

# ADOBE ACROBAT 8 <DEVELOPER TIPS>

## BUILT IN FUNCTIONS



### Working with Dates in Adobe Acrobat 8: Use built-in date formatting to avoid writing code

Many times I find myself turning to JavaScript to perform functions that I end up realizing Acrobat already knows how to do on its own; manipulating date strings is one of those things. JavaScript has a rich set of functions to work with dates such as `getMonth()`, `getFullYear()`, and `getDay()` to return the name of the month, four digit year, and day of the week of any date you pass in.

Unless you need to perform calculations based on those dates, Adobe Acrobat 8 can do most of the work for you by simply formatting the field to look like the kind of date string that you need. In the "Text Field Properties" dialog box below that functions basically the same way that the real Acrobat dialog works. Simply enter a format pattern for the date and press return, you'll see the actual date update to reflect the pattern you want. Here are a few example pattern strings that can be used, for a full listing See page 718 of the JavaScript™ for Acrobat® API Reference for details.

String	Effect	Example
mmmm	Long month	September
mmm	Abbreviated month	Sep
dddd	Long day	Wednesday
ddd	Abbreviated day	Wed
yyyy	Long year	1997
H	24 hour time without leading zero	9
h	12 hour time without leading zero	9

