

# The `getfiledate` Package

Version 1.0

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## Summary

The `getfiledate` package fetches from the system the date of last modification or opening of a resident file. It is based on an idea by Heiko Oberdiek <[oberdiek@uni-freiburg.de](mailto:oberdiek@uni-freiburg.de)> that appeared in February 2009 on the discussion/newsgroup website [comp.text.tex](http://comp.text.tex), namely, using the `\pdffilemoddate` command of pdfTeX. This package creates a user-friendly interface for obtaining and presenting the needed filedate in several formats.

## 1 User interface

The package may be loaded without options as in

```
1 \usepackage{getfiledate}
```

or with options as in

```
2 \usepackage[option=value]{getfiledate}
```

The options include the filename for which you want to print the date of last modification. The options and their default values are described in section 2. It is advisable to first load the package by `\usepackage{getfiledate}` and then use the macro `\getfiledate` to dynamically determine and print the date of last modification of the filename. This macro sets the various options.

## 2 Package options

The package options are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Package options

Option	Default	Meaning
file	getfiledate.sty	The file for which the date of last modification is required.
prefix	The date of last modification of file	The prefix of filedate.
width	\hsize	The width of the parbox or boxedminipage containing the filedate.
head	0ex	The vertical separation between the paragraph before the filedate and the filedate itself. When this option is passed to package without value, its default becomes the \baselineskip.
foot	0ex	The vertical skip between the filedate's line and the paragraph after filedate. When this option is passed to package without value, its default becomes the \baselineskip.
marker	\blacktriangle-right	The mark before the filedate, on the same line with the filedate.
markercolor	blue	The color of the marker.
filenamecolor	blue	The color of the filename.
datecolor	blue	The color of filedate.
inlinespace	1em	The horizontal separation between the marker and the filedate.
separator	\textbullet	The marker between the filedate and filetype.
separatorcolor	black	The color of the separator.
framecolor	black	The color of the boxrule for the boxedminipage.
framesep	3pt	The \fboxsep for the boxedminipage.
framerule	0.4pt	The \fboxrule for the boxedminipage.
align	justified	Alignment of the boxedminipage (possible values are <b>center</b> , <b>left</b> , <b>right</b> and <b>justified</b> ).
boxed	false	The boolean switch for enclosing the filedate in a box. If the user simply enters this option without value, it will be assumed to be <b>true</b> . If it doesn't appear in the options list, its value is <b>false</b> .

### 3 Examples

#### Example 3.1

The simplest example is to use the `\getfiledate` macro in the following way:

```
3 \getfiledate{file={dir/filename.ext}}
```

for which the default values of the package options will be used. For the sample file `misc-test1.tex`, the outcome of this will be:

► The date of last modification of file `misc-test1.tex` was 2008-12-10 • 20:21:14.

You can, however, use package options to customize the format of the result. The following examples illustrate the most important issues in using this package.

#### Example 3.2

The example in this section was obtained with the following settings. There are values specified for `head` and `foot`.

```
4 \getfiledate{file={misc-test1.tex},head=.1\baselineskip,
5   foot=2\baselineskip,markercolor=magenta,filenamecolor=purple,
6   datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,marker=$\blacktriangleright$,
7   separator
8 }
```

The outcome of this is:

► The date of last modification of file `misc-test1.tex` was 2008-12-10 • 20:21:14.

If you don't need the `marker`, you can set `marker={}` as follows

```
9 \getfiledate{file={misc-test1.tex},head=\baselineskip,
10  foot=\baselineskip,width=.6\hsize,filenamecolor=xagreen1,
11  prefix=The date of final changes to file,
12  datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,boxed=false,
13  separator=$\spadesuit$,separatorcolor=green,
14  marker={},align=center
15 }
```

to get:

The date of final changes to file `misc-test1.tex` was  
2008-12-10 ♠ 20:21:14.

If you simply remove `marker` from the key-value list, the `marker` will retain the last value you set for it rather than the default value (which is nil).

The user should note:

- The inclusion of the `width (=0.6\hsize)` in the above example. The `width` will maintain this value until it is changed again, as in the following example.
- The change of `prefix` here. The default value of `prefix` is `The date of last modification of file`. The `prefix` will maintain this value until it is changed in the next call (see the next example).
- The use of the key-value `align=center` above. The key `align` can assume values of `center`, `left`, `right`, and `justified`. Any other value for `align` will be rejected by the package.

