet, or have I missed something?.

No, Mirko, you've been in a time warp. Those things disappeared in IDL 5.2. Not Y2K compatible, I guess. :-)

Check out the Label_Date function. And there are some neat new things in IDL 5.4 (a TimeGen function, for example). I think most everyone though is using the date/time functions available on either the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab or NASA Astronomy ftp sites.

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?
Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 17:21:03 GMT
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In article <MPG.14198bc9d020ee9989c19@news.frii.com>,
davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:

- > Mirko Vukovic (mvukovic@taz.telusa.com) writes:
- >
- >> I'm runing idl 5.3.1 on windows nt, and cannot access
- >> the time and date functions introduced in 5.1.
- >>
- >> Am I on the correct planet, or have I missed something?.
- >
- > No, Mirko, you've been in a time warp. Those things
- > disappeared in IDL 5.2. Not Y2K compatible, I guess. :-)
- >

> Check out the Label_Date function. And there are some
> neat new things in IDL 5.4 (a TimeGen function, for
> example). I think most everyone though is using the
> date/time functions available on either the Johns
> Hopkins Applied Physics Lab or NASA Astronomy ftp
> sites.

thanks,

hm, I saw nothing in the list of obsolete routines.
Thanks for the pointer to the other libraries. As for
5.4, well, some of us are mere mortals :-)

have a good weekend

Mirko

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Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?
Posted by [William Daffer](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 18:55:28 GMT
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As David remarked, they disappeared in IDL 5.2 because of Y2K compliance issues, mostly having to do with ENVI, as I recall. A *very* small issue, as you'll see below. I had something of a knockdown-dragout with them over this, since I use these *all* the time and I have *no* problems with them (because I always use 4 digits for my years!)

You can retrieve the old files from idl 5.2 release CD (in rsi/idl52/lib/compat) or just get them from the the /lib directory in 5.1 distrib CD. If you don't have those, contact me and I'll put them on an ftp site for you.

When I talked to them about this, they sent me a revised version of str_to_dt.pro that fixed the only y2k compliance issue they mentioned specifically. The output from 'diff' for these two versions (diff new old) is:

```
71,78c71
<
< CATCH, onerror
<
< if onerror NE 0 then begin
```

```

<  print, !error_state.msg
<  return,0
< endif
<
---
>
133,138c126,128
<
<    if year eq 0 then begin
<      message,'There is no year 0.'
<      return,0
<    endif
<
---
>
>    if year lt 100 then year = year + 1900 ;Not Y2K compatible!!!
>

```

As you can see, the old version defaults 2 digit years to 1900 + year, which they disallow in the new version. This is the only explicitly mentioned y2k problem, although they've hinted at others. I asked about these, but never got a response. I've had no problem with these routines, they are the general way I represent time in all my production code and have been since 1997, and I've been running a this system 24/7 since then. It ran quite happily over the change. My perl code broke, but not the IDL code.

William

Mirko Vukovic <mvukovic@taz.telusa.com> writes:

```

> Hi,
>
> I'm runing idl 5.3.1 on windows nt, and cannot access
> the time and date functions introduced in 5.1.
>
> Am I on the correct planet, or have I missed something?.
> (my newsgroup searcher is not functioning at the moment)
>
> Thanks,
>
> Mirko
>
>
> Sent via Deja.com http://www.deja.com/

```

> Before you buy.

--

Ab hoc possum videre domum tuum.

Public Key: <http://home.earthlink.net/~whdaffer/#PGP-public-key>

Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?

Posted by [Mirko Vukovic](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 22:16:25 GMT

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In article <m3wvowlz6i.fsf@localhost.localdomain>,

William Daffer <whdaffer@earthlink.net> wrote:

>

> As David remarked, they disappeared in IDL 5.2 because of Y2K
> compliance issues, mostly having to do with ENVI, as I recall. A
> *very* small issue, as you'll see below. I had something of a
> knockdown-dragout with them over this, since I use these *all* the
> time and I have *no* problems with them (because I always use 4 digits
> for my years!)

>

> You can retrieve the old files from idl 5.2 release CD (in
> rsi/idl52/lib/compat) or just get them from the the /lib directory in
> 5.1 distrib CD. If you don't have those, contact me and I'll put them
> on an ftp site for you.

thanks.

A colleague of mine had the 5.2 CD handy and I got the files.

Mirko

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Before you buy.

Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?

Posted by [William Daffer](#) on Fri, 01 Sep 2000 22:55:18 GMT

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Mirko Vukovic <mvukovic@taz.telusa.com> writes:

> In article <MPG.14198bc9d020ee9989c19@news.frii.com>,
> davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) wrote:
>> Mirko Vukovic (mvukovic@taz.telusa.com) writes:
>>

```

>>> I'm running idl 5.3.1 on windows nt, and cannot access
>>> the time and date functions introduced in 5.1.
>>>
>>> Am I on the correct planet, or have I missed something?.
>>
>> No, Mirko, you've been in a time warp. Those things
>> disappeared in IDL 5.2. Not Y2K compatible, I guess. :-)
>>
>> Check out the Label_Date function. And there are some
>> neat new things in IDL 5.4 (a TimeGen function, for
>> example). I think most everyone though is using the
>> date/time functions available on either the Johns
>> Hopkins Applied Physics Lab or NASA Astronomy ftp
>> sites.
>
> thanks,
>
> hm, I saw nothing in the list of obsolete routines.
> Thanks for the pointer to the other libraries. As for
> 5.4, well, some of us are mere mortals :-)
>
> have a good weekend
>
> Mirko
>

```

They weren't really 'obsoleted' since the functionality wasn't replaced, just removed. If you skipped from 5.1 to 5.3, as I did, these routines just *disappeared*.

I think this whole thing was handled pretty badly. Apparently few share my concern since most everyone else seems to be using the JHAPL routines and so the loss of this functionality is a 'eh... so what?' sort of thing for them. But it does demonstrate that RSI will remove whole blocks of functionality without much warning.

On the plus side, I can't think of another such 'block of functionality' which might share characteristics making it liable to a similar fate as these routines, so I imagine we won't see such wholesale decimation of the code base again.

If you want these routines back, see my other message in this thread. I use these routines all the time with no problem. Just don't use 2 digit years and you'll be fine.

William

--

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Public Key: <http://home.earthlink.net/~whdaffer/#PGP-public-key>

Subject: Re: what happened to time/date functions?
Posted by [William Daffer](#) on Sat, 02 Sep 2000 00:55:33 GMT
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Mirko Vukovic <mvukovic@taz.telusa.com> writes:

> thanks.
>
> A colleague of mine had the 5.2 CD handy and I got the files.
>
> Mirko

O.K.

--

Ab hoc possum videre domum tuum.

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