

Why does the OLE variant date format use 30 December 1899 as its zero point?

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In 2006, via the suggestion box, [Chris J asks why the OLE variant date format has such a strange zero point](#). Its zero point is 30 December 1899, as opposed to 1 January 1900 (SQL Server's zero point) or 1 January 1970 (the unix zero point). It turns out I don't have to answer this because [Eric Lippert explained it three years before the question was posted](#), and then some time later posted [a puzzle regarding date calculations](#).

Public Service Announcement: This weekend marks the start of Daylight Saving Time in most of the United States.

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