### Example 3.3

The example in this section was obtained with the following settings:

```
16 \getfiledate{file={misc-test2.tex},head=0ex,foot=\baselineskip,
17   prefix,width=\hsize,markercolor=magenta,filenamecolor=red,
18   datecolor=violet,inlinespace=.5em,marker=$\triangleright$,
19   separator=$\clubsuit$,separatorcolor=xbgreen1
20 }
```

The outcome is:

▷ The date of last modification of file `misc-test2.tex` was 2008-11-03 ♣ 16:58:16.

Here we simply passed the `prefix` without value so that its default value was used.

### Example 3.4

The example in this section was obtained with the following settings:

```
21 \getfiledate{file={misc-test3.tex},head=\baselineskip,
22   foot=2\baselineskip,markercolor=red!65,filenamecolor=blue,
23   datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,marker={\star},
24   separator=$\Diamond$,separatorcolor=red
25 }
```

The outcome is:

★ The date of last modification of file `misc-test3.tex` was 2009-07-05 ◇ 15:55:48.

**Example 3.5**

The example in this section was obtained with the following settings:

```

26 \getfiledate{file={misc-test4.tex},head=\baselineskip,foot=2ex,
27   markercolor=cyan,filenamecolor=blue,datecolor=orange,
28   inlinespace=.5em,marker={\blacktriangleright},
29   markercolor=cyan,separator=$\heartsuit$,separatorcolor
30 } % Use default separatorcolor

```

The outcome is:

- The date of last modification of file `misc-test4.tex` was 2009-07-05 ♡ 15:56:36.

**Example 3.6**

The example in this section was obtained with the following settings:

```

31 \getfiledate{file={misc-test5.tex},head=1ex,foot=1ex,
32   markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
33   datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,
34   marker={\blacktriangleright},separator={}
35 } % The separator is nil here.

```

The outcome of this is:

- The date of last modification of file `misc-test5.tex` was 2009-04-25 04:38:14.

**Example 3.7**

Instead of keeping `head` and `foot`, you may instead decide to frame your result, as follows:

```

36 \getfiledate{file={misc-test5.tex},head=.5\baselineskip,
37   foot=.5\baselineskip,width=12.5cm,framesep=5pt,framerule=.4pt,
38   align=center,markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
39   datecolor=orange,marker={\blacktriangleright},
40   separator=$\heartsuit$,boxed
41 } % marker has no effect here.

```

The outcome is:

The date of last modification of file `misc-test5.tex` was 2009-04-25 ♡ 04:38:14.

The boolean option `boxed` has the default value of `true` when listed in the key-value list. If you set the key `boxed(=true)` in one call to the `\getfiledate` macro, and you don't want the filedate to be boxed subsequently, you have to turn it off (i.e., enter `boxed=false`) in the next call to `\getfiledate`. The choice `boxed(=true)` automatically turns off `marker` irrespective of whether or not you have submitted a value to this key in `\getfiledate` macro. In the above example, the reader will notice that the setting `marker=\blacktriangleright` has no effect on the outcome.

For the boxed filedates, you can set the options `framesep` and `framerule` (equivalents of L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's native `\fboxsep` and `\fboxrule`) as follows:

```

42 \getfiledate{file={misc-test5.tex},head=\baselineskip,
43    foot=1ex,marker={\blacktriangleright},markercolor=purple,
44    filenamecolor=blue,width=.9\hsize,datecolor=orange,
45    inlinespace=.5em,align=left,boxed,separator={\blacklozenge},
46    framesep=5pt,framerule=2pt
47 } % marker has no effect here.
```

The outcome of this is:

The date of last modification of file `misc-test5.tex` was 2009-04-25 ◆ 04:38:14.

The default values of `framesep` and `framerule` are 3pt and 0.4pt (L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X's native values for `\fboxsep` and `\fboxrule`). The user should note that the keys `framesep` and `framerule` should, of course, be submitted without backslashes (e.g., `framesep=5pt` and `framerule=2pt`).

You can change the box color as in

```

48 \getfiledate{file={misc-test5.tex},head=\baselineskip,
49    foot=\baselineskip,markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
50    datecolor=orange,width=8cm,align=right,boxed,framesep=5pt,
51    framerule=2pt,separator={\Diamond},framecolor=green
52 }
```

The outcome of this is:

The date of last modification of file `misc-test5.tex` was 2009-04-25 ◇ 04:38:14.

This box color will remain in force until it is changed again. The default value of `framecolor` is `black`.

Bye