

Standards Change Request

Clarify Case Requirement for DATE/TIME Format

SCR3-1133.v3

Provenance:  
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2008-03-11: Edited by Simpson

Problem Summary:  
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Standards Reference 12.3.2.5.1 allows use of both upper and lower case "T" in ODL date/time formats, though the Backus-Naur Form (BNF) expression shows only upper. The ISO 8601 standard requires upper, and no other part of the SR mentions lower in the date/time context (SR Chapter 7 uses upper case exclusively). Data providers may be confused by the sentence in 12.3.2.5.1.

Current Urgency:  
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None

Proposed Solution:  
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Remove the confusion-inducing sentence from 12.3.2.5.1:

The letter T separating the date from the time may be specified in either upper or lower case.

Impact Assessment:  
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- (1) PDS Standards Reference: Remove one sentence from 12.3.2.5.1
- (2) Archive Preparation Guide: None.
- (3) Proposer's Archive Guide: None.
- (4) Planetary Science Data Dictionary: None
- (5) PDS Tools:
  - EN Tools: None
  - DN Tools: impact TBD
- (6) Users and ingested data: The working group is not aware of any data that have been (or will be) submitted using "t" as the date/time separator.

Additional Information:  
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VTOOL has already been coded using the BNF expression in 12.3.2.5.1, so it will report an error if "t" is found.

ISO 8601 allows only one additional letter ("Z" for time zone designation); there appears to be no ambiguity about the (upper) case of "Z".

Requested Change:

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(1) PDS Standards Reference; Sections requiring modifications:

- Remove the confusion-inducing sentence from 12.3.2.5.1

The letter T separating the date from the time may be specified in either upper or lower case.