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## Date and Date Time Fields

1 | Updated March 29, 2016 by [Casey Cantwell](#) | Tags: *None*

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	Database	Application Server	Process Server	My Profile Time Zone	Client's Machine
<b>Storage</b>	Date/Time and Date fields are stored in the database as epoch (long number values, number of milliseconds from 1/1/1970 00:00:00 GMT/UTC)	Nothing is stored permanently on this server.	Nothing is stored permanently on this server.	NA	NA
<b>New values</b>	Uses getDate() function to generate new data when fields have their default value set to current time	In Sync workflows state transitions, the use of local system time is used for fields with default values set to current time	In Async workflows and state transitions that occur on this server, local system time is used for fields with default values set	In the context of a user with a different time zone, the user's time zone will be applied to fields with default values set to the current time	When no default value is set, and the date&time or date picker is used, the current time of the machine is used.
<b>Display values</b>	Database just stores date data, and timezone in My Profile record	The application server will convert the date/time stored in the database into a display value for the end user. If the user has no timezone set in their My Profile, it will use the local server time.	Display logic is performed on the Application server.	The TimeZone value in the user's My Profile will impact the calculation done when the date time is displayed to the end user.	In 3.3.1.1 and older releases, when selecting a date/time or date value, the local client machine's will be used in the date picker's internal calculations. This could mean that date fields, when saved, will fall back one day.
<b>Synchronization</b>	It is important and required to keep the database, app and process servers' times in sync, and in the same timezone.	In sync with DB	In sync with DB	Should be set for users not in the same timezone as the servers.	It is important to keep the user's profile and their client machine on the same timezone, for 3.3.1.1 and below, it is required.

## Notes

- The Database and Application server must be set to the same time, and in the same time zone.
- My Profile timezone field is not required. A blank timezone will default to the server's time zone. Make sure the user's timezone is set properly.
- System user has no timezone, so it will be set at the system's user time.
- Dates and Times in a workflow are not performed in the context of the user running the workflow - it is the system server's timezone
- Date fields have a time portion as well, so dates could appear "a day behind" if the user that saved a record was in PST, while a user in a far east time zone will see it as a day off.
- Date entry is Lenient, so a date entered like Feb 31 2014 will be converted to March 3 2014
- The Relative option on Date and Date Time will cause the data to be shown exactly the same no matter what timezone users are in.
- Changing the Relative option to a field will not go and retro data after publishing the BO. A retro script or workflow would need to be created to update existing data.

## Scenarios

Server is on PST, user 1 my profile is in EST, computer 1 is in EST, user 2 is in PST, computer 2 is in PST: User 1(EST) creates a new record on Jan 1 2012 at 1:00 AM (EST) - in queries/reports and viewing the record user 1 will see 1/1/2012 1:00 AM for all places. User 2 will see 12/31/2011 at 10:00 PM.

Server is on GMT, user 1 my profile is in British Summer Time, user 2 is in PST, user 3 is on Phoenix time. User 1 (BST) creates a new record on Aug 1 2012 at 1:00 AM BST. in queries/reports and viewing record user 1 will see Aug 1 2012 at 1:00 AM. user 2 and 3 would see Jul 31 2012 at 6:00 PM

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