

.Net DateTime Format Strings Cheat Sheet Version 1.0

You can always find the latest version of this cheat sheet at <http://go.nbdtech.com?27819A34>

All samples in this cheat sheet are of the date time created with "new DateTime(2009, 6, 20, 8, 35, 5, 123)".

Standard and Custom Format Strings

.net has two different kinds of format strings, standard and custom, a string that is exactly 1 character long is a standard format string (parts 1 and 2), all other strings are custom format strings (part 3), to make a one character custom format string prefix it with a percent sign (%).

Format strings are case sensitive (for example, M is the month and m is minutes).

PART 1 – Machine Readable Standard Format Strings

Those are special formats that are not affected by the culture, they should be used for storage and communication, not to be displayed to the user.

Format	Description	Result	When to Use
O/o	Round Trip Format	2009-06-20T08:35:05.1230000	Communications and saving to files
R/r	RFC1123	Sat, 20 Jun 2009 08:35:05 GMT	When RFC1123 format is required
s	Sortable Format	2009-06-20T08:35:05	When you have to sort the strings

PART 2 – Human Readable Standard Format Strings

Those formats are for display and for parsing user input, don't use them for storage or communication because they can change between machines, between users on the same machine, between version of Windows or the .net framework and even for the same user if he or she changes the "regional options" settings in the control panel.

Format	Description	English US	English GB	Spanish, Spain	French, France
d	Short Date	6/20/2009	20/06/2009	20/06/2009	20/06/2009
D	Long Date	Saturday, June 20, 2009	20 June 2009	sábado, 20 de junio de 2009	samedi 20 juin 2009
f	Long Date, Short Time	Saturday, June 20, 2009 8:35 AM	20 June 2009 08:35	sábado, 20 de junio de 2009 8:35	samedi 20 juin 2009 08:35
F	Long Date, Long Time	Saturday, June 20, 2009 8:35:05 AM	20 June 2009 08:35:05	sábado, 20 de junio de 2009 8:35:05	samedi 20 juin 2009 08:35:05
g	Short Date, Short Time	6/20/2009 8:35 AM	20/06/2009 08:35	20/06/2009 8:35	20/06/2009 08:35
G	Short Date, Long Time	6/20/2009 8:35:05 AM	20/06/2009 08:35:05	20/06/2009 8:35:05	20/06/2009 08:35:05
M/m	Month and day	June 20	20 June	20 junio	20 juin
t	Short time	8:35 AM	08:35	8:35	08:35
T	Long Time	8:35:05 AM	08:35:05	8:35:05	08:35:05
u	Universal short date/time	2009-06-20 08:35:05Z	2009-06-20 08:35:05Z	2009-06-20 08:35:05Z	2009-06-20 08:35:05Z
U	Universal long date/time	Saturday, June 20, 2009 5:35:05 AM	20 June 2009 05:35:05	sábado, 20 de junio de 2009 5:35:05	samedi 20 juin 2009 05:35:05
Y/y	Month and year	June, 2009	June 2009	junio de 2009	juin 2009

PART 3 – Custom Format Strings

Custom format strings are useful when you don't want to use any of the built in date and time patterns, just be careful because custom format string are both culture dependent (each component is culture specific) and culture independent (the order of components is specified in the format string) – so the result may not make sense in other cultures.

Format	Description	English US	English GB	Spanish, Spain	French, France
d	Day of month (1or 2 digits)	20	20	20	20
dd	Day of month (2 digits)	20	20	20	20
ddd	Day of week, short	Sat	Sat	sáb	sam.
dddd	Day of week, long	Saturday	Saturday	sábado	samedi
f	Tenth of second	1	1	1	1
ff	Hundredth of second	12	12	12	12
fff	Thousandth of a second	123	123	123	123
ffff	Ten-thousandth of a second	1230	1230	1230	1230
F	Like f, without trailing zeros	1	1	1	1
FF	Like ff, without trailing zeros	12	12	12	12
FFF	Like fff, without trailing zeros	123	123	123	123
FFFF	Like ffff, without trailing zeros	123	123	123	123
g/gg	Period or era	A.D.	A.D.	DC	ap. J.-C.
h	Hour 0-11, 1 or 2 digits	8	8	8	8
hh	Hour 0-11, 2 digits	08	08	08	08
H	Hour 0-23, 1 or 2 digits	8	8	8	8
HH	Hour 0-23, 2 digits	08	08	08	08
m	Minute, 1 or 2 digits	35	35	35	35
mm	Minute, 2 digits	35	35	35	35
M	Month, 1 or 2 digits	6	6	6	6
MM	Month, 2 digits	06	06	06	06
MMM	Month, short	Jun	Jun	jun	juin
MMMM	Month, long	June	June	junio	juin
s	Second, 1 or 2 digits	5	5	5	5
ss	Second, 2 digits	05	05	05	05
t	First letter of AM/PM	A	A		
tt	AM/PM designator	AM	AM		
y	Year, 1 or 2 digits	9	9	9	9
yy	Year, 2 digits	09	09	09	09
yyy	Year, 3 or 4 digits	2009	2009	2009	2009
yyyy	Year, 4 digits	2009	2009	2009	2009
:	Time separator	:	:	:	:
/	Date separator	/	/	/	/
"x"/'x'	Literal string	x	x	X	x

Format specifiers related to time zones were not included in this table because DateTime time zone support is incomplete, use the TimeZoneInfo class if you need time zone support.