

Penny & Giles – Product Support

Document Number : PS1172
Revision/Date : 6 / 12 August 2011
Document Title : OQAR/PQAR Time and Date Formats
Equipment Affected : OQAR and PQAR
Part Numbers : D52000 (All models)
Classification : Information

Note: Although most of the text in this document refers primarily to OQAR, it can also be applied to PQAR, by substituting "PQAR" in place of "OQAR" and "PCMCIA card" in place of "MO Disk", where referenced.

The OQAR utilizes a "real time clock" (RTC) that maintains an internal date and time counter, provided that the OQAR is powered or the internal batteries are capable of supporting it. The RTC effectively contains a count of the number of seconds that have expired since 1st January 1980.

The OQAR operating software contains an RTC validation routine that has been designed to cope with failures of the RTC power supply and the corruption of its date/time counters. In the event of failure of the RTC power supply, the OQAR will reset its time operations to the 1st January 1993.

The OQAR will accept dates in the ranges, 1-31 days, 1-12 months and 0-99 years, with the entry sequence as DD MM YY.

The OQAR will accept times in the ranges, 0-23 hours, 0-59 minutes and 0-59 seconds, with the entry sequence as HH MM SS.

The OQAR recognizes year numbers 00 to 79 as 2000 to 2079 and year numbers 80 to 99 as 1980 to 1999.

The OQAR stores the date and time as the variables RC_DATE and RC_TIME in the Data Record header area. Each variable part is stored as a single byte in BCD format. Algorithms within the OQAR operating software are used to convert the RTC counters for date and time to the 'Julian' format date/time numbers required for the DOS file system and the directory and file dates and times.

Additional References: PS1182 OQAR Time and Date Setting.

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