The `getfiledate` Package

Version 1.0

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Contents

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> that appeared in February 2009 on the discussion/newsgroup website `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 filenames. The `\getfiledate` macro sets the various options. The `\documentclass` and `\usepackage{getfiledate}` options lists may, however, be used to set options that apply throughout the document.

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 filename.
`postfix`	`was`	The postfix of filename, not that of filedate. It has been necessary to provide both prefix and postfix following user requests.
`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 filename, 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 filetime.
`sepcolor`	`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.

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Option	Default	Meaning
align	justified	Alignment of the boxedminipage (possible values are center, left, right and justified).
putprefix	false	The boolean switch for placing prefix and postfix before the filedate. If this option is not entered in the call to \getfiledate, no prefix and no postfix will be inserted (even if the user specifies prefix and postfix in the call to \getfiledate). This option has been necessitated by users who just want to get filedate without any prefix, postfix or filename.
notime	false	The boolean switch for turning the display of time on or off.
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 true. If it doesn't appear in the options list, its value is false.

3   Examples

Example 3.1

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

```
3   \getfiledate[putprefix]{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.

The prefix and postfix can be turned off as follows:

```
4   \getfiledate[putprefix=false]{dir/filename.ext}
```

which gives

2008-12-10 ● 20:21:14.

If the user needs the prefix and postfix in subsequent calls to **\getfiledate**, he has

to turn them on again—through `putprefix` as follows. Once turned on, they remain in effect until switched off later.

The setting

```
5  \getfiledate[putprefix,marker={$\star$}]{dir/filename.ext}
```

gives

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

The ability to change both the prefix and postfix automatically provides a `babel` (i.e., multilingual) support. For example, if I want the postfix to be `\mrule`, I can simply enter

```
6  \new\def\mrule{\rule[.2ex]{.5cm}{3pt}}
7  \getfiledate[putprefix,marker={$\star$},
8    postfix=\mrule]{dir/filename.ext}
```

to get

⋆   The date of last modification of file misc-test1.tex ▬▬ 2008-12-10 • 20:21:14.

You can use all 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`.

```
9   \getfiledate[putprefix,postfix,head=.1\baselineskip,
10    foot=2\baselineskip,markercolor=magenta,
11    filenamecolor=purple,datecolor=orange,
12    inlinespace=.5em,marker=$\blacktriangleright$,separator
13  ]{misc-test1.tex}
```

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 simply enter `marker` without value as follows

```
14  \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,
15    foot=\baselineskip,width=.6\hsize,filenamecolor=xgreen10,
16    prefix=The date of final changes to file,
```

```
17      datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,boxed=false,
18      separator=$\spadesuit$,sepcolor=green,marker,align=center
19   ]{misc-test1.tex}
```

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 assigned to it rather than the default value (which is nil).

Example 3.3

Unlike the case of the `marker`, if you don't need the `separator`, you would have to enter `separator={}` or simply `separator=` as follows

```
20   \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,foot=\baselineskip,
21      width=.6\hsize,filenamecolor=xgreen10,
22      prefix=The date of final changes to file,
23      datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,boxed=false,
24      separator=,sepcolor=green,marker,align=center
25   ]{misc-test1.tex}
```

to get

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

The same trick can be applied to some other keys. If you simply remove the `separator` from the key-value list, the `separator` will retain the last value you assigned to it rather than the default value (which is `\textbullet`). If in the subsequent calls to `\getfiledate`, you need the `separator`, you would have to specify it or (to use the default value) simply enter `separator` without value.

Notes: The user should note the following:

- 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 examples.

- If you enter `putprefix=false` and you want the outcome centered, you should remember to set the right `width`. For example, the following will not be centered, simply because the value of `width` is `0.8\hsize`:

```
26      \getfiledate[putprefix=false,align=center,
27         width=0.8\hsize,separator]{dir/filename.ext}
```

which gives

2008-12-10 • 20:21:14.

Setting `width=.3\hsize` gives the desired result:

2008-12-10 • 20:21:14.

- The assignment to keys can be localized by enclosing the `\getfiledate` command in a group (e.g., `\bgroup` ... `\egroup`).

- 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 ability to change the `prefix` and `postfix` provides a babel (i.e., multilingual) support, since the user can specify suitable values of these keys.

- 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.

- Some of the package options (e.g., `putprefix`, `notime`) can be submitted globally via the options list of `\documentclass`.

Example 3.4

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

```
28  \getfiledate[head=0ex,foot=\baselineskip,
29    prefix,width=\hsize,markercolor=magenta,filenamecolor=red,
30    datecolor=violet,inlinespace=.5em,marker=$\triangleright$,
31    separator=$\clubsuit$,sepcolor=xbgreen1
32  ]{misc-test2.tex}
```

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 3.5

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

```
33  \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,foot=\baselineskip,
34    markercolor=red!65,filenamecolor=blue,
35    datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,marker={$\star$},
36    separator=$\Diamond$,sepcolor=red
37  ]{misc-test3.tex}
```

The outcome is:

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

Example 3.6

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

```
38  \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,foot=2ex,
39    filenamecolor=blue,datecolor=orange,
40    inlinespace=.5em,marker={$\blacktriangleright$},
41    markercolor=cyan,separator=$\heartsuit$,sepcolor
42  ]{misc-test4.tex} % Use default sepcolor
```

The outcome is:

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

Example 3.7

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

```
43  \getfiledate[head=1ex,foot=1ex,
44    markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
45    datecolor=orange,inlinespace=.5em,
46    marker={$\blacktriangleright$},separator={}
47  ]{misc-test5.tex} % 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 3.8

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

```
48  \getfiledate[head=.5\baselineskip,
49    foot=.5\baselineskip,width=12.5cm,framesep=5pt,framerule=.4pt,
50    align=center,markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
51    datecolor=orange,marker={$\blacktriangleright$},
52    separator=$\heartsuit$,boxed
53  ]{misc-test5.tex} % 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 LaTeX's native `\fboxsep` and `\fboxrule`) as follows:

```
54  \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,
55     foot=1ex,marker={$\blacktriangleright$},markercolor=purple,
56     filenamecolor=blue,width=.9\hsize,datecolor=orange,
57     inlinespace=.5em,align=left,boxed,separator=$\blacklozenge$,
58     framesep=5pt,framerule=2pt
59  ]{misc-test5.tex}  % 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 (LaTeX'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 frame color as in

```
60  \getfiledate[head=\baselineskip,
61     foot=\baselineskip,markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,
62     datecolor=orange,width=8cm,align=right,boxed,framesep=5pt,
63     framerule=2pt,separator=$\Diamond$,framecolor=green
64  ]{misc-test5.tex}
```

The outcome of this is:

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

This frame color will remain in force until it is changed again. The default value of

`framecolor` is `black`.

Example 3.9

The display of time can be avoided by using the switch `notime`, as follows.

```
65  \getfiledate[notime,head=\baselineskip,foot=1ex,
66    markercolor=purple,filenamecolor=blue,datecolor=orange,
67    inlinespace=.5em,marker={$\blacktriangleright$},width=.8\hsize,
68    align=center,boxed,framecolor=olive!25
69  ]{misc-test5.tex}
```

The outcome of this is:

> The date of last modification of file misc-test5.tex was
> 2009-04-25.

Notice here that the immediate past values of `framerule` and `framesep` are still in effective.

4   Postamble

The record of filedates can be logged in a file (say, `\jobname.fds`), but I haven't encountered a real need for it.